

LaGrange College COLUMNS

summer 2020



Lean on Me

Campus pulls together during COVID-19 crisis

Finale

President reflects on 11 years on the Hill





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Georgia's oldest private institution of higher learning, LaGrange College is consistently ranked among the South's top colleges by U.S. News & World Report. A four-year liberal arts and sciences college affiliated with the United Methodist Church, LaGrange offers more than 70 areas of study with an emphasis on global engagement and service.





'WE DID NOT LOSE A DAY'

This is not LaGrange College's first pandemic. In her report for the 1918-1919 year, then-President Daisy Davies describes the challenges of that era's Spanish Flu, but declares, "... though our work was difficult, we did not lose a day." Those on the Hill in this era have faced our own pandemic challenges (page 8). In spite of them, the campus community can also declare that time was not lost in the important work of preparing tomorrow's leaders.

—the Editor

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PHOTO: Standing sentinel on the Hill for nearly 175 years, Smith Hall has seen the college through two World Wars, the Depression and two pandemics. And still she stands, ready to welcome students, faculty and staff back to campus this fall.

ON THE COVER: Graduate student Joy Polite wears a mask while on an almost empty campus this summer. New safety measures like social distancing and masks will be in place when classes resume on the Hill in August.

TRANSFORMATIONS

Looking back, looking ahead

by Dan McAlexander,
25th President of LaGrange College

As this issue of Columns magazine arrives in your mailbox, Celeste and I will be completing our time at LaGrange College after 11 years of service. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish together.

Today, your college has an innovative Servant Scholars program and a vibrant Global Engagement initiative. The campus also features a new lab sciences building and has served as home to the local Racial Trustbuilding initiative. Your support has helped make all of this—and more—possible.

I cannot adequately express my gratitude for the kindness and support Celeste and I have enjoyed during our time here. Though for the moment we are only moving across town, wherever we go, the college community will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Now it is time for me to turn the reins over to Dr. Susanna Baxter, who will serve as your 26th president. For almost 20 years, I have admired her capacities as a leader in higher education. Together, you will make a great team.

I look forward to seeing you reach new heights here on the Hill.



New beach volleyball courts open for play

The Strack Beach Volleyball Courts were officially dedicated on March 6, the date of the first home game of the season.

Adjacent to the football practice field, the tri-court venue was made possible by Strack Inc., a respected heavy civil and utility contractor based in Fairburn. The family-owned firm provided construction services at cost.

Jennifer Claybrook, Athletic Director, expressed her gratitude to the Strack representatives attending the event.

“We could not have asked for better partners in this endeavor,” she said. “You have gone above and beyond to make sure these courts were ready for today, and that they are of the utmost quality.”

Company president Johnathan Strack called the undertaking a “labor of love.”

“We were so honored to be chosen for this project,” he said. “We have such a respect for this college and the values it represents, and it was an absolute pleasure to bring this to life.”



President Dan McAlexander and Strack Inc. head Johnathan Strack unveil the new sign at the beach volleyball venue.

Following the unveiling of the new venue sign, members of the beach volleyball team gathered with college and Strack officials for a group photo, and Head Coach Madison Machurek presented volleyballs signed by the players to each member of the construction team.

Claybrook said the sport’s popu-

larity is exploding across the country.

“Beach volleyball has made the fastest transition from an emerging sport to a championship sport in NCAA history,” she said. “We are excited for it to join our 17 other NCAA Division III Panther teams.”

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN CAPITOL EVENT

Peter (PT) Alford, Tia Braxton and Payton Smith presented “Should Ex-Felons Be Allowed to Vote” at the Georgia Capitol as part of the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference in February. Also contributing to the project were Sociology major Elijah Robertson and Political Science majors Porter Law, Natalie Glass, Caleb Tyler, Ben Womack, Andrew Valbuena, Olivia Hanners, Thomas Bird and Jaydon Parrish. Melanie Chambers was a researcher. Their sponsor was Dr. John Tures, Professor of Political Science.





HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE IN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

About 40 students representing Fulton Science Academy and Decatur High School participated in invitational Science Olympiad events spread out around the campus.

"This was an invitational tournament, meaning the teams registered to compete here as practice for a regional tournament," said Dr. Kevin Ludwick, Assistant Professor of Physics, who organized the event. "Winning at the regional qualifies for the state level, and state winners go on to the national competition."

Anupa Doraiswami, state director of Georgia Science Olympiad (Division B), said she was very impressed with the event.

