

The VOICE

THE MAGAZINE OF KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



**KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
ANNOUNCES IT IS
DEBT FREE!**



SUMMER 2025

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. Terry Allcorn, President

Dear Friends,

As president, I believe that my role really boils down to three primary responsibilities. It is my responsibility to ensure that Kentucky Christian University remains faithful, viable, and relevant. We must remain faithful to both the Word of God and to our mission. We must remain financially viable. We must remain relevant to the churches that we are called to serve.

As we announced in the last edition of *The Voice*, the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry was granted programmatic accreditation with the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). This is a part of our continued commitment to keeping ministerial training and biblical training throughout the University at the forefront.

Next Steps for Kentucky Christian University

In this edition of *The Voice*, we are very pleased to announce two significant steps to ensure our viability well into the future. The University publicly announced a \$7 million capital campaign on June 24th. God opened up his floodgates of blessings even before we launched the capital campaign. We have already received over \$5 million in actual gifts and commitments! The first three million was used to eliminate all debt from the University. As of the end of June, the University is completely debt-free!

But being debt-free is not the end goal, it is only the beginning. The next two million dollars will go to expanding our programs. This expansion aligns with our responsibility to be relevant to the churches. Much of the expansion will be in the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry. We will share more details in the coming months.

The last two million dollars will go to upgrading student spaces around the campus. As funds are received for this portion of the project, we will begin with upgrades to student living spaces along with other student spaces. Again, more on that in the coming months.

God is moving in a big way at KCU! I invite you to join Him in that movement.

And Go Knights!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry".

Terry Allcorn

President, Kentucky Christian University





Left: Daniel White, Vice President of Business Operations, formally opened the event and served as master of ceremonies. **Middle:** Grayson Mayor Troy Combs presents a gift to President Terry Allcorn in support of KCU's capital campaign, For the Good of the Cause, during the University's debt-free celebration. **Right:** Dr. Keith Keeran, former president of KCU, was in attendance and prayed over the event.

UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHT

DEBT-FREE & BUILDING FORWARD

BY: DANNY STAMPER

PHOTOGRAPHY: JORDAN ROSEBERRY

A Milestone Moment for KCU

Kentucky Christian University marked two historic events on the afternoon of June 24th. The University announced the launch of a capital campaign that has already proven to be the most successful in the school's 105-year history. The second, and most impactful, was the announcement that the University is debt-free.

"We have officially entered a new era of faithfulness, viability, and relevance," said KCU President Terry Allcorn. "Becoming debt-free is not the end—it is the beginning. This campaign is about building forward with confidence and calling."

A Celebration Rooted in Legacy

Daniel White, VP of Business Operations, served as the master of ceremonies for the event. We were pleased to have Dr. Keith Keeran, KCU past president and Chancellor, and his wife, Topsy, in attendance. Dr. Keeran offered the opening prayer. Those attending also heard from President Allcorn and CFO John Dundon.

Three alumni also shared remarks: Braden Long (Class of 2024), Lela Ratliff (Class of 2012 and great-granddaughter of Founder J.W. Lusby) and Donald Damron (Class of 1990, current VP of Student Services, and son of Donald "Dick" Damron). Each told of their experiences here and the impact the institution has made on their lives.

For the Good of the Cause

The capital campaign, entitled "For the Good of the Cause," was launched in stages beginning in December 2024. With the assistance of a consultant, the University conducted a pre-study to determine the feasibility of a campaign. The results confirmed strong donor support and guided the decision to move forward. We were also blessed to be introduced to several generous donors whose vision for Christian education aligned with the goals of the University. Those donors provided lead gifts totaling over \$4,000,000, kicking off our campaign.

The capital campaign is focused on three primary goals:

- **Eliminating Long-Term Debt** (\$3,000,000)
This goal was completed as of June 20th. For those of us who have a mortgage or have paid one off, the significance of this milestone is easy to appreciate. Eliminating this debt opens new doors for the University's future.
- **Enhancing and Expanding Online Education** (\$2,000,000)
Work is already underway with the launch of an expanded online program planned for Fall 2026.
- **Renovating and Improving Student Spaces** (\$2,000,000)
Projects under this goal are currently being assessed, with visible improvements expected to begin appearing across campus in the near future.

