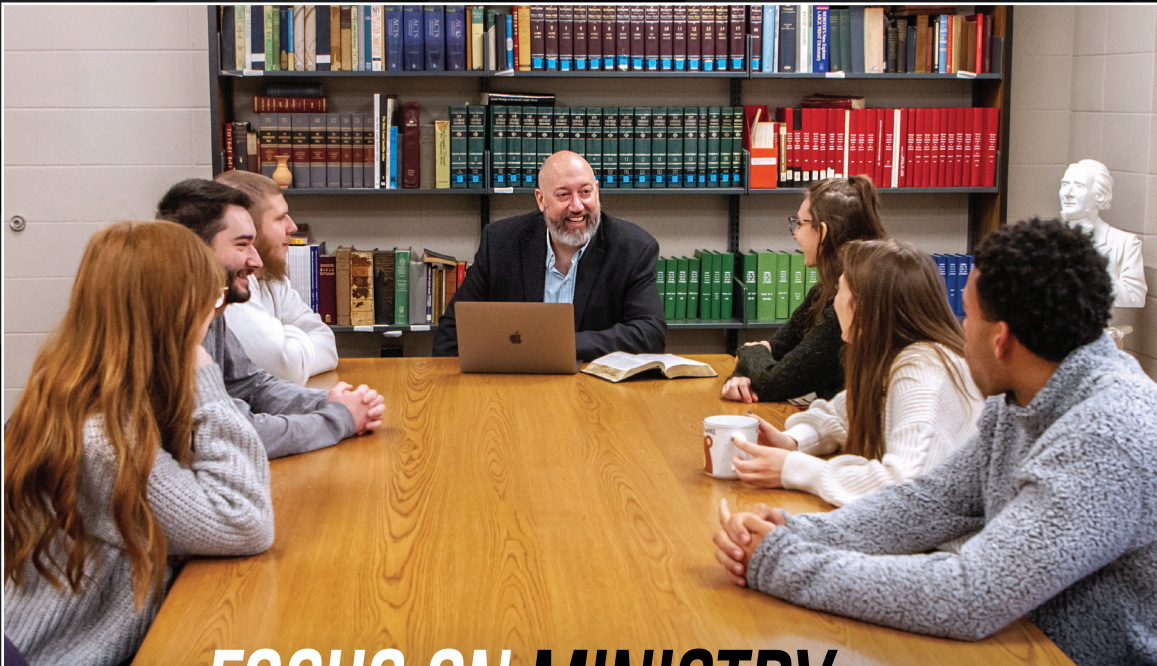




# The VOICE

The Magazine of Kentucky Christian University



***FOCUS ON MINISTRY***  
***ON & OFF CAMPUS***





# FROM THE PRESIDENT

DR. TERRY ALLCORN

## FOCUS ON MINISTRY ON & OFF CAMPUS

Developing leaders for the church continues to be a passion of mine. I am convinced that leaders are developed through service to others. I'm so pleased that this edition of the Voice is highlighting the amazing work of our students, on and off campus. Let me give you a few examples just to illustrate what I'm talking about. We had more students at the International Conference on Missions than any other school according to ICOM personnel. Locally, we had more students and staff at a food packing event held in Grayson than anyone else, including the sponsoring organization. We have had student groups help with missions located in Grayson such as Hippo Valley and the International Christian Braille Mission. We have sent students to Mountain Mission School, local K-12 schools, and countless other locations.

We are also very pleased to welcome Dr. Rob Shoaff as the Dean of the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry. He has already made an impact on campus and has led his school in the beginning stages of reconnecting with the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE).

There is a compelling spirit on campus that constantly reminds me of both the joy and the responsibility of serving at KCU as each of us strives to create an environment of discipleship. As we highlight our students in service on and off of campus, it might be helpful to hear one student's story. His journey from disillusioned athlete at another school to ministry major at KCU.

Josh pulled off to the side of the road. Frustrated with where he was in life, he prayed that God would lead him to a university where he could both enjoy his sport of football and feel appreciated as a member of a community. Shortly after he finished praying, KCU head coach Jake Russell's text appeared on his phone inviting him to consider studying at KCU and playing football.

He started at KCU this past fall. At the end of the semester, senior ministry major Isaiah Jones preached a powerful sermon in chapel. He felt strongly that there were those who needed to be immersed into Christ. He said that he was going to be in the chapel that evening and anyone who wanted to be baptized could come. After baptizing a member of the softball team, they were about to leave when Josh showed up to be baptized. He was not only immersed into Christ, but subsequently changed his major to ministry!

But it has not always been easy. Josh had a school bill to pay off in order to return in the spring. His family held a side-of-the-road BBQ in Texas and raised the money that he needed to be able to return. He has both given his testimony in chapel and shared his story with me personally. We are honored to have Josh as a Knight.



We will continue to cultivate an environment where students will be recruited and called to service no matter what their chosen profession, and where God will call some of them to a life of full-time ministry. We praise God for the students He has sent us and pray that He will continue to send us more students like Josh, students who are open to the Spirit's leading and are called to a life of service.





# MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

## Taking a Closer Look at KCU's Young Library

by Diane Mansfield ('87)

A key building on any university campus is the library. Students spend long hours there, studying and preparing projects. Faculty and staff compile research for presentations or books they are writing. The library is vital to campus life. This is certainly true about the library on KCU's campus; however, most people don't realize that there is more to what happens there than is noticed with a casual glance. Named for Dr. L. Palmer Young, the third president of KCU, the library houses thousands of books, magazines and other resources in both print and electronic formats. These materials are available to more than just the immediate KCU family. People from the community are welcome to apply for a KCU library card.

### Family Friendly .....

Families can come and check out picture books for preschoolers, history books for high school research projects and cookbooks for Mom (or Dad!). "It is always exciting for us when area high school teachers recommend our resources to their students to complete research projects," says Naulayne Enders, director of the library. Area ministers are also eligible to sign up for a card and checkout materials for personal use.

### Open to Alumni .....

Alumni of the university can get their own library cards. While library cards are not necessary to use materials within the library, Alumni can use a card to checkout items and request copies of pages for their personal reading and research. Enders stated, "We know that we have some unique items in our collection that alumni come back to locate. We like to keep these resources as accessible as possible to them."

### The Hoven Room .....

In the library is a special area called the Hoven Room. Dr. Ard Hoven was a professor at KCU for many years, and he had an expansive personal library. Many of his books chronicle the history of the Restoration Movement or explore tenets of the Christian faith. His personal library has formed the core of this collection and guides additions to this important special collection. These books cannot be removed from the building, people can come in and use the materials.

### Church Legacy Project .....

The staff of the Young Library is also committed to preserving the histories of local congregations. Several years ago, The Church Legacy Project was launched as part of the Restoration History and Archives Collection. At no cost to the church, the library will preserve any records that document the history of the church, such as ministers who have served, names of charter members, building programs, missionaries the church has supported, etc. This project helps preserve the records of churches while at the same time provides documents for future researchers.

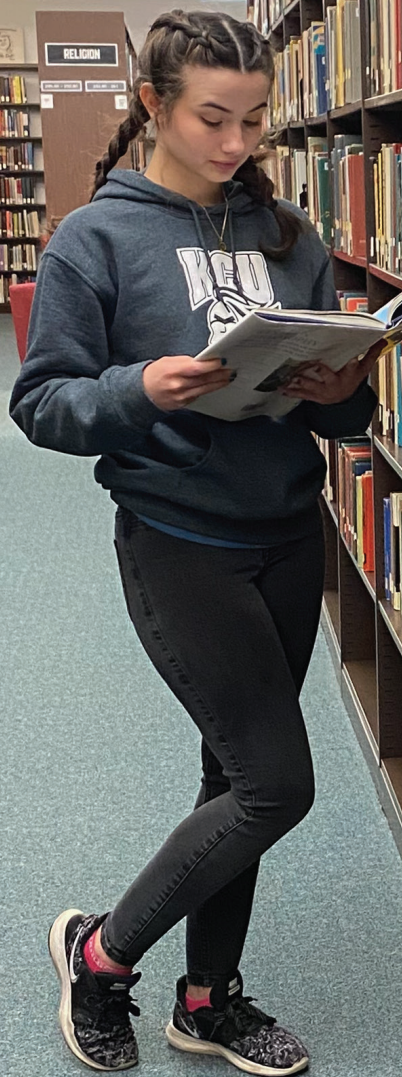


### Book Donations Welcomed .....

Books are frequently gifted to the KCU library. All donations are recorded in a donor database and then evaluated for use. Books in good condition that are not on the shelves are added to the collection. Duplicates are offered for sale within the library for a very low price. This allows KCU students to begin building their personal libraries before they graduate.

For example, the library sometimes has commentary sets that they cannot use. These extra books are available for ministry students to purchase to help build their personal libraries. Similarly, duplicate copies of children's books are set out for students in the Keeran School of Education to purchase. Most school systems do not provide the funds for new teachers to buy books for a classroom library. Future teachers can start building their book collections before they graduate.

For more information about making a book donation or participating in the Church Legacy Project, please contact Naulayne Enders at (606) 474-3276 or [nenders@kcu.edu](mailto:nenders@kcu.edu).







## DR. ROBERT E. SHOAFF APPOINTED KEERAN SCHOOL OF BIBLE & MINISTRY DEAN

*by Dr. Keith P. Keeran, Chancellor, Kentucky Christian University*

Following a lengthy search, Dr. Terry Allcorn has announced the appointment of Robert E. Shoaff, Ph.D., as the new Dean of the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry (KSBM).

Dr. Shoaff brings strong academic credentials and significant professional experience to the Dean's position. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Biblical Studies, Ministry, and Christian Leadership from Kentucky Christian University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Cross-Cultural Leadership from Johnson University. In addition to academic preparation, he also brings a breadth of classroom, ministry and mission experience.

Dr. Shoaff served most recently at Lincoln Christian University as professor of Cultural Intelligence, Cultural Contextualization, and Cross-Cultural Ministry. His cross-cultural teaching experience includes five years at Sonlight Bible College in Port-de-Paix, Haiti, and two years teaching Comparative World Religions at La Universidad de Murcia, Spain. In Spain, he served five years with the Bill Loft Mission, as a church planter in both Spain and North Africa. Dr. Shoaff also has a record of effective service in the U.S. as the lead minister of Christian Churches and Churches of Christ in Hillsboro, Ohio and Albion, Illinois, and as the Executive Director of Little Galilee Christian Camp & Retreat Center in Clinton, Illinois.