"The tournament was meticulously planned by Dr. Ludwick," she said. "It was well-organized, feedback from the teams was positive and we are happy to provide support for the next year. We are looking forward to continuing our association with LaGrange College and Dr. Ludwick."

Glover Garden transforms patio

A peaceful new garden will greet everyone when they return to campus.

The brick Maidee Smith Patio beside Smith is being transformed into a space designed for conversation and fellowship, thanks to the generosity of Taylor and Shearon Wiggins Glover '72.

When Shearon Glover was a freshman, her room in Hawkes Hall overlooked the patio.

"At that time, the area was a very vibrant place where many students gathered between classes, talked with friends and relaxed," she said. "As the campus has grown over the years, new meeting spots have sprung up and the patio has become more of a pass-through than a gathering place."

Beyond its change in use, the space had grown progressively more



hazardous over the years, said President Dan McAlexander.

"The roots of the patio's magnificent magnolia had grown so large that they were pushing up and breaking the brick pavers, making it potentially dangerous," he said. "Something needed to be done, but with all the other construction going on, we just didn't have the funds for it."

Enter the Glovers. During a

campus visit in January, Shearon Glover, a member of the college's Board of Trustees, met with McAlexander and Rebecca Roth Nicks, Vice President for External Relations, to discuss the plan.

"Shearon was thrilled with it, and agreed to fully fund the project," Nicks said.

McAlexander said he is humbled by the generosity of the Glovers.

"We can't express how blessed we are to have Shearon and Taylor take on this project," he said. "They are both involved with the Atlanta Botanical Gardens and have a deep interest in and knowledge for this kind of endeavor."

"In appreciation of their kindness, the new area will be called the Glover Garden."

ENHANCING A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

For Louis and Mary Kay Smith, interacting with different people and cultures is vital to becoming a well-rounded individual.

“Global travel for students will change their view of the wider world and the people in it,” said Mary Kay Smith. “But it also can do more: It can change their lives forever, as my first trip to Europe, as a student, did mine.”

The Smiths speak from experience. They lived two years in France during Louis’ military service, then spent many years in different countries across the world for his career.

“We both developed a love of being in and accepting foreign cultures and were happy in his Exxon foreign assignments to England, Norway and Saudi Arabia,” Mary Kay said. “Both our sons were born in London and now share our love of global travel.”

Those experiences inspired the Smiths to commit to creating a \$5 million endowment that will fund LaGrange College’s travel voucher program, which provides each first-time freshman up to \$2,500 for a Study Away experience in the junior or senior year.

“We are so thankful for the Smiths’ incredible generosity,” said Rebecca Roth Nicks, Vice President for External Relations. “This endowment will encourage countless future students to take part in experiences abroad and become global citizens.”



Clubs honor first African American students



A permanent display spotlighting the first African American students to attend the college was unveiled in Frank and Laura Lewis Library on Feb. 28.

Members of the Black Student Union joined forces with the Black Male Initiative to come up with a way to honor those first students. After weeks of throwing around ideas, they approached Brian Carlisle, Vice President for Student Engagement, with a plan to display a plaque featuring the names of those pioneers, as well as their class photos.

“He suggested we display the photos in a frame and hang it in Lewis Library, which is named for the first African American head librarian and faculty member, Frank Lewis,” said Destinee Carlyle, BSU president.

The ceremony featured comments from three of the first eight scholars.

Alfreda Barrow Fannings ’71 said

she was overwhelmed by the honor.

“Little did I know when I enrolled here that I would become part of the college’s history,” she said. “I am so thankful to be here today. I will never forget this moment.”

Longtime educator Doris Adamson Simpson ’80, M’82 credits the college for her accomplishments.

“I know I wouldn’t be where I am today, and have done what I have, without the college,” she said. “I even came back to get my master’s here.”

Verona Brown Hill ’69, the first African American to graduate from LaGrange, said there was a unique program at LaGrange.

“They had a social work curriculum that included a practicum in the community,” she said. “I had a job before I even completed my studies.”

The two student organizations also sponsored the Ebony Ball that night to mark the occasion.

Christian music legend joins Music faculty

Babbie Mason, a renowned singer-songwriter in Christian music, is bringing her years of expertise to LaGrange College by teaching a songwriting course and working with applied music students.

Mason is the winner of two Dove Awards and has received 11 Dove nominations, as well as several Grammy nominations and Stellar Awards recognition. She was inducted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame in 2010.