We are expecting great things here at KCU and believe with God's blessings and the loyal support of many, the future is bright as we work to complete this historic campaign.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR
MORE INFORMATION





Over Spring Break, Dr. Rob Shoaff, Dean of the Keeran School of Bible and Ministry and Professor of Intercultural Studies, led a cross-cultural trip with KCU students in Northern Ireland. Co-hosting the trip were Thomas and Kyleigh McClure. Thomas is a Northern Ireland native and served as an excellent guide. The Ireland trip was one of several opportunities to put classroom knowledge into real-world experience!

EXPERIENCING MINISTRY IN IRELAND

STUDENTS STEP BEYOND THE CLASSROOM FOR KINGDOM WORK

BY: DR. ROB SHOAFF

PHOTOGRAPHY: KCU STAFF, FACULTY, & STUDENTS

Sharing Christ with the Next Generation

While in Ireland, the group participated in ministry opportunities with Irish youth in partnership with RIOT (Revival In Our Town) and the Boys' and Girls' Brigades at the Newcastle Presbyterian Church, as well as helping out at the Ark Community Garden. KCU students not only had the opportunity to meet and interact with local youth, but also led in Bible study, shared testimonies, and taught them new team-building initiative games. Staying at the historical Murlough House, the group traveled around North Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in Dublin, experiencing Irish culture first-hand.

Exploring Irish History and Culture

Highlights of the trip included visiting several millennia-old castles, walking the beach of the Irish Sea, seeing wild horses, going to the North Coast and walking upon the Giant's Causeway, and climbing the tallest mountain in Northern Ireland, Slieve Donard! The group experienced the city of Belfast, walked the grounds of the Harland and Wolff shipyard where the Titanic was constructed and launched, explored Tollymore Forest - the forest that inspired C.S. Lewis' Narnia, and visited C.S. Lewis Square. While in Belfast, the group visited the Peace Wall and learned about "the Troubles" – also known as the Northern Ireland Conflict – between Irish Protestants and Irish Catholics.



IRELAND

A St. Patrick's Day to Remember

The final day of the trip landed on St. Patrick's Day. Students experienced early-morning church services at St. Patrick's Saul Church, known as "the cradle of Christianity in Ireland," and walked a 3-mile processional (led by bagpipes of course!) to Down Cathedral in Belfast where St. Patrick is (more than likely) buried.

Lasting Impact

Overall, the experience was "good craic!" and more than met the group's expectations. None of the student participants had been outside of the United States, and Ireland left an indelible impression—culturally and spiritually. As Kingdom people, we seek to become more culturally intelligent. The first step is self-awareness, but the second step that propels us forward is empathy. Empathy helps us to desire to understand those who are different from ourselves, to know them as friends, and to love them as Christ loves them. This trip taught the group this and so much more. The words of St. Patrick are still echoing in our hearts, "Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me."

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2025 OVERVIEW:

CHIEF CORNER

DISCOVERING THE PILLARS TO BUILDING SUCCESS

BY: DEAN BRAND

PHOTOGRAPHY: MONKEY PUZZLES

A Conference Built on Purpose

The 2025 KCU Leadership Conference was hosted by the School of Business and Leadership on April 24th toward the end of the spring semester. The theme of the day-long event was *Chief Corner: Discovering the Pillars to Building Success* delivered by an outstanding slate of speakers including keynote speaker Ken Tracy. The Pillars of Strategy, Structure, Process, People and Tenet provided the basis for the fantastic information provided in both the keynote address and the varied breakout sessions. Additionally, continuing education hours for nurses were available and provided by Dr. Carol Brickey and the outstanding staff from the Yancey School of Nursing.

