



MID-ATLANTIC  
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# Messenger

2017 FALL

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## Year 70 and Foundations for 75

*As transitions usher in the next chapter of Mid-Atlantic Christian University, we glance back to thank God for our foundation. The Ebenezer Stone on North Campus reminds us that for 70 years God has been our "Stone of Help" (1 Samuel 7). We are confident in His help as we look forward to the years ahead.*

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MACU's three presidents: D. Clay Perkins, Ph.D. (2006-2017); George W. BonDurant (1948-1986), William A. Griffin (1986-2006)  
PHOTO TAKEN MAY 2006

# Generational Leadership

SEVENTY YEARS! MID-ATLANTIC Christian University is celebrating 70 years of service to the Lord's Kingdom. This is exciting. In fact, the only thing more exciting is being on campus and experiencing firsthand how God is present and working in the lives of the students. Seventy has a special significance in the Bible. It is made up of the factors of two perfect numbers, seven (representing perfection) and ten (representing completeness and God's law). As such, it symbolizes perfect spiritual order carried out with all power. It can also represent a period of judgment. After reading the covenant God gave him to read to the people, Moses took 70 elders, along with Aaron and his sons, up Mount Sinai to have a special meal with God himself (Exodus 24:9-11). Scripture even says that the average life span of a person is 70 years (Psalm 90:10). Seventy is used only once in the New Testament when Jesus said that we should forgive "seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:23). At our 70th Convocation we were inspired by an exceptional speech by North Carolina's Lieutenant Governor, Dan Forrest. He pointed out that 70 years is a generation. Indeed, we have completed one generation of service and simultaneously begun another. Until the Lord returns we remain committed to educating Christian leaders that will impact a new generation with the good news of Christ. In an increasingly secular culture I am excited to see the enthusiasm and zeal of our students to love and serve God and their generation. By the power of God, with your partnership, the next 70 years can be more fruitful than the first 70! One of the most important lessons in biblical leadership is the importance of passing the baton from one generation to the next.

Moses passed the baton to Joshua, David to Solomon, Elijah to Elisha, Jesus to his disciples, and Paul to Timothy. It is not enough to merely run the race. It is imperative that we pass our mission to the next generation. We must hand off the baton, at the right time, and must do it well. The last generation has passed the baton to you and me – and we must run well so that we may pass it to the next generation. Presidents BonDurant, Griffin, and Perkins have led us through 70 years of faithful service. As a new generation emerges, they have passed the baton to us. *"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others"* (2 Timothy 2:2). Rowland Forman, Jeff Jones, and Bruce Miller in The Leadership Baton wrote, "Christianity is always just one generation away from extinction... Jesus' mission has always depended on one generation of leaders handing the mission to the next. Where they have done so effectively, their churches and ministries have continued to thrive. Now the mission is in your grasp." Dear friends, the mission is now in our grasp!



Running with the baton,  
*John W. Maurice*  
John W. Maurice  
Interim President

## Death of Founding President George W. BonDurant

GEORGE W. BONDURANT, founder and first president of Mid-Atlantic Christian University, went home to be with the Heavenly Father on July 11, 2017, at the age of 101. President BonDurant was a leader in the Restoration Movement in the 20th century, a movement that saw believers and preachers from various denominational backgrounds seek unity by looking to the New Testament for guidance in matters of doctrine and spiritual disciplines. He grew up in Mt. Rainer, Maryland, the son of William W. and Helen Lawrence BonDurant, who were committed leaders in the Restoration Movement. He received a four-year scholarship to Columbia University, but his mother, concerned about his faith in a hostile atmosphere, sent him to Erieside Christian Service Camp. After one year at Columbia University he transferred to the Cincinnati Bible Seminary. There he met and married Sarah Lou Presley. Together, George and Sarah reopened Atlanta Christian College (now Point University), where he served as president. In 1947 Mr. BonDurant came to eastern North Carolina as an evangelist for the Roanoke District Churches of Christ, the strongest concentration of New Testament churches on the east coast. Upon arriving in North Carolina he quickly realized the need for a preacher-training school since many of the churches of Christ



had only half- or quarter-time preaching. To meet that need, Mr. BonDurant founded Roanoke Bible College (now Mid-Atlantic Christian University) in 1948 and served as the president until 1986. Students admired and respected this great Bible teacher and affectionately referred to him as "Mr. B." Under his leadership, Mid-Atlantic Christian University received its first accreditation in 1979 from the American Association of Bible Colleges (now Association of Biblical Higher Education). Enrollment at Mid-Atlantic Christian University grew significantly during his term. Several buildings were constructed and historical homes along Poindexter Street were renovated. On December 2, 2009, he was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by North Carolina Governor Bev

Perdue for his work at the university and his contributions to the state. President BonDurant had a passion for proclaiming the gospel and reaching the lost. For years he taught all week, preached every weekend, and taught extension classes or seminars in churches during the week. He helped to establish several congregations, often taking students with him to learn the work of church planting. Mr. B served as a professor and president of the college from 1948 until 1986. He extended his influence through three weeks of Christian camp for youth, Camp Roanoke, which operated on the college campus from 1953 to 1981. God permitted him 64 years of active ministry. Well into his retirement years, he preached for a small rural church and had a prison ministry at the Maple Prison Unit, where his students knew him simply as "George." Today his influence lives on in the thousands who have attended MACU and who serve in 48 states, 1 territory, and 26 different countries. His footprint will be forever remembered on the campus of Mid-Atlantic Christian University. Well done, good and faithful servant. His wife of 66 years, and co-founder of the university, Sarah Presley BonDurant, preceded him in death. He is survived by their only child, S. Elizabeth BonDurant.

## Sowing the Gospel: Eastern North Carolina Christian Men's Fellowship and MACU

PROFESSOR RONNIE WOOLARD attended the annual banquet of the Eastern North Carolina Christian Men's Fellowship recently and was struck by the fact that so many of the current leadership and church planters are MACU graduates, just as many in the past have been. Pictured are the current leaders who prayed that night over Bobby Wallace '00, lead planter with Movement Christian Church at the Knightdale (NC) Movement, which was scheduled to launch not long after this meeting. ENCCMF Officers for 2018 are Thomas Hamilton ex'07, President; Malcolm Puckett '86, Vice President; William Griffin '62, Secretary; Ken Terry, Treasurer; Dave McCants '91, Advisor to the President. Three of the six directors are MACU graduates. In 2001, Dr. Melvin Styons wrote a 30-year history of the fellowship. He recalls that four men, all Roanoke Bible College (now MACU) graduates, met around his kitchen table in 1971 "to encourage the starting of a men's fellowship to be used as an instrument in church planting efforts in eastern North

Carolina." They were Mickey Derrow '71, Cape Colony Church of Christ, Edenton; John Herring '73, Camden (NC) Church of Christ; Homer Styons '56, Elizabeth City Church of Christ (now Journey Christian Church); and Melvin Styons '53, Bethlehem Church of Christ, Hertford. From this humble beginning, faithfully supported by the prayers and finances of the saints and the volunteer work of the

fellowship, the growth of Christ's church in eastern North Carolina has flourished. Only eternity will reveal the number of souls rescued and emboldened by this ministry. In addition to Bobby Wallace in Knightdale, the fellowship is currently supporting Roger Burns '12 in planting Restore Christian Church in Jacksonville, NC.