Dr. Toni Anderson, Coordinator of Music and Co-Coordinator of Musical Theatre, said she and Mason have known each other for decades.

When she learned that Mason has been teaching at Lee University in Tennessee and online at her alma mater, Spring Arbor in Michigan, a light bulb went off.

“Up until recently, our composition students showed great interest in film scores, as well as traditional and

experimental music,” she said. “But lately we’ve seen an increase in students who want to learn songwriting. I knew Babbie would be a perfect fit.”

Mason, the daughter of a pastor, started taking formal piano lessons at the age of 6. That training came in handy when the pianist at her father’s church resigned and Mason took over her duties.

“I have a love for words and melody, especially that marriage between music and lyrics that stirs emotional expression,” Mason said.

Although she is busy performing and leading workshops and conferences, working with young musicians is still close to her heart.



“I always tell my students that songwriting is one part inspiration and another part perspiration,” she said. “I love teaching, especially that moment when the light comes on in a student’s eyes and you know they’ve got it.”

SINGERS EXCEL AT REGIONAL CONTEST

Vocal students from the studios of Dr. Toni Anderson and Dr. Andrea Mueller Jarmon made LC history by claiming 12 finalist spots at the 2020 Southeastern Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing student auditions. The event was initially scheduled to be March 19-21 at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro but was hosted online because of the COVID-19 crisis. Winners were Freshmen Men (Musical Theatre) – Jared McGregor, second place, and Charles Dean, finalist; Sophomore Men (Musical Theatre) – Dean Kivotidis, third place, and Colby Bell, finalist; Sophomore Women (Musical Theatre) – Lauren Hicks, semi-finalist; Junior Women (musical theatre) – Jaylynn Mangual, third place; Junior Men (Musical Theatre) – Landon Bell, second place, and Kyle Hildebrand, third place; Senior Women (Musical Theatre) – Abigail Young, first place, and Laine Fletcher, semi-finalist; Freshmen Women (Classical) – Stephanie Nix, finalist; Sophomore Men (Classical) – Dean Kivotidis, first place; and Junior Men (Classical) – Kyle Hildebrand, third place.



Faculty expertise spotlighted

LaGrange College's faculty exemplifies the college's mission ... preparing students to become successful, responsible citizens who aspire to lives of integrity and moral courage, said Dr. Karen Aubrey, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

"We are fortunate at LaGrange College to have so many active faculty who engage intellectually and creatively on a state, national and international level," she said. "During this COVID crisis, our faculty stepped up to expand their flexibility in teaching methods. I'm glad to take this time to celebrate faculty accomplishments in multiple areas."

Here are a few of the LaGrange faculty's recent achievements:

Dr. John Cook, Religion

Dr. Cook published "Resurrection of Jesus Christ" in Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity Online; "Celsus" in "The Reception of Jesus in the First Three Centuries. Volume Three. From Celsus to the Catacombs: Visual, Liturgical, and Non-Christian Reception of Jesus in the Second and Third Centuries CE;" and "Teucer of Cyzicus," in "T&T Clark Companion to Second Temple Judaism."

Dr. Preston James IV, Sports Management

Dr. James was named one of Atlanta's top lawyers during the annual "Justice for All" gala presented by Rolling Out magazine. During the quarantine, students in his program coordinated and presented an eSports tournament to help raise funds for area food banks. Their efforts were featured on the greatvaluecolleges.net website and they were the only Sports Management program listed. Dr. James hosted a Women in the Sports

Industry seminar via Zoom featuring female officials from the NFL, Atlanta United, NASCAR, NHL and U.S. Track and Field.

Dr. Patricia Marchesi, English

Dr. Marchesi's book, "Florissant," will be published by Bedazzled Ink Publishing, a small press firm in California. Her young adult fantasy novel won first prize for unpublished fiction in the 2019 Eyelands Book Award competition.