Leading Voices from Diverse Fields

The conference began with Mr. Tracy providing a brief introduction of the speakers, who included Brian Fox, Dave Buffenbarger, Kate McCollum, and Doug Mitchell. Ken and Dave represented TaleMed, along with work concerning the pursuit of NIL assistance for both colleges and individual athletes. They are joined in this by Brian Fox, a lawyer who specializes in mediation and NIL as well. Kate McCollum demonstrated her extensive experience in healthcare, along with information regarding her work with Grow Together—a practice focused on developing occupational therapy opportunities in natural environments. KCU alumnus Doug Mitchell delivered the message of the Chief Corner, incorporating the campus-wide theme of Kingdom Culture.

Student and Alumni Takeaways

Those in attendance were blown away by the quality of the speakers. KCU alumnus Scott Riggs exclaimed, “More people need to know about this!” Business student Lydia Ward especially appreciated the information provided by Kate McCommons in her session on “The Road to Success and The Importance of Having a Great Mindset.” All were blessed by the event and look forward to next year!



HONORING YEARS OF SERVICE

BY: BECKY STAMPER

Celebrating Milestones of Service

At this year's annual luncheon, Kentucky Christian University celebrated employees for their faithful service—from those completing their first year to those marking decades of dedication. Each individual was recognized for the unique gifts they bring to the KCU community and the lasting impact they make.

First-year honorees received a certificate of appreciation, while those with five or more years of service were recognized in five-year increments with an acrylic award marking their milestone.

Special recognition was given to two long-serving Knights: **Greg Richardson (30 years)** and **Becky Stamper (20 years)**. Greg will retire this December, and we offer our deepest thanks for his faithful service and wish him the very best in retirement.

1-Year:

Dana Aubry, Leslie Bryant, Michael Cochran, Dr. Leslie Hardin, Kara Hardin, Jason McGlone, Charity Moore, Jacob Ratliff, Mark Ritchhart, Danny Stamper, Joby Sullivan

5-Years:

Dr. Terry Allcorn, Joshua Blevins, Johnathan Jordan, Carla Whitaker, Jamie Messer, Olivia Riddle

10-Years:

Laura Green, Dr. Kristen Geyer, Dr. Gerald Dyson

15-Years:

Kimberly Callihan, Daniel White, Linda Justice, Dr. Rob O'Lynn



WELCOME DAVE DEBORDE

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI, DONOR, & CHURCH
RELATIONS

BY: VICKY MADDEN

A Homegrown Leader with Deep KCU Roots

We're excited to welcome Dave Deborde ('00) as Kentucky Christian University's new Director of Alumni, Donor, and Church Relations. A proud KCU graduate, Dave brings a deep love for the University, a passion for ministry, and a heart for connecting people.

Grounded in Faith and Community

Originally from Russell, Kentucky, Dave now resides in Grayson with his wife and their two young children. He leads the men's ministry at First Church of Christ in Grayson, where he actively invests in discipleship and community outreach.

Strengthening Connections for the Kingdom

In his new role, Dave will work to strengthen ties with KCU alumni, build relationships with churches across the region, and help share the story of what God continues to do through KCU. With his pastoral heart and personal connection to the University, he's uniquely equipped to encourage and engage both longtime friends and new supporters of the mission.

Here to Connect and Serve

Dave is eager to hear from alumni, church leaders, and friends of KCU. Whether you're an alum wanting to reconnect or a church looking to partner, he's here to serve you.

You can reach him at drdeborde@kcu.edu or 606-474-3245.

2025 COMMENCEMENT

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Keeran School of Bible and Ministry

Shawn William Cordle^*
Paul Fatton#**
Daniel Alan LaRue**
Elijah David Robinette

Keeran School of Bible and Ministry Minors

Rebekah Atilano
Haley Nicole Bailey*
Shawn William Cordle^*
Brett Michael Ferguson**
Holly Jayde Handshoe**
Jonathan Jackson
Rebekah Ann Jackson*
Jalen King Joiner
Alaska Jones III
Aliceson Fayth Julene Jude
Zachary Earl Lyons
Audrey Grace Manning*
Carolyn Hope Robinette*