Dr. Shoaff is excited to join the educational ministry of his alma mater and lead the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry in fulfillment of its mission "to enlist, educate and equip missional leaders empowered by biblical authority and worldview to advance the purposes of God for the benefit of his church and its mobilization of disciples in response to the Great Commission."

"I am passionate about the renewed vision that I believe the Lord has given to the KSBM," Dr. Shoaff said. "As I seek the Lord's guidance, listening for the Spirit's voice and watching for His movement, and as I partner with colleagues, I desire to make Jesus' name great in all things. May He be praised now and forevermore."

The challenge facing the Committee was to remember that the advanced degrees, awards, and accomplishments listed in a curriculum vita or resumé pale in significance compared to the content of a candidate's heart. In the matter of selecting a Dean for the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry, the Committee was looking for someone with a heart for the things that matter to God. The committee was in prayer for a missional leader – a man of God's own choosing – a man that would show us his heart.

The Search Committee, led by the careful and professional leadership of Calvin Lindell, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Chair of the Search Committee was looking for evidence of faithfulness to the inspired Word of God and a love for preaching and teaching the Bible clearly and accurately; a proven heart for local church ministry and evangelism, including disciple-making and church planting in intercultural contexts; a strong commitment to educating ministers with a deep commitment to Scripture, personal purity, service, and missional leadership in the church, both in the U.S. and throughout the world, and by every possible means of educational access; a visionary leader that can inspire excellence in scholarship, instructional skill in the classroom, and mentoring throughout a student's educational journey and beyond; an active recruiter that is excited about collaborating with other deans, staff, faculty and coaches to identify capable students already on campus that may, with encouragement, direct their gifts toward ministry; a voice of advocacy in support of Christ's prayer for the unity of believers (John 17:20-26).

Dr. Shoaff provided confirming evidence for each of the key leadership areas included in the President's charge to the Committee. Dr. Keith P. Keeran, Chancellor of the University and Interim Dean of the School of Bible and Ministry said, "The Search Committee committed itself to finding a Dean that is a strong advocate for the hermeneutics that shaped the Restoration Movement; a Dean that will not neglect the historical value of the reformers' struggle as a required component of the curricular experience in ministerial education. We believe we have found such an advocate in Dr. Robert E. Shoaff."





Under President Allcorn's leadership, the University had its institutional accreditation reaffirmed yet again by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Under Dr. Shoaff's leadership as Dean, the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry will seek accreditation of its programs with the Association for Biblical Higher Education. The motivation for this is to access educational and training resources that are program specific, and will benefit the assessment of continuous improvement in both instructional methods, student performance, and accountability to the Christian mission and vision of the KSBM.

Program accreditation will also provide a platform for faculty to engage with others in educational leadership and to benefit from best practices in both in-person and online education. As well as seeking program accreditation, Dr. Shoaff will be a visionary leader in the department and teach various courses throughout the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry.



## FROM THE HEART...

### **Voice: What is your vision for the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry?**

**Dr. Shoaff:** *I believe there are a lot of expectations for the KSBM as the flagship program at KCU. I don't believe that the KSBM is more important than any of the other academic programs here at KCU – and all are led by some incredible Christian men and women – but I believe that the KSBM is the department that should be out in front, leading the way. The vision is that we would lead the way when it comes to spiritual development on campus and in our community. We should lead the way when it comes to influence in the lives of every student on campus. We should lead the way in preparing Great Commissioners to spread the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. My vision for the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry is to be the premier school in the Restoration Movement for preparing transformative Christian Leaders who academically understand the depths of Scripture and are able to apply Jesus' ethic in practical ministry wherever God may lead them.*

### **Voice: What do you want graduates from the KSBM to take away from the program?**

**Dr. Shoaff:** *We have a few short years to teach, influence, and disciple our students at KCU. While they are here, we want to strengthen them in Christian character through modeling Christian character to them. We want to encourage them to pursue the dreams that God has placed in their hearts to be world-changers...passionately serving in God's Kingdom, doing the work they have been called to do. While they are here, we want them to be transformed from students to thinkers, and from thinkers to dreamers. When students graduate, we want them to be transformed from being dreamers to pursuers...pursuers of God's Kingdom initiatives all over the world, as ambassadors of bringing the Kingdom of heaven here to earth through the power and provision of the Holy Spirit. As they live and work, we want them to look back on their*

*time at KCU, knowing that it was here that they gained the skills and honed their passion to have a daily engagement in ministry.*

### **Voice: What message would you like to give to KCU alumni?**

**Dr. Shoaff:** *First of all, as a KCU alum myself ('96 & '09)...I appeal to my fellow alumni for partnership in the ministry of KCU. I know that, for various reasons, our alumni are our strongest and most faithful allies and also our greatest critics. I am one amongst you. I would appeal to you to trust KCU with your young men and women to be trained, taught, and loved in a similar way that you were while you were here. My sincerest prayer is that this generation of students will have an even better experience than we did – that they would be better trained and better prepared than we were (and we had great men and women leading us!). As we seek to become the premier school for Bible and Ministry, and as we continue to faithfully teach the Bible in our classrooms and live it out on campus, and we seek to narrow the gap between academia and practical ministry, that you will see that KCU is worthy of your investments. My desire is for campus to be a safe place of growth in Christ, spiritually, academically, and vocationally, and that our students tangibly connect to real-world, real-issue ministries while they are here...not just after they graduate. Secondly, I would like to say to our alumni that I have dedicated myself to working towards increased enrollment, revamping major and minor emphasis of study, offering excellent graduate and undergraduate programs, and seeking program accreditation through ABHE. I would ask that you join me in these efforts. Please pray for me, our faculty and administration, and our students. Pray how you may be able to be involved in shaping the future of KCU. As great is our history, I believe that our best days are ahead of us.*