“Lord, Please Bless This Donut!”

LEE M. FIELDS, PH.D.

HAVE YOU EVER prayed before a meal or snack that you knew was full of food that was not good for you, and made a joke about how God might make it healthful?

- In Matthew’s account of the Last Supper we read in 26:26, “Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples” (KJV). Other more modern versions read about the same (e.g., ESV, NLT). Instead of “blessed it” the NIV reads, “had given thanks.” The NASB similarly reads, “after a blessing.” Did Jesus bless the bread, or did he say a blessing? If he said a blessing, do we have any idea what he said?
- **Did Jesus Bless the Bread?** The word “it” refers to bread and makes Jesus out to be blessing the bread. But, did you notice that the word “it” in the KJV is in italics? The italics do not mean emphasis. Italics are used to indicate English words that do not translate a Greek or Hebrew word. These added words are designed to make the English translation clear. The NASB also uses italics for the same purpose. This means that in Matthew 26:26 there is no Greek word “it”; the Greek simply says the Jesus “blessed.” Adding the word “it” is not improper technique; sometimes English requires words when Greek does not. However, Jews did not bless food; they blessed God.
- **How Did Jesus Pray the Blessing?** Actually, we probably know exactly what Jesus prayed! Jesus first prayed the same prayer that modern Jews still utter for a

meal. It is called “The Motsi,” The Hebrew word *ha-motsi* means “the one who brings forth.” The prayer runs this way: “Blessed are you, O Lord, King of the universe, Who brings forth food (*ha-motsi*) from the earth.” He probably said the same prayer at the occasion of eating with the group after he met the two on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:30). If this was the special prayer of the Passover called by the rabbis the Kiddush, “The Sanctification (Prayer),” Jesus also prayed, “Blessed are you, O Lord, King of the universe, Who sanctified us with his commands and commanded us about the eating of the matzah bread.”

- **What does this teach us about our prayers?** There are several points here. (1) For the Jews, blessing the Lord means giving thanks to him. This means that the NIV translation gives quite a nice rendering of what was going on. (2) To the Jews, “blessing the bread” does not make any sense. One does not thank bread; one thanks the Lord for the bread. (3) When we pray at meals, we are not asking God to zap any food to make it nutritious. He is not going to make a donut healthful. (4) It is appropriate that we also give thanks to the Lord at meals. I am changing my habit of saying, “Lord bless this food to nourish our bodies” and, instead, I am giving thanks to the one who gave the food. The prayer does not have to be long. The Motsi is a short, simple prayer acknowledging the Lord as the provider of good gifts. And we can give thanks to the Lord even for donuts!

A Legacy of Kingdom Workers and Christian Leaders

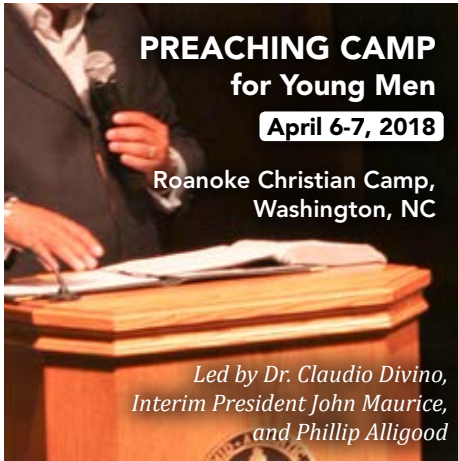


FALL 2017 New Students present for orientation photo. Front: Ian Coburn, Allie Hackett, Amon McElrath. Second: Danielle Hicks, John Bonk, Alberto Perez-Morales, Grayson Tejeda, Joe Ragland, Darrien Defederico, Chelsea White, Jackie Hall, Alana Houston, Jon Clifton, Shereese McNeill, Mike Eckert. Third (seated in chairs): Ashley Sawyer, Mersadeas Welling, Jenna Cayton, Jennifer Andrews, Lizzie Berkheimer, Sarah Smith, Sarah Becker. Fourth: Selena Buchanan, Alexis Harris, Bri Mcneil, A. C. Wilson, Hannah Hartman, Quincy Boyd, James Hoffman, D. J. Byers, Cameron Kennedy, Evan Berk, Dylan Woodley, Juju Golson, Michael Arnold, Allie Jordan, Anna Cline, Raquel Bowen. Back: Jonathan Langley, Marquis Blount, Emmanuel Rambert, Maurice Anderson, Tyler Hendrix, Emily Munday, Maria Osorio, Darcy Cichorz, Alexa Lanza, Serenah Willison, Reilly Muse, Gina Woodley, Cierra Cook, Daquon Copeland, Timothy DeLaRosa, Jonathan DeLaRosa, Aaron Jackson, Matthew Meads.

Ready to Learn, Ready to Preach

Young men met with Dr. Claudio Divino September 14 for the year’s first meeting of Kerygma, MACU’s preaching club. The fellowship provides training and opportunity for those interested in or already called to the preaching ministry. Dr. Divino stated that “Kerygma will provide opportunities for [participants] to develop [their] preaching and teaching gifts (Ephesians 4:11).”

If your congregation would welcome one of these preachers-in-training as a guest speaker, please contact Dr. Divino at 252.334.2049 or claudio.divino@macuniversity.edu. We welcome your prayers and participation as we work together to transform lives through the preaching of the Word. Dr. Divino added, “We at MACU are convinced that the Bible is God’s Word and that it is powerful to change our lives and the world around us. It is through God’s Word that the Holy Spirit works to convict the world of sin and to equip us to build His Church.”



FALL 2017 ENROLLMENT STATS

Total: 197  
(91 men, 106 women)

FTE: 179.2  
From 17 states, Ghana, Honduras, India

McKinney Concludes Full-time Teaching at Mid-Atlantic



THIS SEMESTER MARKS the end of 17 years as a full-time faculty member for Associate Professor Don McKinney. McKinney, who is also chair of the Department of Marketplace Ministries, has taught counseling and psychology for MACU since 2000 and has served as program chairman during that time. McKinney has been called to preach for Friends in Fellowship Christian Church in Winterville, NC, and has begun serving the congregation part-time as he teaches this semester.