Yancey School of Nursing

Jacqueline Renee Botts***
Anna Noelle Cruser*
Rebecca Kay Harper**
Emily Meeks*
Lacey Nicole Morris**
Carolyn Hope Robinette*
Brianna Leigh Sarvis**
Ashley Dawn Sharp**

School of Business and Leadership

Brantley Scott Anders*
Elijah Campbell Archer**
Christopher Lee Baker
Wyatt Brackman#
Benjamin Noah Brockwell
Jayden Brown
Joseph Ford Burchett
Noah Anthony Curry*
Jonathan Fitch
Kolbe Gray
Benjamin Isaac Hargrove
Tanner Wayne Hughes
Jonathan Jackson
Justin Lawrence Legg*
Sarah Leyba*
Madison Elizabeth Logan
Braden Long*
Gavin Christopher Nareski**
Elijah Jordan Polley
Kaleb Ramer
Dylan Samuel Renard**
Jaime Rodriguez
William Bain Rooker
Jared A. Rosado Benitez
Cameron Seth Rosel#
Samantha Sites*
Logan Wayne Tucker#
Noah Harrison Waltz
Jacob Aaron Wright

School of Humanities and Sciences

Logan Trevor Albronda
Rebekah Atilano
Hope BryAnne Auxier*
Haley Nicole Bailey*
Rebecca Pauline Banks
Kaitlin Renae Caudill**
Shawn William Cordle^*
Terryon Finley
Ashlyn Marie Funk*
Holly Jayde Handshoe**
Stacy L. Harris**
Rebekah Ann Jackson*
Jalen King Joiner
Alaska Jones III
Aliceson Fayth Julene Jude
Shalyn Rae LaRue**
Zachary Earl Lyons
Audrey Grace Manning*
Kira Leigh Osborn
Emma Evaline Rose Perkins#
Daniella Jean Pierre*
Garrett Poblack**
Josiah Price
Yan Rivera*
Walter T. Sengai*
Elijah Aaron Spurlock
Garrett Andrew Walter***
Savannah Watson
Alyssa Shuntae Wolford*

Keeran School of Education

Ashton Marie Blackburn**
Rachel Nicole Clark
Brett Michael Ferguson**
Royce Henderson*
Lynden Layne Starkey**
Samantha Jane Wells*

GRADUATE DEGREES

Keeran School of Bible and Ministry

Cherish Nicole May Eckert
Delanie Hope Gilliland
Ethan B. Gossage
Isaiah Emmanuel Jones
Sidnye Mavodza
Kelly Kara McNamara
Andrew Reed Tarleton

Yancey School of Nursing

Maureen Leigh Anne Allcorn
Tawnee Berg
Kara Rachelle Dennison
Mary Elizabeth Gibson
Marybeth Christine High
Jensyn Shepherd Whitehead

*Cum Laude **Magna Cum Laude ***Summa Cum Laude #Associate Degree ^Double Major



A JOURNEY WORTH EVERY STEP

BY: BECCA BANKS

This past year at KCU has been a busy one! I completed my undergraduate degree in Biology with a minor in Criminal Justice at the end of the fall semester and began the master's program here at KCU. I plan to complete my graduate degree in Christian Leadership while also having the opportunity to watch our athletes grow in the weight room as the Strength and Conditioning GA.

Although I didn't follow the traditional path to KCU, I wouldn't change it for the world. I transferred in the spring of my freshman year and immediately felt loved and welcomed by everyone on campus. Dr. Stevens, being my advisor, made the transition so smooth for me and made me feel like I belonged here!

Coming to KCU helped me grow my personal relationship with Christ. Serving with our camp teams allowed me to deepen my love for ministry. I am excited to call myself a KCU alumna! Without KCU, I wouldn't be the person I am today.