Dr. Jack Slay, English

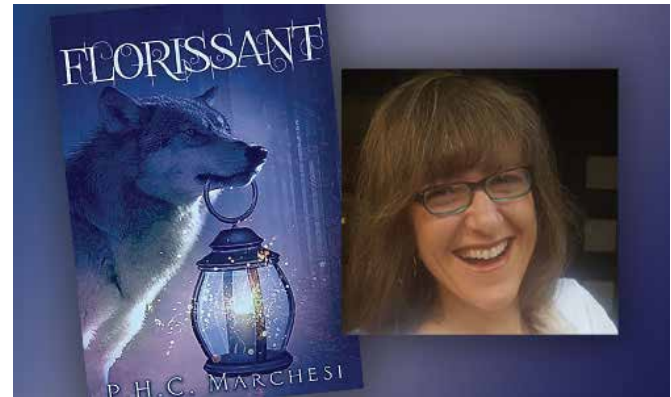
Dr. Slay's play, "Tales from a Darker Theater: A Play in One Act," placed third in the Porter Fleming Writing Contest, an annual writing competition sponsored by the Greater Augusta Arts Council. The play is (loosely) based on the ghost stories of LaGrange College.

Dr. John Tures, Political Science

Although his students couldn't do their annual Model United Nations with the local high schools, the "International Organizations" class did a "Choose Your Own Adventure" game the students could play on their own. The 88-slide PowerPoint presentation considered an international attempt to solve the India-Pakistan crisis.

Dr. Kelly Veal and Dr. Dixie Powers, Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Although quarantined, Dr. Veal and Dr. Powers presented virtually for the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia. They reported having more than 100 attendees tune in for the Zoom session. They also held their first



CMHC board meeting via Zoom.

Austin Wieland, Art and Design

Wieland had work selected to be in a national juried exhibition titled "Cutting Edge Clay" at the Clay Center of New Orleans.

Dr. Anthony Wilson, English

Dr. Wilson's book, "Swamp Souths," which he coedited, was published this spring by LSU Press.

RETIREMENTS

Dr. Arthur Robinson, Reference and Interlibrary Loan Librarian at Lewis Library, recently retired with 22 years of service. During his career at LC, he has helped thousands of students, not to mention the faculty, with their research needs. Many students, faculty and staff refer to the Reference desk as Arthur's desk.

Dr. Dorothy "Dottie" Joiner, Lovick P. Corn Professor of Art History, is retiring after 19 years of sharing her passion for art, not only with her students, but also with her peers. In addition to her stellar teaching record, she is known for her research, regularly writing catalog essays and publishing in state, national and international journals.

LEAN ON ME

Campus pulls together during
COVID-19 crisis

by Debby Baker



► Like her colleagues, Dr. Toni Anderson, Coordinator of the Music program, was intensely concerned about her students.

Everyone was scattered to the winds as a result of the COVID-19 quarantine. Although she knew their education was continuing online, she was worried about the mental well-being of students – as well as faculty and staff – while everybody was trying to navigate uncharted waters.

“I understood their feelings of fear, isolation and uncertainty,” she says. “I wanted to find a way our young performers could share a musical message with their LC friends and family at this particular moment in time. They were aching for a performance that offered a message of hope.”

Her idea blossomed into an anthem of faith and love that has touched almost 7,500 viewers. It was just one ray of LaGrange sunshine in a scary and unprecedented time when normal life came to a screeching halt.

A new world

In December 2019, word of a new disease in China was beginning to make its way around the world. The outbreak was declared a public health emergency of international concern the end of January. By early February, the World Health Organization announced a name for the illness caused by the new coronavirus: COVID-19.

As the new virus started spreading

around the world, LaGrange College leaders began closely monitoring the situation. They consulted almost daily with Dr. Olugbenga O. Obasanjo, director of District 4 Public Health, as well as city, county and state officials to review and update the college’s emergency preparedness and pandemic response plans.

“We wanted to continue our commitment to our students, as well as our faculty and staff,” says President Dan McAlexander. “Our greatest priority was the health and safety of everyone.”

Things snowballed as all external events were canceled, and the USA South Athletic Conference suspended all athletic competition for the rest of the season.

That was a hard blow to senior athletes, especially the baseball team, who was expected to win its fourth consecutive conference championship.

Senior pitcher Richie Post says the disappointment was acute, but the team understood the severity of the situation.

“There are some things that are bigger than the game of baseball, and the risks of continuing the season outweighed the anticipated rewards,” he says.

A new way of learning

The progression of the virus demanded strong measures. Following new guidelines from District 4, the college announced all classes would be online and Commencement would be postponed until conditions improved. All normal on-campus operations were suspended, and employees were asked to work from home.

That also meant the faculty were



getting a crash course in online instruction.

Amber Spratlin, Electronic Resources Librarian, paired with Dr. Jon Ernstberger, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, to guide the transition. The pair held workshops with faculty to familiarize them with Connect, the college’s learning management system.