After more than thirty years of preaching ministry, McKinney joined the faculty of MACU in 2000, having served churches in Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois, as well as an eight-year ministry at Mount Pleasant Christian Church in Greenville, NC. During his time at MACU he has continued to be in located ministry, serving Mount Pleasant (for a second time), Holly Neck Church of Christ, and Tarboro Church of Christ.

After studying at Indiana State Universi-

ty, Cincinnati Bible Seminary, East Carolina University, and Pitt Community College, he did a degree completion program for a B. S. at Western Illinois University in 1990. He earned an M. A. in Counseling and Guidance from Wright State University in 1995 and has taken doctoral classes from Northcentral University.

Although McKinney teaches counseling and psychology courses, he identifies himself primarily as a preacher of the Gospel, reminding people that God is pleased through the foolishness of what is preached to save those who believe. He believes that counseling is the perfect adjunct to ministry. While teaching people how to be saved, the Christian counselor can also help people to enjoy the promise of Romans 8:28: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

When he is not involved in preaching and counseling, Don enjoys watching Indiana University and Big Ten basketball and performing Gospel magic. He and Diana have four children and eleven grandchildren.

King to Join Faculty Full-time



MID-ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY is pleased to announce that Dr. David S. King will be joining the faculty full-time in January 2018 as Associate Professor of Counseling.

Dr. King earned his Ph.D. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from Capella University. He also earned a M.A. in Mental Health Counseling from Regent University. He is a licensed professional counselor supervisor in the state of North Carolina and a national certified counselor with the National Board of Certified Counselors.

In addition to his academic preparation Dr. King brings a wealth of experience to the classroom. For thirty-two years he was in federal civilian service working for the United States Coast Guard and the United

States Department of Education. He has been an adjunct faculty member at MACU for the past five years and has also been an adjunct faculty member at Azusa Pacific University, Southern New Hampshire University, and the University of Phoenix. Appointed by former North Carolina governor Pat McCrory, Dr. King is concluding a time of service on the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, currently as chairman.

Dr. King and his wife are active and founding members of New Community Church in Elizabeth City. One of his hobbies is refereeing high school football games in eastern North Carolina; in the fall 2016 he was a referee for the NC State Class 3AA championship game.

Dr. King is filling the vacancy that will be created when Mr. Donald McKinney steps out of full-time service with MACU in order to return to full-time preaching ministry.

Luton Teaches Local Math Teachers

DR. CHERYL LUTON, Associate Professor of Elementary Education and Director of Teacher Education at Mid-Atlantic Christian University, led sessions in August for K-2 and 3-5 grade public school teachers. The workshop sessions were aimed at helping school teachers incorporate practical activities in the elementary math classroom that are inquiry-based and reflect real-world scenarios.

The sessions that Dr. Luton led were part

of an eight-day summer institute funded by a grant from the United States Department of Education and conducted in Elizabeth City – “The Albemarle Instruction, Inquiry and Integration Mathematics and Science (AI3MS) Partnership.” The grant was written by MACU adjunct professor George Cox, who teaches a science methods course in the university’s elementary education program. Math and science teachers throughout eleven school districts in northeast North

Smith Certified as a Developmental Education Specialist



KATHY SMITH, DIRECTOR of Learning Enhancement Services at MACU, has successfully completed all requirements

leading to certification as a Developmental Education Specialist. This certification is provided through the Kellogg Institute for the Training and Certification of Developmental Educators at Appalachian State University (ASU) in North Carolina.

In order to be granted such certification Mrs. Smith completed a two-week training program on the campus of ASU in the summer of 2016 and implemented a project on the campus of MACU during the 2016-2017 school year. She worked with Assistant Professor of English Composition Abigail Mirau in redesigning the university’s developmental English course so that students who were underprepared for college level English composition were able to take remedial work simultaneously with the first semester of composition.

National data shows that students who have to take remedial course work prior to taking college level credit courses have a higher rate of non-completion of higher education goals. Combining remedial course work with college-level credit courses helps students maintain motivation because tangible progress is being made toward educational goals.

MACU is proud of Mrs. Smith for her accomplishment and her passion to see students succeed.

Carolina participated in this professional development opportunity.

This service provided an opportunity for Dr. Luton to share her expertise with teachers who work in the region’s public school systems. Consequently, MACU gained exposure in the community as a leader in mathematics education. MACU is grateful for faculty who serve within the Kingdom of God by meeting the needs of the community.



# MACU in Brazil

IN SEPTEMBER DR. Kevin Larsen (Vice President for Academic Affairs) and Dr. Claudio Divino (Associate Professor of Cross-Cultural Ministry) preached in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the General Conference of Missions organized by the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Brazil. Both professors also preached at congregations in the city of Petropolis on Sunday. MACU remains committed to educating cross-cultural missionaries to proclaim the gospel to all peoples.



Dr. Kal McAlexander, adjunct professor for MACU, poses with students in his class Life and Teachings of Jesus in Managua, Nicaragua. This is the first of what may be a regular occurrence for MACU – providing church leadership training in Nicaragua.

# MACU in Nicaragua

MID-ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY has completed her first extension class in Nicaragua. Missionary Billy Loft sought to establish a partnership with an American Bible

college to educate leaders to serve Christian churches in Nicaragua and neighboring countries, and MACU seized this opportunity to make a significant Kingdom impact. Classes are taught in Spanish. Adjunct Professor Dr. Kal McAlexander taught the inaugural class in Nicaragua with twenty-six students enrolled, bringing the total headcount for fall semester

2017 to a record 233 students. Two other courses will be taught in Nicaragua this year. As exciting as this partnership is for MACU, it is even more so for those enrolled in the classes – men and women who will share the knowledge and insights they gain. We thank God for this opportunity to serve the Church of Jesus Christ.

# MACU on Mission: Dominican Republic

TRAVEL WITH MACU TO BUILD A HOME | MAR. 11-17

IN AUGUST 2017 Dan Smith was invited by Casas por Cristo (Homes for Christ) to take part in the construction of a new home for “Wanda,” a single mother with three children living in the Valverde neighborhood near Santiago, Dominican Republic. Although she is employed, Wanda could afford only a hut made of tin and random lumber for a home prior to becoming recipients of a Casas por Cristo home, a 15 x 25 foot, three-bedroom house built in three days at a cost of about \$8,500. MACU Admissions staff will be leading a trip for MACU students, prospective students, and interested adults for a six-day adventure and missions trip to the Dominican Republic where the team will build a new home for a local

resident. Our partner for this trip will be Casas por Cristo, a group that has built over 10,000 similar homes in Spanish-speaking nations of Central America and the Caribbean. The home recipient is selected based on need by a team of local pastors. Churches in the area who have partnered with Casas por Cristo have seen up to a 20% growth rate over the past three years with two churches actively expanding their worship space to accommodate the new believers. This trip is open to MACU students, interested adults, and current high school juniors and seniors. To participate in the application and interview process, email Dan at dan.smith@macuniversity.edu. Visit macuniversity.edu for more details on the trip.