# Academically Speaking.....

## YANCEY SCHOOL OF NURSING MSN CLASS OF 2022



**Left to Right:** Melissa Cooper, Allison Riffe, Joseph Hill, Holly Tackett, Danielle Justice, Amy Ratcliff, Julie Mullins, Kayla Mann, Rachel Friday, Justin Boyer **Not Pictured:** Kendall Blue, Susan Byerly, Rachel Mould, Kimberly Reece

The Yancey School of Nursing held their MSN Celebration in December honoring the 14 graduates as they completed their Master of Science in Nursing Family Practitioner degree.

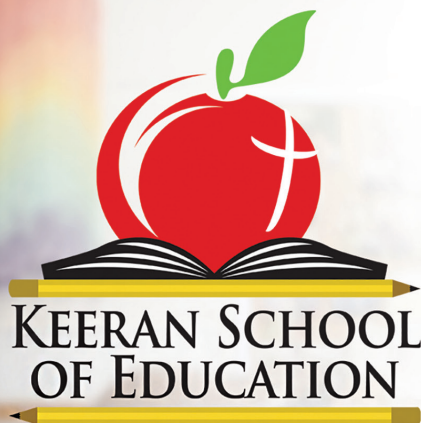


## TORAH SCROLL HAS PERMANENT DISPLAY CASE

An over 200 year old Torah that was anonymously donated to KCU is now on permanent display in Young Library. The scroll was created in Poland and was in storage for repairs. As a result of being in storage, the Torah survived the Holocaust. It consists of 42 panels, is approximately 112 ft in length and 27 inches high. Dan Groves, the creator of the beautifully crafted case said, "This is full circle for me. I attended KCU in the '80s where God led me to know that I should work with my hands. This has allowed me to give back to the University."

## Kentucky Christian University

**NEW!  
FALL 2023**



### Option 9: Para-Professional Pathway to Certified Teacher Program

- All Online
- Individualized educational program for paraprofessionals
- Receive teacher education bachelors' degree in 3 years

More info:  
Contact Lisa Conn at  
[lconn@kcu.edu](mailto:lconn@kcu.edu)



# HEALING THE MIND, BODY, & SPIRIT

by Joanna Yates, Assistant Professor of Reading

Being a college student is stressful. Many students are hours away from home and their support systems. For the first time, they are on their own, and they are trying to balance academics, athletics, work, and many other aspects of college life. For many, this becomes overwhelming and their mental wellbeing begins to suffer.

Mental and physical health are so closely tied together. When someone is faced with stress, their body has a physical response and can cause problems with blood pressure or can manifest in terms of physical symptoms such as headaches and stomach problems. This impacts a student's ability to be in the classroom, or their ability to focus.

Understanding how these issues can affect a student inside the classroom is critical to their success. KCU is blessed with two women who work endlessly to ensure that student mental and physical needs are not only addressed, but are met. They are beacons of hope and light for so many of the students at KCU.

Tonia Tussey is the campus nurse, and a vital resource to our students. Since being hired, she has helped to revamp the Student Health Service area. She has changed the location of the clinic, and helped to bring a nurse practitioner to campus for students who have chronic illnesses.

April Frazier, a KCU alumna,



began working as the counselor in January 2022. Her office is a sanctuary for students and staff due to the changes she has also worked to instill. Her office is the epitome of tranquility.

Tonia and April have worked to create an area that is a safe space for students. "In our Student Health Service area, students have the benefit of a Christian nurse and counselor who understand the relationship of mental, physical, and spiritual health. In understanding this relationship, we can address the student as a whole. It is not uncommon for a student to be treated not only with medications or interventions but with prayer, a cup of coffee and a quiet corner. Our goal in Student Health Services is to provide a safe area where not only can students get treatment or counseling but can rest and decompress."

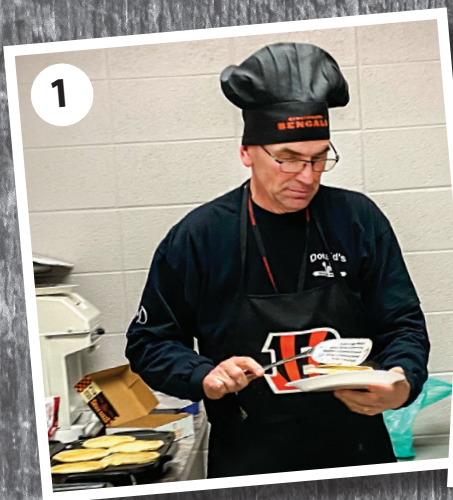
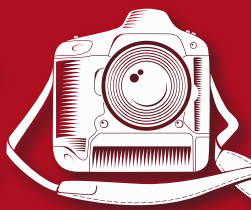
In addition to their individual service, they both oversee "Mama's Closet" which is a pantry that students can access for basic necessities and toiletries, free of charge. If there are particular items that a student may need, and it is not in the pantry, April and Tonia will work to get it for the student.