“Fortunately, many of our faculty had experience teaching virtually, but it was important that everyone felt

Top photo, Luke Hopper, Technical Director for Theatre Arts, conducts a Stagecraft class online. Bottom, student Rebekah Powers shows off a prop sword she made for Hopper’s class.



PRESENT PARALLELS PAST PANDEMIC

History, as they say, repeats itself. In 1918, LaGrange College President Daisy Davies was dealing with a lethal pandemic, much like the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak.



The 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic was the deadliest in history, infecting an estimated 500 million people worldwide – about one-third of the planet's population – and killing an estimated 20 million to 50 million victims, including some 675,000 Americans.

Davies, who served from 1915-1920, was the college's first female president. Here, she shares her experiences in a 1918 report to the board:

"The year began with bright prospects and a fine student-body. Work was begun in earnestness and enthusiasm. We have enrolled one hundred and twenty-nine students.

"In spite of six weeks of strict quarantine, several cases of influenza developed and for weeks, our work was difficult, though we did not lose a day. We had only fifteen cases and none were serious. Frightened parents sent for their daughters and some of them, having lost so much time, did not return to the College, thus decreasing our numbers. Sickness and death in homes of some of our faculty requiring changes in teaching force, increased our problems.

"All of these things, added to the extremely high cost of living, have made the year a most difficult time. I am grateful indeed that we have been able to accomplish so much in spite of hindrances."

comfortable translating their courses to an online format," Spratlin says. Although the move was challenging and fast-paced, she says faculty and students found their rhythm together.

Freshman Rebekah Powers took an online Stagecraft course.

"All of my professors handled this change exceedingly well," she says. "They continuously sent emails to check up on student progress and safety. Even though this is a difficult time, I found that I still learned all the material, albeit in a different way."

Outside of the classroom, academic support services such as Panther Academic Center for Excellence, the Tutoring Center and the Writing Center recognized student needs and adapted to meet them as well.

A caring community

During the crisis, the college's

core value of service came to the forefront.

Members of the Nursing program provided lunch to frontline workers at Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center.

The Sports Management Club sponsored a PlayStation NBA 2K esports tournament, with the proceeds going to area food banks.

"The Great Value Colleges website included us in its feature 'Heroes Wear Many Faces: Colleges and Universities Retooling to Fight COVID-19,'" says Dr. Preston James, Director of the Sports Management program. "I was so proud of the students because they did this all on their own while quarantined."

LC Miracle took its annual dance marathon for Children's Miracle Network online this year.

"They still managed to raise \$17,000 for charity," says Ryan Cook, Associate Dean of Campus

Michelle Rippy, left, an ICU nurse at Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center, thanks the college's Nursing program for supplying lunch to frontline health workers. Also pictured are members of the Nursing faculty, Dr. Sarah Holden, Nursing Program Coordinator; Dr. Maranah Sauter, Associate VP for Academic Affairs and Nursing Professor; and Angela McSpadden, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing.





Life. “That was a pretty incredible feat.”

A connected community

Spring semester is usually one of the busiest times of the academic year, all leading up to the grand finale of Commencement.

When COVID-19 quashed those activities, college officials brainstormed ways to bring the campus community together through virtual events.

Student Engagement arranged online activities such as trivia, bingo and watch parties.

A virtual Honors Day was presented on the college’s website featuring videos of faculty congratulating the honorees. Dr. Christi Hu, Coordinator of the Psychology program, spearheaded a similar project for the Undergraduate Research Poster Session. More than 50 students presented their projects through videos and PowerPoint.

The festivities continued with a Facebook watch party of a pre-recorded Baccalaureate service. It included messages of gratitude from a few members of the Class of 2020 and a sermon from the Rev. Dan Brown '76, senior pastor of Dunwoody United

Methodist Church.

Here’s where Dr. Anderson’s idea came to fruition.

Working with fellow music faculty, including legendary gospel singer and adjunct faculty member Babbie Mason, she produced a group video performance of Bill Withers’ “Lean on Me.” The video was shown at the end of Baccalaureate, and then spread through social media.

The project took about three weeks, giving students time to record their parts and send them to adjunct professor Randy Hoexter, who engineered the audio, and Dr. Mitch Turner, Professor of Music, who did all the video editing.

“It was a great experience for our students because they felt like they were offering hope and encouragement to everyone,” she says.

A team effort

President McAlexander expresses pride in how the campus community rose to the challenge.