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." - James 1:2-4 (ESV)



Becca Banks



IN THE STILLNESS OF STONE:

A SENIOR PROJECT ROOTED IN RESURRECTION

BY: JORDAN ROSEBERRY

INTERVIEWEE: JILLIAN SECKMAN

As part of her senior capstone in Worship Ministry, Jillian Seckman planned and led a deeply moving worship night in one of Kentucky's most unique venues—Carter Caves. What began as a class requirement quickly turned into a transformative experience for everyone involved. In the Q&A that follows, Jillian shares what inspired the setting, how her time at KCU shaped the event, and why the night became far more than a final project.

Q1: What inspired you to choose Carter Caves as the location for your senior worship project?

A1: When planning for my senior project, I knew I wanted to do something focused on the Resurrection. Jake Ratliff, our campus minister, mentioned that we used to have worship nights at Carter Caves many years ago at KCU, and how cool it would be to bring that back. That conversation sparked the idea of using the caves—and inspired the overall creative flow of this worship night.

Q2: How did your time at KCU prepare you to plan and lead a worship experience like this?

A2: I owe all the skills that went into planning and leading this worship night to the Bible & Ministry Department and the Worship Collective. I've learned so much in my worship classes and had the opportunity to lead worship and plan services in a variety of settings. That hands-on experience helped immensely in preparing for this worship night.

Q3: Was there a particular Scripture, song, or moment from the night that stands out in your memory?

A3: I remember when we first kicked off the worship night, I opened with a Scripture reading. I read Philippians 2:7–11, and the whole room was silent. When I finished, everyone collectively said, "Amen." Hearing all those voices come together as one—lifting up nothing but praise to God and His Word—is something I'll never forget. All my nerves melted away the moment I heard that "Amen" echo across the cave walls.

Q4: What impact do you hope the worship night had on those who attended?

A4: My main hope was that everyone who attended would enter Easter Sunday remembering Christ in a new and profound way. I included as many elements as I could that pointed us back to Jesus' final moments. I remember praying and asking God to let those who came experience Him in a fresh way—to use every element of the night to help people fix their

minds on Jesus and everything He went through for them.

Q5: Why was this worship night personally meaningful to you?

A5: When I first started planning the worship night, I was just thinking about completing an assignment. I just wanted to check off the last requirement for my degree. However a few weeks in, when everything started to take shape, I had a moment with God where I realized this was so much more than an assignment. I was partnering with Him in the creation of this event, and if my only focus was getting a good grade, I'd completely miss what God wanted to do through it. Yes, the night was about the Passion of Christ and the hope of the empty tomb, but for me personally, it became a moment where God met me and humbled me. He reminded me of the things I often take for granted—like the gift of worship, or even the gift of our salvation. If it weren't for our loving God, who desires nothing more than a relationship with us, we wouldn't have the free gift of salvation that began the moment Jesus said, "It is finished."



GRAYSON MEMORY DAYS 2025

BY: JORDAN ROSEBERRY

Kentucky Christian University was proud to take part in this year's Memory Days celebration in Grayson, Kentucky—a cherished hometown tradition that honors both community spirit and the service of military veterans. The event offered a full lineup of activities, including a parade, 5K race, live music, food vendors, and more. KCU students and staff were actively involved throughout the weekend, joining in events like the race and parade. Pictured is Sir Winsalot alongside President Terry Allcorn, who participated in the event by serving in his role as police chaplain.

WRITING THE NEXT VERSE

MUSIC'S LASTING LEGACY AT KCU

BY: DR. ROB O'LYNN

PHOTOGRAPHY: KCU STUDENTS

You probably know the next lines of this song: “It’s a big, big house / With lots and lots of room.” In case you’re not familiar, that’s the chorus of “Big House”, a massive hit by Christian band Audio Adrenaline from the early ’90s. I mention it for two reasons:

1. Audio Adrenaline got their start here at KCU, and
2. I knew the song long before I ever knew of their connection to this place (and I grew up in the non-instrumental Churches of Christ!).

Maybe you’re also a fan of Bleach or 64 to Grayson—more bands that trace their roots to KCU. The point is: KCU has influenced Christian music for decades.