To be as dedicated and compassionate as these two are, their motivation is simple. It is the desire and call to be the "Hands and Feet of Christ". In the foyer of their offices hangs a sign that reads "We are inspired by the love of Christ to provide quality health care in ways which respect the God given dignity of each person and the sacredness of life."



# Campus



1. VP of Student Services, Donald Damron hosts "Donald's Pancake House"
2. Our Women's Basketball team participates in a service project at Hippo Valley Christian Mission
3. KCU Softball team conducts skills camp for local youth
4. Graduate student Isaiah Jones preaches in chapel service
5. Kentucky State Police conduct safety training for faculty and staff

6. KCU has large delegation of students
7. Two different meal packing projects
8. Haitian student Mark Celestin participates
9. Keeran School of Education has workshop
10. President and Mrs. Allcorn participate



# Snapshots



3



4



5



7



8



9



12



13



14

Faculty/staff attend Int'l Conference on Missions  
Students allow students to give back  
Participates in puzzle day at Young Library  
Taking field trip to Grundy Mountain Mission School  
Participate in Project Merry Christmas

11. Alumnus Chris McQuiston instructs members of KCU's Worship Collective  
12. Softball players at local church Trunk or Treat  
13. KCU Worship Collective conducts Worship/Prayer Night  
14. KCU hosts a community blood drive



#### SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

25 student athlete leaders met regularly to develop and refine their spiritual leadership

**25**  
ATHLETE  
LEADERS

#### GRAD ASSISTANTS

Two Graduate Assistant Ministers hired

**2**  
GRAD  
ASSISTANTS

#### BAPTISMS

We rejoice with those 11 students and staff who have made the incredible decision to follow Christ.

**11**  
BAPTISMS

#### LIFE GROUP PROGRAM

We continued to maintain an average of 300 students, faculty, and staff involved in 23 life groups across campus

**300**  
MEMBERS

#### CHAPEL SERVICES

This year our theme is Jubilee. We have been blessed with many spirit-led Chapel Services

**30**  
SERVICES

## CAMPUS MINISTRY BY THE NUMBERS

Our Fall semester saw a very active Campus Ministry. Led by our Campus Minister, Jacob Shockey, you can see by the numbers outlined here that God was moving across our campus through a variety of initiatives. It is refreshing to see the impact our Campus Ministry is having. Continue to pray with us that God will do even more in the semesters ahead.

#### OUTREACH PROGRAM

We had over 40 students involved in our Outreach program

**40+**  
IN  
OUTREACH

#### WORSHIP/PRAYER

Two incredible worship/prayer nights were led by our Worship Collective

**2**  
WORSHIP  
NIGHTS

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MISSIONS

27 students attended ICOM to grow in missions

**27**  
ATTEND  
ICOM

**17K**  
MEALS

#### ICOM @ KCU

Partnering with ICOM, Lifeline Mission, and Hands & Feet, 17,000 meals were packed for citizens of Haiti

**40+**  
CAMPUS  
MINISTRY

#### CAMPUS MINISTRY

There were 40+ people involved in Campus Ministry



KCU Reach exists to develop partnerships between KCU students and local churches and camps and are equipped to serve with and come alongside established ministries. The program offers several ways for us to connect, such as summer camp teams, youth retreats, youth lock-ins, Sunday morning volunteers, and more! Starting in the Fall of 2023, we will be adding a worship component known as the "Kingdom Collective," under the direction of our Worship Collective Director, Emily Wolfe. Kingdom Collective is a selected team of students within the Worship Collective who partner with KCU Reach teams. They travel to different area churches within the region to help serve through worship leadership.

Since launching in the Spring of 2022, the Reach program has had the privilege of partnering with 12 Christian Camps and over 20 local churches spanning across the state of Kentucky and southern Indiana. In addition to traveling to these camps and churches, the Reach program hosts on-campus events such as our annual Tri-State Worship Night. All of this, of course, would not be possible if it was not for the 40+ student volunteers who desire to serve.

If your church or ministry is interested in partnering with the KCU Reach program, you may fill out an interest form on our website at: [www.kcu.edu/reach](http://www.kcu.edu/reach) or contact one of our directors, Jacob Shockey or Jeremy Miller.

*Several members of KCU Reach pose with KCU's new vans. We appreciate the generous donor who made it possible to purchase three new vans.*





## Scholarship Gifts

### Andrea Damron Scholarship

Oak Grove Church of Christ,  
Grayson, KY

### Carole Phillips Scholarship

Oak Grove Church of Christ,  
Grayson, KY

### Dr. Charles R. Gresham Scholarship

Oak Grove Church of Christ,  
Grayson, KY

### Dr. Donald "Dick" Damron Scholarship

Glensboro Christian Church,  
Lawrenceburg, KY  
Oak Grove Church of Christ,  
Grayson, KY

### Dr. Lewis Snyder Scholarship

Gary Bradford  
Betty Lou Evanson

### Eggleton Scholarship

M/M Paul Eggleton

### Erby & Lorraine Messimer Scholarship

Dr. & Mrs. Jim Messimer  
Wendell Messimer

### H & K Taylor Scholarship

Glima Hall

### James & Martha Quisenberry Scholarship

Martha Quisenberry

### KCU Alumni Endowed Scholarship

Dorothy McBrayer Adams  
Mical J. Barnhart

Harry S. Love  
Mark E. Marsh  
M/M Sean C. Olson  
Kimberly Ripato  
William C. Rousey  
Stephen Stigers  
Rowena Johnson Walker