“Everyone worked hard to make this time as academically sound and personally meaningful as possible for our students,” he says. “Many, many

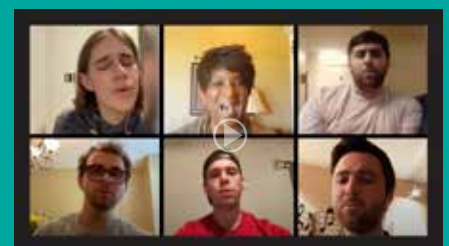
hours have been spent making sure our campus is safe for faculty and staff still working on the Hill, and ready for our students when they return.”

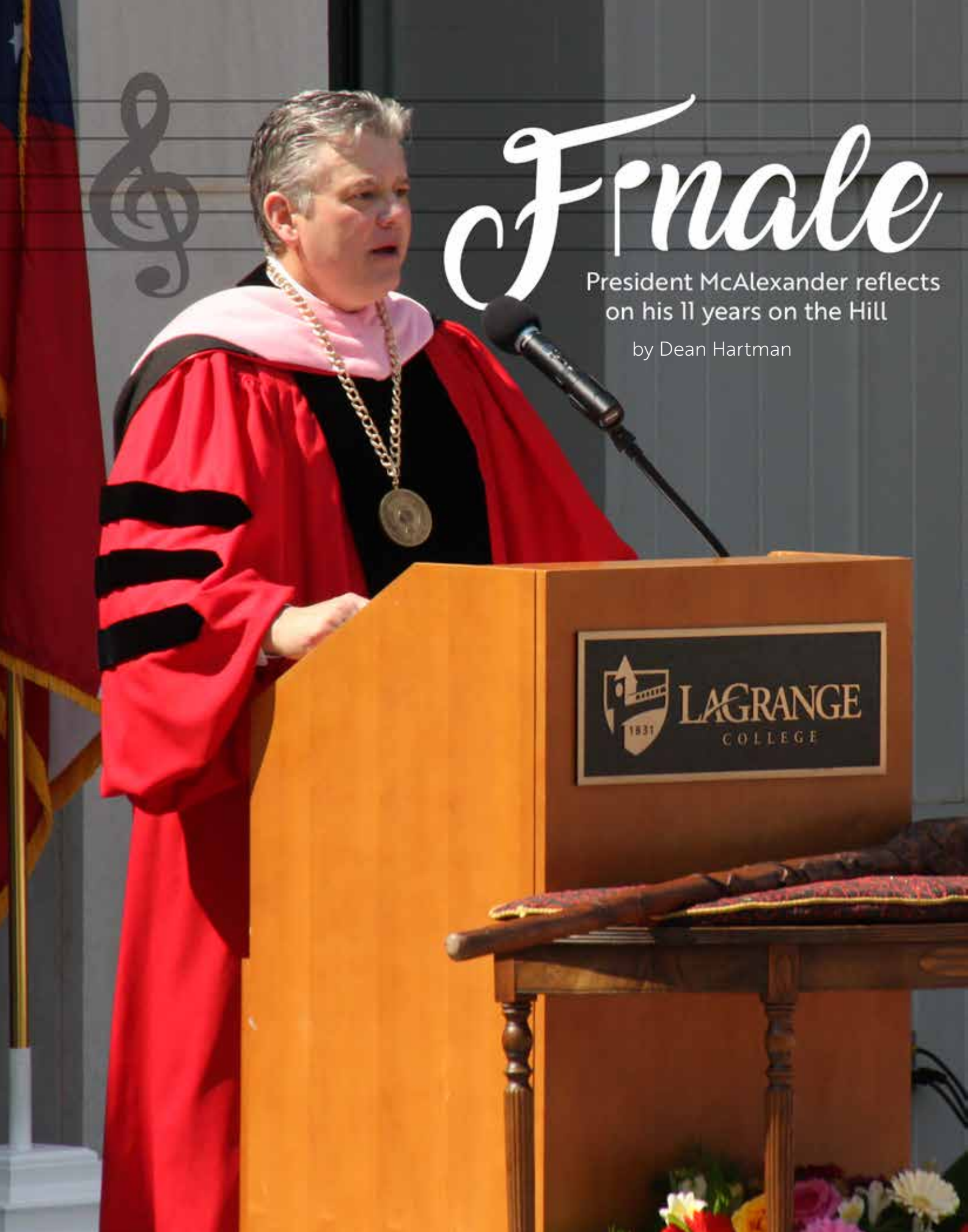
From online instruction training for faculty to virtual Honors Day and Baccalaureate services, the focus has remained on the students, McAlexander says.