From Chapel to the Studio

That influence continues. You can see it clearly in chapel. Whether you were led in worship by Destiny, Elevate, or now Worship Collective, the music selected reflects how we believe the gospel should be expressed through song. Many of our worship leaders go on to serve in local congregations (maybe even yours), bringing that KCU sound and spirit with them.

Our Worship Collective isn’t just leading worship—they’re writing original songs. Maybe you’ve heard “Miracles” by Ali Jude (’25), Hope Robinette (’25), and Mike Cochran. If not, go stream it now—it’s a beautiful, faith-filled anthem. “Revival’s in This Room” by Alex Douglas, Bryce Murray, Hope Robinette, Cade Seckman, and Mike Cochran released this June and served as the theme song for the relaunch of SITS. “Thank You, Lord” by Hope Robinette and Chris McQuiston (’19) will release later this year. And don’t miss “Thorns,” a moving spoken-word piece by Jillian (Wells) Seckman, on YouTube.

Behind the scenes, Steve Hoffman continues to produce at Upper Room Studio, and Mike Cochran—director of Worship Collective—is joined by his band Render the Hearts as KCU’s new artists in residence. Every member is a public school teacher, and, as Mike puts it, they each have a “teaching heart,” ready to pour into our students.

Inspiring the Next Verse

This spirit of creativity is alive in the classroom too. At the end of the semester, I attended a student recital where Alex Douglas and Samuel Van Huss performed original songs written for class—raw, honest, and full of faith. Their lyrics wrestled with pain and trust, always pointing to hope in Christ.

KCU is writing the next verse. As we continue training the next generation of ministry leaders, we ask you to keep supporting KCU—especially by sending us students. Who knows? The next great worship leader, songwriter, or artist-in-residence might be walking into their first Bible and Ministry class next semester.

GIFTS RECEIVED FEBRUARY 15, 2025 THROUGH MAY 31, 2025

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

Chuck Perry Memorial Scholarship

M/M Ernie Perry

Clarence Mansfield & Vince Mansfield Memorial Scholarship

Southeast Christian Church Sojourners Class, Louisville, KY

Dr. Donald "Dick" Damron Scholarship

Berea Christian Church, Bowling Green, KY

M/M Bradley Cotten

Oak Grove Church of Christ, Grayson, KY

Eggleton Scholarship

M/M Paul Eggleton

Essick Family Scholarship

M/M C. Billy Essick

Essick-Mozelle Scholarship

M/M C. Billy Essick

Frances Kindelberger Scholarship

Estate of William & Frances Kindelberger

H & K Taylor Scholarship

M/M Roderick O'Donnell

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this information. Should you discover an error, please accept our sincere apology and bring it to our attention so that we can correct our records.

KCU Scholarship

Kathleen Manor Bautista

Mark D. Chula

William C. Rousey

Sharon Stanley

Rowena Johnson Walker

Dr. Keith P. Keeran Scholarship

M/M Bradley Cotten

Dr. L. Palmer Young Scholarship

M/M Jerry Provence

David Rosenbaum

Lester Pifer Scholarship

Mary Lirot

Dr. & Mrs. James R. VanCuren

Majel Lusby Kelley Memorial Scholarship for Education Majors

M/M Warren Ray Kelley

Ray Snowden Memorial Grant

Kara Horton

Thad Michael Taylor Scholarship

M/M Barry M. Taylor

Gift in Honor

Barry M. Taylor

Dr. & Mrs. Jeff Metcalf

Gift in Memory

Martha Joy Harris

Suzanne Saylor

Estate Gift

Estate of William & Frances Kindelberger

Want to support Kentucky Christian University's mission?

Give Online

If you are led to donate, you can give online by scanning the following QR code or by typing the following:

www.kcu.edu/give



Give via Mail

To donate through the mail make the check payable to Kentucky Christian University

Mail To: Kentucky Christian University • Attn: Business Office
100 Academic Parkway, Grayson, Kentucky 41143



REGISTER
HERE >>>
SCAN FOR INFORMATION



HOMECOMING WEEKEND | OCTOBER 10-12, 2025

W

e're making plans for our annual Homecoming, and we want you to be part of it! Come reconnect with the KCU family as we celebrate the global impact of our

alumni—past, present, and future. Whether it's catching up with classmates, visiting with faculty and staff, or encouraging current students, there's something for everyone as we honor the legacy of those who carry the light of Christ into every corner of the world.