Dan Smith  
Director of Marketing and  
Community Relations

# Students Serve Others around the World

## BULGARIA — Junior Sarah Litowski

THIS SUMMER I had the privilege of serving two months with Mission to the World in Sofia, Bulgaria. It was an awesome experience, that strengthened my desire to serve in long-term missions. I helped with weekly English clubs, planning lessons and working with individual students and small groups. In addition, the team I was with repainted and organized the worship center of the church plant we were serving with. The high point of our summer was hosting a week-long English camp in the southern mountains of Bulgaria with about 40 nationals. This was an incredible experience that strengthened my faith, gave definition to my calling, and enabled me to seek after God with other Christ-centered youth.



Team bonding in Plovdiv, Bulgaria

## JAPAN — Senior David Dirks

WHEN DAVID ATTENDED ICOM In 2016, he decided he would do missions work in Japan. Although he had never been to Japan, he already had a heart for the field and had even begun studying the language. He spent two months this summer working mostly in Tohoku, Japan, with Overseas Missions Fellowship (OMF). He was mentored by

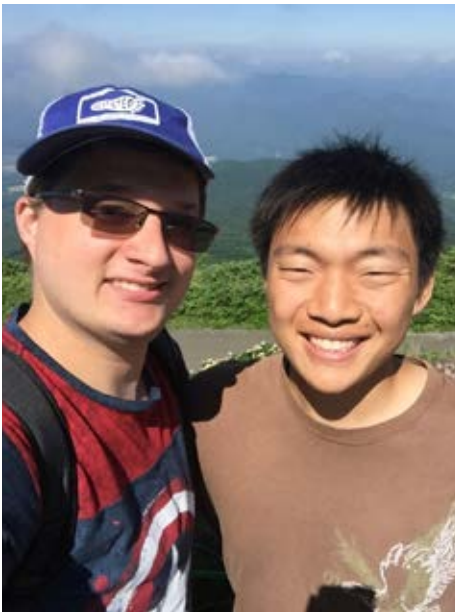
Martin and Ruth Ghent, missionaries with OMF in Tohoku. The Ghents are currently involved in a church plant in Tohoku, the Hirosaki Nozomi Church. David, along with some others on the internship team, assisted in teaching, did some research and mapping for a church plant, served the local church, and helped

with light maintenance work. The impact of the trip is seen in David’s web site, rj4c.com, and his postings. He concluded his trip with “I am also pleased to announce that I will be planning on doing long-term missions work in Japan . . .” His desire is, indeed, to Reach Japan for Christ (rj4c).



David with Tim Turner, a pastor and missionary in Machida, Tokyo

David and Nate, a new Christian friend, are about to climb Mt. Iwaki in Hirosaki, Japan.





NICARAGUA — Team

WE HAD MANY different opportunities while visiting Nicaragua. Besides the sightseeing opportunities we were graciously given, we also taught two Sunday school classes, helped at a church, and donated many things the church will be able to use. We also visited a school and a healthcare center. I found in Nicaragua a culture of friendly people, great food, and so much beauty. (Ashlyn Harris)

Violet Krawchuk, Ashlyn Harris, Dr. Kevin Larsen, Brandon Cabacar, Cody Marks, Kelly Anders



MY TRIP TO Nicaragua was very informative as well as fun and full of firsts: first plane trip, first visit to another country, first missions trip. My church was a major provider for the trip, believing it was a pivotal trip in my spiritual journey. While there, I learned many things about their culture and a lot about their history that has caused them to become the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. I recommend Nicaragua as a place to begin exploring missionary service as the people were very hospitable and there were plenty of ways to help. (Kelly Anders)

THIS WAS MY first time in another country, and it was quite an experience. We stayed in Managua, the nation's capital, and worked with a local congregation, teaching the children on Saturday night. I also was able to preach in Jinotepe, a village two hours south-west of Managua. Working with a translator and worshipping in a different language was a unique experience. The congregation was very welcoming, and it was eye-opening to worship God with them in a room packed full of believers. This trip encouraged me to look further at how God may use me to advance His Kingdom, and I hope to be obedient in serving Him. (Cody Marks)

MEXICO — Senior Emily O'Connor

THIS SUMMER I had the privilege of fulfilling part of my internship requirements in Tenancingo, Mexico. While I was there I experienced all things Mexican: being taller than many of my peers, which was a first; hiking down dirt roads, across flower fields, and through mountain trails to see a magnificent waterfall; climbing stairs upon more stairs carved into the side of a mountain to get to an Aztec military training pyramid; eating spicy food, cactus for the first time, and delicious Mexican sweet bread; visiting 400+ year old church buildings, experiencing life with a local pastor and his amazing family; and being surrounded by a foreign language of which I have only a precursory knowledge.

But most importantly, I had the honor of being a captain in a two-week long Bible school for the youth in the local church, and what an experience this was! With the help of my friend/translator, we taught two lessons each day: one related to the story of Daniel and one an

object lesson on the same theme, plus crafts and meals, games, songs with choreography, Bible memorization, and even English! One thing I have come to learn through this is that one can never visit another people group without learning something from them to take home. What I learned from the Mexican people is contentment. These were some of the most peaceful, loving, and happy people I had ever met, and those traits flow out of a heart that trusts God completely. May it be so even in me.



Emily (right) and friend

On the Receiving End of Service

THE SCHOOL IS sometimes the recipient of volunteer service. Friends from Pinedale Christian Church in Winston Salem, NC, have made frequent summer trips to help out, an effort organized by Jere Richards '73. This summer the group power washed buildings and flag poles, cleaned windows, cleaned the concession room, and completed a few other cleaning projects.

Thanks to Jere Richards, Missy Moore, Kenton Moore, Landon Moore, Chelsea Hampton, Danny Spainhour, Jesse Doyle, Doug Foutty, Andrew Foutty, and Miriam Jenerette.

Also returning, Jeff ex'83 and Ginger '84 Ange worked on campus as they have done for years. This year they brought members of their small group, Bob and Chris Vitrikas and Dan and Pam McClish. They painted an apartment and did a deep clean on the third floor of Pearl A. Presley Hall, the women's dormitory. Jeff and Ginger used the gift of service as a way to "introduce some members of our small group to MACU. I'm hoping to bring more next year."