### Dr. Keith P. Keeran Scholarship

Raceland Christian Church,  
Raceland, KY

### Dr. L. Palmer Young Scholarship

Frank T. McKinley  
M/M Jerry Provence

### Majel Lusby Kelley Memorial Scholarship for Education Majors

M/M Harry Gill  
Patricia Kelley Zavala

### Scholarship-Undesignated

Dorothy McBrayer Adams  
Adena Road Church of Christ,  
Chillicothe, OH  
Phillip L. DeMotte  
Rick Evans  
M/M Thomas M. Napier  
M/M Stanley Ratliff  
M/M Robert A. Sealock  
Southeast Christian Church,  
Louisville, KY  
Sidney Verble

### Strother Family Scholarship Fund

Commercial Bank Foundation  
M/M Jack W. Strother, Jr.

### William Peeples Scholarship

William D. Peeples

## Gifts in Honor

### Mr. Emery Emmert

Phyllis Patterson

### Dr. Keith Keeran

Duane Jones  
Ruth Kegerreis

### Dr. Keith & Topsy Keeran

Dr. & Mrs. Guthrie Veech

### Mr. Barry M. Taylor

M/M L. S. Rigsby

### Mr. Daniel White

Dr. & Mrs. Guthrie Veech

## Gifts in Memory

### Sue Beck

Clifford Beck  
Doris Eltringham & Family  
M/M Ed Maulet  
Michele Beck Minor  
Judy Owens  
Phillis Snail  
M/M Charles Starner  
M/M Rick Weatherwax

### Nancy Burbrink

Dr. & Mrs. Keith Keeran

### Raymond Burton

Dr. & Mrs. Keith Keeran

### Kelly & Genevieve Dye

M/M Max Dye

### Tom Gemeinhart

M/M Francis Nash

### Sam Jones

Arnold's Creek Christian Church,  
Middlebourne, WV

### Martha Jordan

Sharon Thomas Ellis

### Charles D. Lees

Millie Lees

### Gordon Lunsford

Jerry A. McComas

### Dr. J. Lowell & Lela Lusby

Sharon Thomas Ellis

### Vince Mansfield

Linda Brandon  
Annita Marie Heath  
Douglas Heath  
Linda K. Kratt  
Todd F. Malone  
Larry Mansfield  
Robert A. Mengelberg  
William A. Ray  
Bob Russell  
Scot Mailing & Shipping  
Systems, Inc.  
Bernice Sminkey  
Carl L. Striepe, Jr.

### Dr. Donald Nash

M/M Francis Nash

### John A. Owston

Betty Lou Evanson  
Dr. James Owston

### E. Paul Perry

Charles A. Perry

### Heath Sherman

Glensboro Christian Church,  
Lawrenceburg, KY

### Dr. L. Palmer & Elva Young

Sharon Thomas Ellis  
M/M Jerry Provence  
M/M Robert Young

## Estate Gifts

Estate of William & Frances  
Kindelberger





## KCU ANNOUNCES THE NAMING OF THE BASEBALL FIELD AS "MEMBERS CHOICE FIELD"

*"Thanks to the generosity of Members Choice Credit Union and its representatives, KCU's baseball field will be able to move much closer toward the vision of becoming the premier collegiate field in the region."*

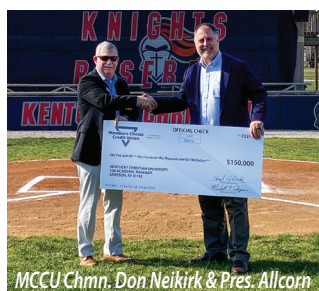
- Jason Stowers  
KCU Baseball  
Head Coach

Daniel White and President Allcorn met with Cheryl Deborde and David Deborde late last fall to discuss a potential partnership between KCU and the Members Choice Credit Union. They had already generously sponsored events such as a business conference that we hosted on campus. Cheryl had recently joined our Board of Trustees and is an active member of one of our key supporting churches, Bridges Christian Church. She was in the process of retiring from Members Choice and her son was in the process of assuming leadership. Being one of the most successful credit unions in the area, they were also in the process of opening a location in Grayson and were heavily involved in supporting the community and the University.

It only seemed natural to approach them with the idea of naming the baseball field after the credit union. This sponsorship will provide the credit union with good visibility from east bound traffic on I-64 and the \$150,000 will allow the University to make some much needed improvements to the baseball field.

Head baseball coach Jason Stowers said, "Thanks to the generosity of Members Choice Credit Union and its representatives, Kentucky Christian University's baseball field will be able to move much closer toward the vision of becoming the premier collegiate field in the region. The impact this gift will have will be immeasurable as it will help us provide a great experience for our student-athletes, as well as a great venue for fans to enjoy a game. The baseball team at Kentucky Christian University is extremely excited about the opportunity to play on an improved surface and are very appreciative of Members Choice for providing this blessing."

President Allcorn echoed that sentiment when he said, "While we are blessed to have Cheryl Deborde on our Board of Trustees, we are doubly blessed with the generosity of Members Choice Credit Union."