“This has been one of the most challenging times in my career, but I’m so very proud of the way we have stayed true to our mission of preparing students to become successful, responsible citizens who aspire to lives of integrity and moral courage.

“After witnessing the lengths our administration, faculty and staff are willing to go to for our students, I have every confidence that LaGrange College will come out of this experience strong.” ■

Note: Watch the “Lean on Me” video at lagrange.edu/leanonme





Finale

President McAlexander reflects on his 11 years on the Hill

by Dean Hartman



In July of 2009 Dan McAlexander left his post at Belmont University to assume the presidency of LaGrange College. At the time, the Great Recession was taking its toll on the nation. Now, as he ends his time here, the world is struggling with the coronavirus pandemic.

Between those two historic bookends, much progress has been made on the LaGrange campus—facility enhancements, new academic programs and new service initiatives.

In this interview, we ask President McAlexander to reflect on those achievements and to forecast what he sees ahead for the place he has called home the past 11 years.

Q: You've worked in higher education your whole career, and you've had a long tenure here in LaGrange. Regardless, what have you found surprising during your presidency?

A: Not having served as an institution's primary fundraiser before, that role was something I viewed as a bit of a challenge when I arrived. I have been surprised, however, at how joyous it has



President McAlexander talks with Wilkinson Family Servant Scholars before taking them on a tour of the newly renovated Broad Street Apartments.

been to experience the generosity of our friends and donors and their incredible support for the transforming work we do in the lives of our students.

The kindness of our supporters has made that part of my job surprisingly easy and delightful.

Q: When you started your tenure, we were hit by the recession; now we're dealing with COVID-19. Are these the two biggest challenges you've faced?

A: They are definitely the two biggest crises we faced, and certainly both were difficult. In particular, the last few months have been so unprecedented, with so little prior experience to draw upon. It has provided some huge challenges.



On a different level, in terms of real leadership challenge, I think helping the institution reevaluate its vision was a big undertaking. Looking at our focus and redirecting it from how we wanted to be perceived to what we do best as an institution was a challenge.

Today, we find it natural to say that our vision is to be distinguished as a college that transforms the lives of its students and its communities.

Q: What are some of the accomplishments you are most proud of?

A: I would certainly list the Wilkinson Family Servant Scholars program and the great work our students do through that initiative among them. I'd also include our Global Engagement program and the success we've had in helping students build international awareness through our \$2,500 vouchers for Study Away experiences.

The many facilities improvements we've been able to achieve, are special, as well, particularly the Hudson Lab Sciences Building. That new space has brought wonderful enhancements to the work we are able to do with our students.

Finally, the college's role as the home for and as founding and funding



First Lady Celeste Myall holds a Bible for her husband as he is sworn in as the 25th president of LaGrange College.



MYALL LEAVES HER OWN LEGACY

First Lady Celeste Myall has made her own mark during her husband's tenure as president.

She was a driving force behind the 3D Journeys travel-and-learn series, pulling together community volunteers to guide the new program.

Ann Beason, recruited at the outset by Myall to co-chair the committee with the late Judy Boggus, credits Myall and President Dan McAlexander with the idea for the program.

"She has been the spark that kept it all together," Beason said. "We gathered around her table, mostly as acquaintances, and became friends. She made it fun to work together."

Myall is also director of educational outreach and conductor of the LaGrange Symphony Youth Orchestra. She has worked passionately with the Strings Attached initiative to get strings back in the public schools.

Myall has hosted more than 250 events and almost 8,000 guests in 11 years and has attended hundreds of activities to promote the college. She also created a holiday tradition for major donors.

"Every Christmas, Celeste bakes her delicious bread as gifts for them," said Rebecca Roth Nicks, Vice President for External Relations. "That's more than 100 loaves a year."



McAlexander joined a panel discussion during last summer's Georgia Police Community Service Trust Initiative held at Price Theatre.

partner of the local Racial Trustbuilding Initiative makes me proud. This ongoing work has reached the point where other communities are now asking us for help in establishing their own initiatives.

Q: Do you have a favorite spot on campus?

A: Actually, there are two favorite spots. I like to sit on two specific park benches: One is on the pathway leading from the library plaza to the Chapel, and the other is out in front of Callaway Academic Building.

The reason I like these two in particular is because after lunch I see students headed to class or faculty headed back to teach. They have provided really pleasant times to visit and to observe the vibrant life of the campus as well.