Volunteers from Maple Grove Christian Church in Charlottesville, VA



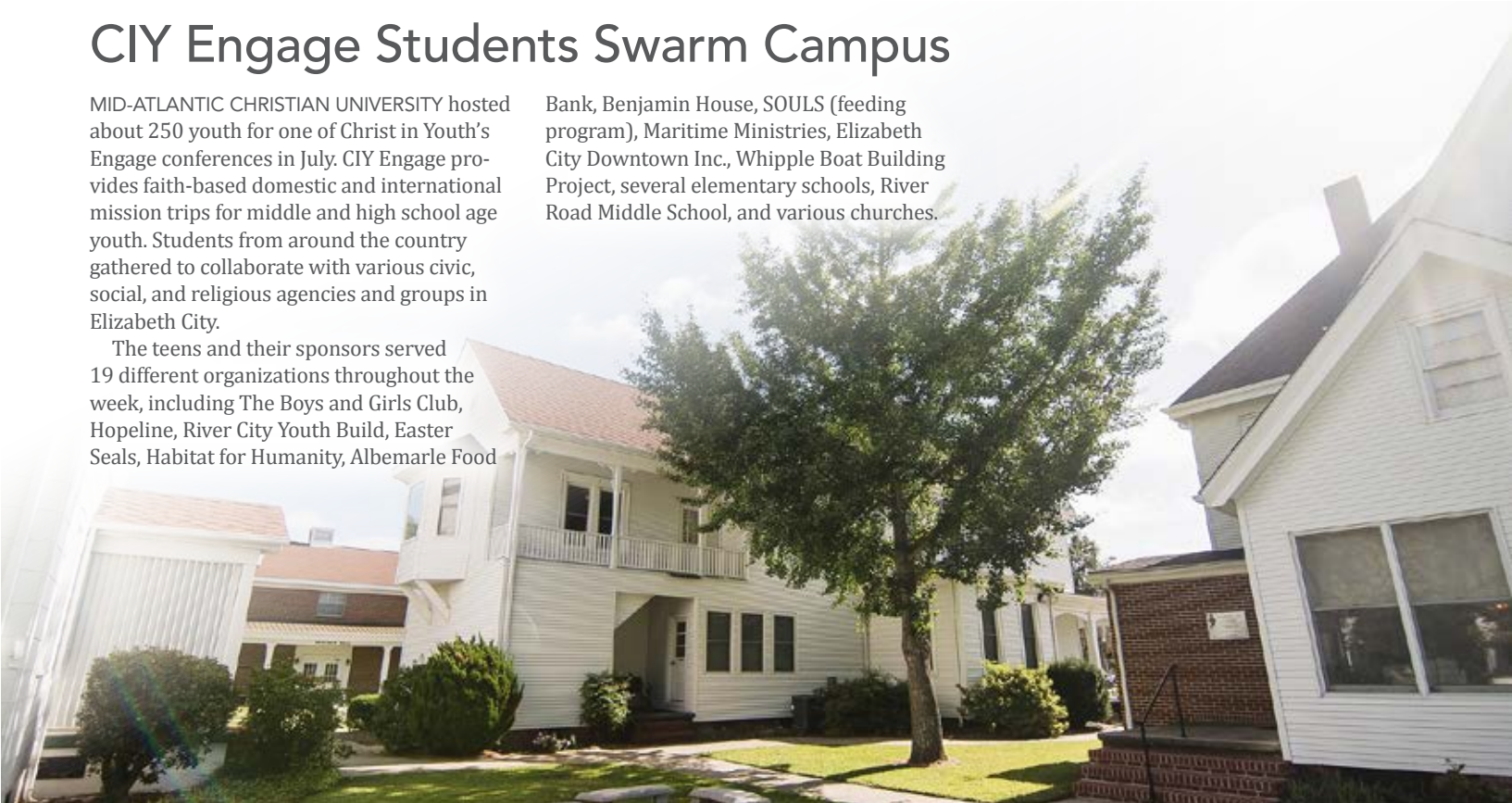
Volunteers from Pinedale Christian Church, Winston Salem, NC

CIY Engage Students Swarm Campus

MID-ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY hosted about 250 youth for one of Christ in Youth's Engage conferences in July. CIY Engage provides faith-based domestic and international mission trips for middle and high school age youth. Students from around the country gathered to collaborate with various civic, social, and religious agencies and groups in Elizabeth City.

The teens and their sponsors served 19 different organizations throughout the week, including The Boys and Girls Club, Hopeline, River City Youth Build, Easter Seals, Habitat for Humanity, Albemarle Food

Bank, Benjamin House, SOULS (feeding program), Maritime Ministries, Elizabeth City Downtown Inc., Whipple Boat Building Project, several elementary schools, River Road Middle School, and various churches.





# Students find what they were looking for

## Senior Leah Rudd

ENTERING MY SENIOR year of high school, I had my heart set on attending a Christian university. MACU was on my radar screen because they offered a program in elementary education. I also wanted to be in a setting that would encourage me to continue to grow in my walk with the Lord. But there were two big obstacles standing in that path: Distance and money. I wasn't keen on being four hours from home, and I didn't have a pile of money in the bank, so I decided to attend the local community college for two years and then transfer. Yet here I am and enjoying life as a student at MACU. What happened?

MACU continued to reach out to me through the winter and spring of my senior year. I decided to visit MACU in March. The minute I stepped onto the campus and saw the water front, I thought, "What a beautiful setting God has created for the students." I then met Dr. Luton, the elementary education



Leah Rudd (left) with friends Tyanna Williams and Leah Maclin

adviser, and was astonished at how much she cared about me and my life goals. I sat in a class, toured the campus, and then ended the visit meeting with a panel of students asking them numerous questions about life at MACU. One thing I remember was the students praying for me. MACU was a place where I felt God's presence all around.

I went home and completed an application and scholarship forms. In a few weeks I learned that I had been accepted for the fall semester. So what about those distance and money issues? After visiting MACU and experiencing the atmosphere, distance was no longer an issue. I loved this place. Money was still an obstacle. The scholarship I applied for didn't come through. I prayed, hoping that another scholarship would come through. And a few weeks later, I received a call from the college and was offered a scholarship. I knew it was a God thing.

I'm now a senior at MACU. My time here has been packed with studying, papers, making new friends, work, socials - typical college activities. But this is what I most appreciate about MACU: this a place where we are family.

We encourage each other through prayer and fellowship. MACU is a university where God is the center of all things. I am happy to call MACU my home away from home.

## Sophomore Ryan Kelley



FROM GOOD TO best. From engineering to youth ministry. In a nutshell, that's my story. Why, you ask? Why change from wanting to build things to wanting to build youth up in the Kingdom?

During a CIY conference I attended in 2012, I received a "Kingdom Worker" card. These cards challenge students to accomplish a task for the glory of God. My card read, "Skip the beach trip next summer, and go on a mission trip with your church." This seemed like an impossible task. I was only a twelve-year old, plus our church didn't have a mission trip planned. But I decided to act. God had been laying on my heart to help the people in Joplin, Missouri, a city devastated by an F5 tornado in 2011. I knew when I read that card that God was calling me to go to Joplin. With the help of my youth minister, I began planning a mission trip. We raised over \$7,000 and took 31 people to Joplin in the summer of 2013.