# Insider

News and Information for Alumni & Friends of Kentucky Christian University

## Alumni Office

**Doug Martin**  
Director of Alumni & Church Relations  
jdmartin@kcu.edu • 606-474-3125



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www.twitter.com/kcu alumni



FALL HOMECOMING

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, '23

Homecoming weekend is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect! The weekend is packed with events from our Friday evening Alumni Banquet to tailgating and a KCU Knights football game on Saturday and ending with a worship service on Sunday morning in our Nash Chapel. Along with all this we have several other events sprinkled throughout the weekend. There is something for everyone!

This year's Homecoming theme is "Stronger Together". The Bible says that "A cord of three strands is not easily broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12). When the KCU family stands together we are stronger, and we can make a greater impact for God's kingdom. We are stronger together. Come and join us for Homecoming weekend! Stay tuned for a schedule of all the events planned for Homecoming 2023!

REGISTRATION  
BEGINS  
AUGUST 1

## WRAPPED UP IN KCU

As alumni of Kentucky Christian University, you and I have seen firsthand the power of a Christ-centered education. We understand that it can be challenging to find room in your budget to support Christian higher education. However, when many of us give a little, it can have a big impact.



- Go to [kcu.edu/give](http://kcu.edu/give)
- Choose "Wrapped Up in KCU"
- Recurring gift \$10 or more
- Receive a KCU roll-up blanket!

This is an easy and straight forward way to invest in the lives of our current students and future alumni.

## JULY '23 ALUMNI GATHERING

Join KCU and fellow alumni for a day at the park! On Saturday, July 22, 2023 we'll gather together at Hummel Park in Plainfield, IN. We'll be there from 11:00am - 3:00pm. Lunch will be provided. We'll also bring cornhole and other games. Bring yourself. Bring a lawn chair. Bring the kids. There is no cost, but we need you to register so we can plan for food. Go to [www.kcu.edu/plainfield](http://www.kcu.edu/plainfield) to let us know you're coming!



PLAINFIELD, INDIANA



## FEBRUARY ALUMNI GATHERING IN FLORIDA

On February 4, 2023 alumni from KCU gathered at the First Christian Church of Titusville, Florida for a Regional Alumni Gathering. Mike and Suzy Cassara (Class of '83) hosted the gathering. Mike is the Senior Minister at FCC. KCU alumni from five different decades were present and a good time was had by all. Our Regional Alumni Gatherings are designed to provide a more convenient opportunity for our alumni to get together.



# CLASS NOTES...

## Future Knights

Lucian Ananias, son of Luis and **Melissa (Mel Jo Morse)** ('12) **Barrios** on October 22, 2022

Josephina Joy, daughter of Brady and **Abby (Yeazel)** ('09) **Feltz**, on October 24, 2022

Carter Avery, son of **Clayton** ('19) and Brooke **Mitchell**, on November 1, 2022



Lucian



Josephina

Migrace Mae, daughter of **Dominique** ('16) and Teresa **Clendenning**, on January 15, 2023

Scout Eliora, daughter of Daniel and **Rebecca (Mullen)** ('19) **Hartley**, on January 20, 2023

Evelyn Brooke, daughter of **Collin** ('21) and **Emily** ('20) **Howell**, on January 29, 2023



Carter



Scout

**Editor's Note:** Name Correction from last Voice – Emma Kate Buck should be Jemma Kate Buck.

## Knight News

**Kaylee (Limings) Archey** ('19) began as Assistant Professor of Social Work at Kentucky Christian University in January 2023.

**Craig Cunningham** ('13 & '17) has

joined the band *Chasing Judah* (having previously served 10 years with *64 to Grayson* alongside KCU grad Zack Shelton). He plans to continue in his role as Worship Minister at Sardinia (OH) Church of Christ.

**Laura (Willmore) Diebel** ('05) has accepted the role of Women's Discipleship Minister at Wentzville (MO) Christian Church.

**Ashley Fletcher** ('17 & '19) was recently promoted to Senior Director of Development and Practice Management at Addiction Recovery Care in Louisa, Kentucky.

**Cole Gilliland** ('21) graduated with an MBA from Marshall University. He is employed as one of the Directors of Philanthropy for the Marshall Foundation.

**Jessica (Marshall) Johnston** ('15) recently joined Encompass Health in Huntington, WV as Business Development Director.

**Gary W.** ('75) and **Joyce (Downey) Mitchell** ('74) have recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Gary has also served as minister at Martin (KY) Church of Christ for over 30 years.

**Nikki Moore** ('06 & '18) is now the owner/operator of Moore Wellness Clinic, PLLC providing a functional and integrative approach to health and lifestyle. She will be working in collaboration with Walking On Sunshine Wellness Spa & Shoppe in Grayson, KY.

**Katee Neltner** ('10) is now employed as an Attorney with Oxley Rich Sammons Law Firm in Huntington, WV.

**Dan Smith** ('96) reports... "Alaska! Soooo... I have a goal to preach the Good News of Jesus in all 50 states. Thanks to my dude **Caleb Beck** ('16) a former intern at Momentum Church, I can check off one more hard-to-get state. Caleb invited me to speak at a winter retreat for HS & MS students. What a trip! Caleb's senior minister Adam is an amazing, fun, and godly dude. I'm so proud of and thankful for that church. Go KCU!"