This year's theme, "The Sun Never Sets on KCU Alumni," reflects the worldwide reach of our graduates and the unending influence of a Christ-centered education.

We're excited to welcome back **Will McGinniss ('91)**, founding member of Audio Adrenaline and co-founder of the Hands and Feet Project in Haiti. He'll be sharing stories from his time at KCU and his powerful experiences in ministry and missions.

Friday night will conclude with **Music & Memories**, featuring music by **Eddie Prather ('80)** and open mic time for alumni to share their own stories and moments from their time at KCU.

Saturday's events begin with a **Tailgate Party and Craft Fair**—

a chance for alumni to showcase their talents and reconnect over food, fellowship, and fun. We'll also be continuing the tradition of **Alumni Care Bags** for students, filled with encouragement and essentials from those who have walked before them. Watch your email and the KCU website for more details on how to participate or reserve a table at the Craft Fair.

Sunday morning wraps up the weekend with a time of worship, with a message by **Dr. Rob Shoaff ('96, '09)**, Dean of the Keeran School of Bible & Ministry.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

11AM - Homecoming Alumni Chapel
3PM - Class Milestone Reunion
4PM - WKCC Radio Reunion
6PM - Alumni & Friends Banquet
8PM - Music & Memories

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

10AM - Tailgate Party & Craft Fair
12PM - KCU vs Reinhardt University (Football)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

10AM - Sunday Morning Worship



WILL MCGINNISS



EDDIE PRATHER



DR. ROB SHOAFF

REGISTRATION BEGINS AUGUST 1, 2025

Celebrating Milestone Reunions: '75, '85, '95, '00, '05, '15

Want to host a reunion? Contact Dave Deborde at drdeborde@kcu.edu

DONALD DAMRON

A LIFE SHAPED BY FAITH, FAMILY, AND KCU

BY: JOHN PENROSE

Rooted in a Legacy of Faith and Purpose

Donald M. Damron's journey from a KCC student to the Vice President of Student Services at Kentucky Christian University is a powerful testament to the influence of faith, family legacy, and Christ-centered education. Damron's connection to KCU began in the early 1970s, when his father joined the University's faculty. "Looking back, it's clear to see that my path was kind of set then," he reflects. Though he originally considered a career in business, his calling shifted toward teacher education and ministry. "I never saw myself becoming a preacher, but I loved teaching and leading," he recalls.

Blending Ministry and Education from the Start

As one of the first students in KCU's reinstated School of Education, Damron pursued degrees in Bible and Education. That choice reflected his desire to shape minds while nurturing faith. In his decades of service in public education, he consistently infused Christian values into his work. "My students and athletes in Carter County always knew who I was and who I represented. That led to many conversations about things of eternal value—even today with former students who now have children of their own."

An Unexpected Phone Call That Changed Everything

A turning point came in 1986 when Damron received a surprise phone call in his Water's Hall dorm room. The First Christian Church of Olive Hill asked him to take a weekend youth ministry role. The modest stipend would barely cover his car payment—but it became a defining moment. "It may have started as a way to help make my car payment, but it was really the Lord taking care of me and showing me my future," he said. "So Rhonda and I began spending weekends ministering in Olive Hill. It was foundational for our marriage and our ministry."

Since 2007, Damron has ministered at Oak Grove Church of Christ in Grayson, following the passing of his father. "The elders asked me to fill the pulpit until they could find a minister. I'm still filling in 18 years later," he says with a smile. He credits KCU alum and associate minister Bradley Cotten for helping him balance his church and university roles.