Following an incredible trip, the directors of CIY learned of my trip to Joplin and reached out to me. CIY wanted me to be filmed for their featured "Kingdom Worker" video that would be shown at CIY MOVE

conferences across the nation. That spring I flew to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for an extended weekend to hang out with the directors of CIY and a dozen other students who had done similar work for the Kingdom. Later that summer, my video was shown at CIY MOVE events across the country.

Following these two remarkable, undeniably divine-driven events, I knew God was calling me to something much greater. I felt like God was calling me to minister. Building stuff was good but building lives, better.

At that point, I decided to commit my life and future career to ministry. I knew that God was leading my heart to do something more for His Kingdom. Several of my ministers had attended MACU, so I visited Mid-Atlantic. During my visit, I was automatically attracted to the small university environment. At MACU you are not just another student ID number. You are a name and a face, with a story that is ready to be heard. The professors at MACU are extremely helpful and gracious. The environment at MACU is something that every student appreciates and loves. And to top everything off, I was offered the opportunity to play golf for MACU.

MACU has been an amazing place for me to grow athletically, academically, and most importantly, spiritually. I wouldn't want to go to any other school. Being here has allowed me to continue my walk with Christ so that I can better serve Him and His Kingdom.

## Honor Society Inducts 13 New Members

ALPHA MU ALPHA, the campus chapter of the national honor society Theta Alpha Kappa (TAK), inducted new members on September 19 at the conclusion of the university chapel service. TAK is the only national honor society dedicated to recognizing academic excellence in baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate students and in scholars in the fields of Religious Studies and Theology. Induction requires nomination by a local chapter. To be eligible students must have completed at least 12 hours in Religious Studies and/or Theology with a minimum 3.5 GPA and a 3.0 GPA overall and be in the top 35% of their class ranking.

## Shields New Resident Hall Director

KAYLIN S. SHIELDS was named Resident Hall Director for Pearl A. Presley Hall (women's dormitory) this year. Kaylin was born and raised in Elizabeth City. She earned her BA in Cross-cultural Ministry from MACU in 2012. Kaylin met her husband, Rob '13, while at MACU. They have served in ministry together, and she worked previously as an administrative assistant to MACU's registrar. The Shieldses have two sons, Titus and Levi.

## New Members of Theta Alpha Kappa

Alpha Mu Alpha Chapter  
Cheyenne Brothers, Elizabeth City, NC  
Brandon Ryan Cabacar, Creswell, NC  
Jackson Laine Cooper, Elizabeth City, NC  
Timothy Scott Gravgaard, Elizabeth City, NC  
Jacqueline Alexis Hilts, Jamesville, NC  
Sharon Hoogerland, Elizabeth City, NC

Gabrielle Howlett, Clemmons, NC  
Thomas Kilian III, Columbia, NC  
Sarah Grace Litowski, Matthews, NC  
Leah Nicole Maclin, South Mills, NC  
Abigail C. Morgret, Andover, OH  
Joshua Paul Phillips, Roper, NC  
Alexander L. Stanley, Elizabeth City, NC



New members of Alpha Mu Alpha are treated to a meal in their honor at Tony's Italian Restaurant in Elizabeth City.

## DATES AND EVENTS

- Jan. 8-12  
Spring Intensives
- Jan. 13, 14  
New Student Orientation
- Jan. 15 – Mar. 11  
Online Session C Courses
- Jan. 17  
@MACU
- Mar. 11-17  
MACU on Mission, D.R.
- Mar. 12-16  
Spring Break
- Mar. 22-23  
MACU Rally
- Apr. 12  
MACU Society Gala
- May 10  
Foundation Meeting
- May 11  
Trustee Meeting  
Graduate Supper
- May 12  
Commencement, 10 a.m.
- June 5  
Seniors by the Sea



## Chamber Celebrates College Month

ELIZABETH CITY'S THREE schools of higher education – MACU, College of the Albemarle, and Elizabeth City State University – were featured during September when the local Chamber of Commerce designated it as College Month. The schools hosted campus events, and

the chamber or local businesses hosted community activities. Mid-Atlantic's event was an Evening on the River and offered games, kayaking on the river, refreshments, and live music, closing the evening with music and devotions. Pictured is the banner dedication event hosted by Walmart.

@MACU

January 17, 5-7 PM  
Melvin Adams, Harlem Globetrotter



MUSTANG ATHLETICS

Mustangs Finish Strong at USCAA National Tournament



Golf team members Ryan Kelley, Matt Cooper, Joe Ragland

THE MID-ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN University Men’s Golf team sent Matt Cooper and Ryan Kelley to the USCAA National Tournament on October 9-10. After a rain delay on day one of the tournament, Cooper carded a 76 and Kelley an 84 on the par 72 Penn State University Blue Course in State College, PA. The second day of the tournament would see both men card a 5 over par 77, with Cooper finishing his tournament at 153 and in a five-way tie for 11th place and Kelley at 161, just a few strokes outside a top 25 finish. Based on his efforts in the tournament, Cooper was named a 2nd Team All American for the second time in his collegiate

career. During the awards banquet following the tournament, Senior Matt Cooper and Junior Ryan Kelley were named to USCAA All-Academic team. Student athletes are awarded



Matt Cooper at the USCAA National Tournament

MUSTANG NATION CLUB

**MACU**

MUSTANGS

2017-2018

Those wanting to be a Mustang or wanting to support MACU athletics should visit [www.gomacumustangs.com](http://www.gomacumustangs.com)

this honor for maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher with 24 or more credits on their USCAA eligibility transcripts.



Two Volleyball Players Named to USCAA All-Academic Team

Leah Maclin, a junior from South Mills, NC and Brealle White, a sophomore from Kill Devil Hills, NC in recognition of their excellence both on the court and in the classroom, have been named to the 2017 United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) Volleyball All-Academic Team. Maclin, a 2015 graduate from Victory Christian Academy in Elizabeth City, is pursuing a degree in Elementary Education and Biblical Studies. On the court Leah was second on the team with 119 digs to go along with a team high 28 service aces, and 53 kills. White, a 2016 graduate of First Flight High School in Kill Devil Hills, is pursuing a BS in Youth and Family Ministry and Biblical Exposition. Brealle recorded 72 digs and 42 kills on the year.



Sophomore Brealle White

Junior Leah Maclin

INTRODUCING THE MUSTANGS 2017-2018



**MEN’S BASKETBALL** **Front:** Emmanuel Rambert, Colin Cunningham, Greyson Tejeda, Markel Ming, Daquon Copeland. **Back:** Jaelin Thomas, Tyler Hendrix, Dixon Ogwo, Timothy DeLaRosa, Jonathon DeLaRosa, Alex Stanley, Maurice Anderson, Leander Williams.