Caleb Beck

Dan Smith

## Knights We'll Miss

**John Owston** ('69), Bible, October 16, 2022

**Kenneth Beck** ('74), Bible, Music, October 19, 2022

**Donald W. Allen** ('56 & '90), Bible, Master of Ministry, October 24, 2022

**Roy Wayne Carter** ('81 & '85), Bible, Master of Ministry, December 17, 2022

**Nancy (Stanley) Burbrink** ('76), Business Administration, January 11, 2023

**Julia (Beck) McDavid** ('95) Associate of Arts Degree, January 12, 2023

**Edward Moretto** ('80), Bible, Professor at KCU from '81 to '85, January 13, 2023

**Dawn (Wilcox) Luck** ('94), Bible & Music, January 15, 2023

## Give Us The Scoop!

Share your news with us by sending an email to [jdmartin@kcu.edu](mailto:jdmartin@kcu.edu) for possible inclusion in the next issue. We would love to have accompanying high-resolution pictures as well.

Have you recently:

- Gotten married
- Had a baby
- Changed jobs
- Received an award
- Had a major accomplishment?



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## MATTHEW BARKER

by Jesse Martin ('15 & '17)

Among many KCU alumni circling the globe, Matthew Barker is working tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of his



students. The 2016 graduate along with his wife, Sydney, have been teaching in Dakar, Senegal since 2019. "This was not part of my five year plan.

When I graduated from KCU with a teaching degree, I never thought God would take me to West Africa," says Barker.

While working at Dakar Academy, both Matthew and Sydney have been asked to step out of their comfort zones and teach new classes serving multiple age groups. "Being able to learn subjects alongside our students has reminded us that there is still a lot to learn." Dakar Academy serves students from 60 different countries including many missionary families. With around 300 students spread across 3 campuses there are always activities going on.

Outside of the classroom, the Barkers try to find ways to provide fun and education for their middle school students. "We're engaged and leading several clubs and provide opportunities for our students to play sports and engage their minds." One of the clubs Matthew is excited about is the school's robotics club. He is repurposing his old laptop to allow students to learn and share in one of his favorite hobbies.

Relocating from Illinois to Senegal has been an adjustment for both Matthew and his wife. "I would say being aware of the language and cultural barriers has been a learning experience for us. There are phrases or idioms that we may use in the states that have no meaning here." The Barkers had never lived outside of the United States previously. Moving over 5000



miles away from the familiarity of home has been a very daunting adjustment. "It is difficult being away from family and friends, but Dakar has become our home." They are able to video chat with family in the US but have found comfort while in West Africa.

Senegal is a predominantly Muslim country. There are many mosques, and people adhere to Muslim practices like answering the call to prayer multiple times a day. Everyone will stop in the streets and put their lives on pause to spend a few moments in prayer. While the primary language in Dakar is Wolof, many in the business world speak French. "Something we have really appreciated is the hospitality that the locals have shown us."

The Wolof word for hospitality is Teranga, which is a big principle in their culture. An example of this is how the Senegalese share meals. Six to eight people will all eat out of the same large bowl. As you eat your section, the eldest of the group will distribute the meat at the center (usually chicken) to those who are eating around him. It is not uncommon to offer a spot at a bowl to someone walking down the street. "This has been offered to me a few times by those in my neighborhood as I am walking down the street," Barker describes.

As they finish their fourth year, they have prayerfully decided to sign on for another four year contract to stay in Senegal. "We feel God has been moving and is teaching us so much as we do our best to remain faithful to Him." Not only are they excited about sharing Jesus with their students, they pray for opportunities with their Muslim neighbors as well. Both Matthew and Sydney have been learning Wolof in hopes of connecting and sharing the Gospel with those around them in their native language. They see the opportunities that God has placed before them as they minister to this unique group of people.

If you would like to follow along with their journey or support their ministry please scan the QR code and sign up for their monthly newsletter.





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Grayson, KY 41143-2205

**SPRING 2023 • [www.kcu.edu](http://www.kcu.edu)**



One week in 1801 is all it took. Beginning August 6, what was expected to be a typical meeting quickly became a unity revival of over 20,000 people. It was at Cane Ridge (Paris, Kentucky) that the proclamation of the unification effects of the gospel were accomplished and we are experiencing the effects of it to this day. This was the start of the Restoration Movement.

Kentucky Christian University invites you to celebrate this 222nd anniversary with us. On May 20, 2023, we are hosting a Cane Ridge Celebration and communion service. Registration and check-in will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Cane Ridge.

**Dr. Keith P. Keeran**, former President of Kentucky Christian University, and **Dr. Rob Shoaff**, Dean of the Keeran School of Bible & Ministry will be our featured speakers.

A special communion service will be led by Doug Martin, KCU's Director of Church and Alumni Relations.

Lunch will be served on the grounds and will be provided by Sonny's BBQ.

Consider this your invitation to celebrate the roots of the Restoration Movement and learn how KCU is preparing leaders for the future of the movement.



**ORDER TICKETS ONLINE FOR \$35**

Visit [www.kcu.edu/caneridge](http://www.kcu.edu/caneridge) or contact Becky Stamper at [bstamper@kcu.edu](mailto:bstamper@kcu.edu) or call 606.474.3258

***Get yours today as tickets are limited. Registration deadline is May 10***