Formed by Mentors, Guided by Mission

Throughout his career, Damron has remained deeply grateful for the guidance and mentorship he received at KCU. He credits professors like Betty Hall, Rob Ford, Jim Girdwood, Mitch Marshall, Carole Phillips, the Ruffners, and Tom Gemeinhart for shaping his approach to leadership and ministry. "These folks—and many others—prepared me for my life and my career."

A Message to the Next Generation

To current students, Damron advises: "Prioritize experiences that grow your faith—chapel, life groups, worship nights, and friendships outside your comfort zone." To graduates, he emphasizes the importance of staying connected with KCU and the local church. Reflecting on a life of service and spiritual leadership, Damron says, "I am so grateful for the impact that KCU has had on myself and my family." His story is a shining example of servant leadership—demonstrating what's possible when God's calling meets faithful preparation.





ASA



CHASE



JUDAH



ISABEL

KNIGHT WEDDINGS

- (1) Cade ('25) and Jillian (Wells) ('25) Seckman, January 4, 2025
Robert "Bob" ('12) and Katie (Sarley) Fite, April 12, 2025
(2) Payton and Shelbi (Knauer) ('21) Hemmerle, May 24, 2025

FUTURE KNIGHTS

- Asa Steven, son of Caleb ('16) and Amelia Mackey, March 24, 2025
Chase Allen, son of Thad and Danielle (Hudson) ('12) Weller, March 26, 2025
Judah, son of Matthew and Jessica (Phelps) ('10) Geiger, April 15, 2025
Isabel "Izzy" Eileen, daughter of Kyle ('13 & '15) and Ruth (Attd. '10-'12) Davies, May 20, 2025

KNIGHTS WE'LL MISS

- Janet (Kelley) Gill ('68), Bible, March 8, 2025
W. Larry Barrell ('63), Bible, May 19, 2025
Lisa (Miracle) DeWees ('86), Associate of Arts Degree, May 25, 2025
Warren French ('02), Ministry/Preaching, June 6, 2025
Donald Kelley ('83 & '90), Bible & Master of Ministry, June 12, 2025

KNIGHT NEWS

- Haley (Apted) Glessner ('98) just published her first book—a devotional titled *Choosing Unconditional Love*.
- Lyle Parker ('02) became the Lead Pastor at Sullivan First Christian Church in Sullivan, IN, as of April 13, 2025.
- Michael "Mic" Marshall ('82) has published his first book, *The Contemporary Christian Music Vinyl Records Price Guide*. It features nearly 20,000 listings covering all genres of contemporary Christian music and is the first CCM vinyl guide ever published. Mic also serves as Minister at Bluebank Christian Church in Flemingsburg, KY, and works part-time as a Sales Representative at WLGC-FM in Ashland, KY.
- Nancy (Becker) Foss ('85) wrote and illustrated a children's book titled *Toast and Jam at the Library*. It's now available on Amazon.
- Melvin "Mel" Mendoza ('90) published his first book, *Kuya and the Caddy*, now available on Amazon.
- Megan Rawlings ('19) has published her sixth Bible study: *First John: The Scandal of the Incarnation*. It can be purchased at www.theboldmovement.com/shop. Designed for women at any stage of life, it features a new "pace yourself" format, making it ideal for individual or group study.
- Shelbi (Knauer) Hemmerle ('21) started a new position with the South College Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in Knoxville, TN.
- Mark Pemberton ('13) has accepted a position as Discipleship Minister at Northside Christian Church in Yorktown, VA.
- Darla (Conkey) Myers ('91) has retired after 33 years of teaching K-5 in the same district.
- Bryan Shelley ('06) has transitioned from First Christian Church in Canton, OH, to serve as Team and Teaching Pastor at Center Point Christian Church in Liberty Township, OH.

Alumni,
We want to hear
from you!

Let us know about all of the
great things happening in
your life!





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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/1 - Josh Baldwin Concert
- 8/11 - Night Classes
- 8/12 - Regular Classes
- 9/9-11 - ICOM at KCU
- 9/18 - Grandparents Day
- 10/10-12 - Homecoming 2025
- 10/16 - Minister Appreciation
- 11/8 - A Knight to Remember Gala

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