**SOCCER** **Front:** Marcus Simmons (manager), Allie Hackett, Zac Davis, Marco Cantera, Benj Nichols. **Back:** Dr. Ascencion Gomez (coach), Raquel Bowen, Mersadeas Welling, Chris Stowe, Jenna Cayton, Evan Berk, Dean Williams, Joe Hill, Ray Tyre, Michael Arnold.



**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL** **Front:** Talethia Alexander, Amanda Lemons, Eryka Vincent. **Back:** KaNesha Murray, Alexis Harris, Cierra Cook, Tierra Lester, Regina Woodley, Aleah McNeal, Charles Troxell (coach).



**WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL** **Front:** Nicole Powell, Reilly Muse, Kelly Anders. **Back:** Kellie Kessler (coach), Allison Jordan, Mallory Brogden, Brealle White, Leah Maclin.



FAMILY NEWS

New Ministries, Service

**Pat Waters '79** is teaching Spanish and ESL at Washington Montessori Charter Public School in Washington, NC.

**Doug Carter '84** is interim minister at Laurel Avenue Church of Christ in Chesapeake, VA.

**Chip Ward '99** has been called as Senior Minister for Lexington Christian Church in Lexington, TN.

**Katie Coverdale '01** is teaching kindergarten at Creekside Elementary School in New Bern, NC.

**Marty Anderson '03** is the Teaching Pastor at The Point Church in Fuquay-Varina, NC.

**Exie Anderson '03** is the Kidpoint Director at The Point Church in Fuquay-Varina, NC.

**Travis Williams '05** is writing for the University Relations Dept. at Virginia Tech.

**Chris Garrett '05** is Community Life Pastor at Southeast Christian Church's Elizabethtown, KY, campus.

**Krysia Davis '09** is now Director of Development at Onslow Pregnancy Resource Center in Jacksonville, NC.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

GENERAL FUND

**Bane Angles, Daniel & Amy West (Honor), C. Dale Morris (Memory)** by Shirley Hasty

**George W. BonDurant (Memory)** by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Brown, Jr., Rebecca C. Jones, Stephen & Kathy Lobacz, Steven Smith, Roger & Sonja Tuning

**Creighton Beatty, Sterling P. Clary, Willis Fisher, D. Clay Perkins (Honor);** by Rebecca C. Jones

**Randy & Valerie Parker (Honor)** by Jonathan Parker

**Exie Rhem (Memory)** by Bodywise Sr.Class/West Park Church of Christ

FOUNDATION

**Carolyn Allen (Memory)** by Robert Allen

**Jimmy & Shelby Bennett (Honor)** by Avalon Church of Christ

**Odis & Ruby Bennett, John West (Memory)** by Bobby & Jean Higinbotham

*Sympathy*

is expressed to families and friends of the following:

Jim Jackson, Sr. '76, July 20	Mark Shorter '90, August 28
JoAnn Montgomery Melandry ex'97, Aug. 22	Ida May Kepler ex'08, August 30
Paul Bajko '52 (ECC), August 27	Clarice Wismer '81, October 6
	Terry Schultz '71, November 7

**Evan Norris '15** is Associate Minister of AV and Communications at Pinedale Christian Church in Winston Salem, NC.

**Zach Tanner '15** is serving West Park Church of Christ, Portsmouth, VA, as Minister for Children and Education.

**Matt Hughes '16** is youth minister at West Park Church of Christ in Portsmouth, VA.

**Mike Moulden '16** is Senior Pastor at First Christian Church in Winchester, VA.

**Paige Morse '17** is teaching third grade at Lafayette Elementary in Fuquay-Varina, NC.

**Britney Walther Newsome '17** is a Nurse Aide at Halifax Regional Medical Center.

**Jenilyn Stanton ex'18** is a one-on-one aide with New York State's Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

**Albert Blanton (Memory)** by Time Investment Corporation

**George W. BonDurant (Memory)** by Gene & Alice Andrews, Gail Blanton, Dick & Lorraine Chesnut, Royce & Bonnie Everette, Bill & Trish Griffin, Hugh & Nancy Gaddy, George & Martha McDonald, John & Sherry Maurice, Bob & Denise Moulden, Emmett & Dolores Murphy, Clay & Sandra Perkins, Rea Pressley, Rebecca M. Rogers, Lowell & Cathy Thornton, Mark & Ellen Weber, Bob & Lori White, Ronnie & Trish Woolard

**Larry & Patsy Cooper (Honor)** by Brenda Cooper, Lyle Cooper

**Alzira Divino (Memory)** by John & Sherry Maurice, Clay & Sandra Perkins

**Frankie DeWald (Memory)** by Edna DeWald

**ECC Alumni Scholarship** by Maxine Guercio

**Willard & Florence Fritz (Memory)** by Denis & Madia Fritz

**Junior Chris Stowe** is youth minister at Scuppernong Church of Christ, Creswell, NC.

Births

**Bobby '00 and Shari Jones '99 Wallace:** Andrew William, March 17

**Brandon '16 and Sam Fleury ex'18 Davis:** Ellie Lynn, July 25

**Kyle ex'08 and Annie Askew '08 McGinnis:** Ellison Rose, July 26

**Craig '14** and Cayla **Layfield:** Landon David, August 7

**Aaron '99 and Laura Cutler '98 Saufley:** Cyrus Aaron (Dec. 31, 2013) and Alexander Thomas (Mar. 14, 2015) became Saufleys Sept. 27

**Phil ex'06** and Kourtney **Thomas:** Beck Alexander, Sept. 28

**Josh '15 and Sarah Lunceford '17 Bueno:** Rosalie Cynthia, Sept. 29

**Michael '07 and Crystal Williams ex'08 Dawson:** Cole Edward, Sept. 30

**Jake Griffin, John & Lucille Griffin, John & Janie Swindell (Memory)** by William and Patricia Griffin

**Christopher Knollenberg (Memory)** by Nicholas & Vicki Simon

**Orrin Kunkle (Memory)** by Clay & Sandra Perkins

**Ken & Linda Lewis (Memory)** by Brian & Gail Lewis, Garrett & Melissa Lewis, Keith & Pat Lewis, Mark & Gina Lewis

**Sarah Bowles, Chris & Sarah Brandow, Champagne Brice, Josh & Sarah Bueno, Chris & Shelley Garrett, Deborah Green-Smith, Richard & Lezlie Harvey, Scott & Samantha Montgomery, Lance & Erin Pippin, Courtney Leazer, Charles (Chip) Mabe, Jr., Rita Maclin, Caleb & Olivia Reynolds, Travis Hunter, Kevin Williams, Kendall & Salisa Williams (Honor)** by Rich & Cheryl Lindsley

**Matthew Maurice (Memory)** by Joyce Maurice

**Frances Mills (Memory)** by Jerelene Richards

Brandon and **Christen Thomas ex'07 Call:** Beaumont Thomas, Oct. 9

**Kyle '05 and Kendal Lean '06 Hayden:** Florence Joan, Oct. 10

**Josh ex'08** and Courtney **Tra- vers:** Hannah Joy, Oct. 25

**Eric '01 and Kelly Moulden '01 Woolard:** Daniel James "DJ" (May 25, 2012) and Niya Faith (Jan. 6, 2014) became Woolards Nov. 7

Weddings

Michael Dickerson and **Rebecca Griffin '06**, July 15

**Joey Craft '16** and **Senior Whitley Davis**, Aug. 5

**Travis Williams '05** and Annie Chalmers, Aug. 12

Clay Fain and **Sharon Hall Henry '84**, Sept. 24

Other News 'n' Notes

Congratulations to **Vanessa Whitfield Mullis '84**, who retired Sept. 29, having served the Craven Pamlico Carteret Regional Library for 30 years.

**Daleanna Curry '05** participated in the Council of Exceptional Children Legislative Summit in Washington, DC, this past summer. She represented the 7th District of Virginia as a lobbyist.

**Marshall & Viola Murphy (Memory)** by Emmett & Dolores Murphy

**Oak Grove Christian Church (Honor)** by Garrett & Melissa Lewis

**Jennifer N. Russell (Honor)** by Jerry & Joanne Norris

**Jonathan B. Sawyer (Memory)** by Judith Cahoon

**Donna Scott (Memory)** by Christian Chapel Church of Christ

**J.T. & Addie Segroves (Memory)** by Jonita Shoaft

**Brenda T. Stanley (Memory)** by Daniel & Stacey Elmes

**Harley "Tom" Wood (Memory)** by Ruth Wood

**Guy & Dot Woolard (Memory)** by Ronnie & Trish Woolard

MATCHING GIFTS

**Abbott Laboratories** for Jean W. Bennett


**Dominion Foundation** for Jerry Norris

**Eaton Corporation** for Charlene Richards

FOUNDATION NEWS

To contribute to the Foundation, simply mark your gift "Foundation," or select online from the drop down tab. For more information about the Mid-Atlantic Foundation, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 252-334-2008 or by email at foundation@macuniversity.edu.

The Alzira Divino Scholarship Fund



Alzira and Dr. Claudio Divino


Dr. Claudio Divino became the Associate Professor of Cross-Cultural Ministry. The Divinos moved to North Carolina from Rochester, Minnesota, where they worked for Crossroads College. Alzira enjoyed the warmer weather and the sweet

Christian spirit of the faculty, staff, and students at MACU. Alzira's smile was a true gift from God and an inspiration to many. Having grown up the daughter of a minister in Brazil, she was accustomed to sharing God's love with people she met. Alzira passed away July 6, 2017, after a long battle with cancer. Claudio dedicates this endowment to the memory of Alzira, a godly woman who trusted the Lord and shared God's love with everyone she could.

\$1,000,000

The MACU Foundation has awarded over a million dollars in student scholarships since its inception. Our students and the university are thankful for all who made this milestone possible.

Leaving a Legacy



BY JOHN W. MAURICE,  
INTERIM PRESIDENT

THE CONCEPT OF a "legacy" is that of leaving something behind for others that will "live on" or continue to

exist. A legacy is also an amount of money or property left to another through a will or trust. The Bible clearly teaches that all people will die (Hebrews 9:27) and our experience informs us that no one is immune from death. So what becomes of the stuff we have accumulated during our lifetimes? Obviously we remember our children and grandchildren. But have you considered leaving a legacy to your church, MACU, or other Kingdom enterprise? Clayton Smith in his book Propel: Good Stewardship, Greater Generosity states that "We know that seven out of ten Americans make gifts to charity in their lifetime but only one out of one hundred may think of leaving a legacy gift to their local church."

According to LegalZoom, 55% of Americans have no will or estate plan in place! This means that the courts (through a process called probate) will settle your estate for you. However, even if you have a will, upon your death the court will administer your estate through probate. In Virginia, an estate valued at fifty thousand


dollars triggers probate. Let's imagine that I have a house, stocks, savings, an IRA and other assets that would value my total estate at 500K. If I had no will, or had a written legal will, the cost to go through probate would be approximately \$35,000. Also, my assets would be frozen during the time it took to complete probate (average time to complete probate is 9 months to two years). My family would not have access to those assets and would be bearing the expenses of continuing to pay electric bills, mortgage payments, etc. until the estate was settled and they could dispose of the property. This is not the burden I want to place on my family when I die.

Christ-followers recognize that God owns everything and that we are stewards of all that He has blessed us with. During our lifetime most of us will tithe to our local church and support Kingdom causes such as MACU or other mission organizations. I believe that the majority of us want to leave a legacy gift but doing so is something no one ever suggested to us.


Mid-Atlantic partners with Financial Planning Ministry (FPM) to serve you and the Kingdom of God. At no cost to you or your church, we will present a "no-pressure" estate planning seminar. If you decide that

The Ken and Linda Lewis Fund

KENNETH CROMPTON LEWIS, from Connecticut, met Linda Mariah Williams of Delaware, and they fell in love. After his service in the Army during World War II, Ken returned to Delaware, married Linda, and had four sons. For many years the family was active in the Ocean View (Delaware) Church of Christ. Ken's job moved the family to Pennsylvania and then to Texas. Mid-Atlantic Christian University was an important part of the Lewis family. Today we count seven descendants of Ken and Linda Lewis who have attended MACU. Linda went to be with the Lord in 2014; Ken joined her in 2017. It is with great joy that their four sons - Brian, Garrett, Keith, and Mark - establish the Ken and Linda Lewis Fund. This fund will award a student scholarship at MACU every year.



Ken and Linda Lewis



Brian, Garrett '73, Keith '73, and Mark Lewis



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Mid-Atlantic Christian University is accredited by The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award certificates, associate, baccalaureate, and masters degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Mid-Atlantic Christian University.



**ALUMNI/STUDENT  
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REUNIONS**

***An exciting time to return to campus, renew  
friendships, refocus, and restore enthusiasm!***



## **CALEB KALTENBACH**

### **Keynote Speaker**

Caleb is a pastor and author living in California. Raised by lesbian parents, he was exposed to how some Christians treated the LGBT community and grew to hate Christians. In high school he joined a Bible study to disprove the Bible but ended up following Jesus instead. Later, his parents followed Jesus, too. This is the subject of his first book, *Messy Grace*, which explores holding on to the truth of God's Word while being filled with grace. Caleb is a graduate of Ozark Christian College and Talbot School of Theology (Biola University) and received his doctorate at Dallas Theological Seminary. Caleb's second book, *God of Tomorrow*, will be released in May 2018. He speaks widely on the subjects of reconciliation, faith, diversity, and grace/truth. Caleb and his wife, Amy, reside in Southern California with their two children.