Q: Is there a favorite memory of your time here?

A: It is difficult to isolate just one. As far as a high-profile event, our lecture with John Lewis stands out. Seeing him up on the Callaway Auditorium stage and the students on the platform

with him and feeling that sense of excitement brings back memories. Just being with someone of such courage and such heroism was a privilege.

My favorite 'long-term' memory was working with the design team of science and math faculty on the new lab sciences building and the renovated Callaway Science facility. The camaraderie and vision-casting while creating and adapting those spaces represents some of the best teamwork I have seen.

As a big basketball fan, it's hard not to include the game where we won our first USA South men's basketball championship—before going on to win two more within four years. We had brought along a busload of students, and it was a lot of fun.

Q: What will you miss the most?

A: Just witnessing our students' passion when they're doing what they love—whether it is presenting at the undergraduate research symposium or performing in the production of a musical or competing on the field or on the courts. It is just so energizing to see that kind of commitment and energy.



Jennifer Claybrook, Athletic Director, and the Rev. Dr. Adam Roberts, college chaplain, congratulate McAlexander for his win in a President-Provost football game.

Of course, at the core of all of that is the incredibly hopeful time that the college represents in students' lives. Being a part of that is both invigorating and rejuvenating.

Q: Much has been accomplished in 11 years. Is there something you wish you could have finished?

A: While I've been really proud of the progress we've made on freshman-to-sophomore retention, we have not gotten as far on persistence to graduation as I would have liked. I think that's something that will be an ongoing goal for the college and something we need



A proud president speaks to college officials and supporters at the opening of the Hudson Lab Sciences Building.

to work on to fulfill our mission.

Given the various challenges that our students face, not the least of which are financial, this has proven harder to accomplish than I would have thought.

Q: What do you see as the biggest challenges that lie ahead?

A: Withstanding the multiple

threats to higher education in general and private not-for-profit higher education in particular.

We know that what we provide to our students is something of exceptional and enduring value. We must learn how to consistently make the case for the transforming value of the kind of education we deliver—and to make sure we are heard amidst all the noise of our culture that wants to dismiss that value.

This presents both a challenge and an opportunity for us.

Q: Do you have any parting words for the college community?

A: It has just been an extraordinary honor and privilege to serve this college—the students, the faculty, the staff, the trustees and the entire community of LaGrange. It has just been an incredible honor and pleasure.

I am so grateful for everyone who has supported Celeste and me throughout our time here, and I look forward to seeing the great things that are going to happen under Dr. Baxter's leadership. ■

One of McAlexander's fondest memories of his tenure at LaGrange College is hosting Civil Rights legend John Lewis for a MLK Day lecture.



BASEBALL The Panthers went 12-5, winning 11 of their last 12 games before the season was canceled. Junior outfielder McKinley Erves led the team in 11 different offensive categories, including batting average (.441), runs (23) and RBIs (24). Erves was third in batting average and second in RBIs in the USA South conference. Senior pitcher J.R. Robinson posted a 4-1 record for the Panthers. He tied for the most wins in the USA South conference and was fifth with a 1.36 earned run average. Robinson led the team with 33 innings pitched and was second with 22 strikeouts.

MEN'S BASKETBALL The Panthers finished the 2019-20 season with a 7-18 overall record, including a 6-12 mark in USA South play. Junior Julian Cameron was selected to the USA South All-Conference second team. Cameron led the team and was second in the USA South in scoring, averaging 19.2 points per game. He had a career-high 31 points against East Texas Baptist during the season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL The women's team was 15-11 overall and 8-8 in USA South conference games during the 2019-20 season. The Panthers qualified for the conference tournament for the seventh straight year. Junior Jahpera McEachin was named to the USA South West Division second team. McEachin led the team in scoring, averaging 10.6 points per game. She had a career-high 25 points against Oglethorpe during the season.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL The LC beach volleyball team competed in its inaugural season, finishing 0-7. The Panthers played their first home matches on March 6 at the newly constructed Strack Beach Volleyball courts. Jharia Harris and Kylie Neal picked up the team's first Flight win against Huntingdon, coming from behind to win the match 2-1.

GOLF Junior Ben Womack was named to the NCAA Division III PING All-America second team and the Division III PING South Region team. Womack led the Panthers and was fourth in the USA South with a 71.67 scoring average. He won the Royal Lakes Fall

Jonus named head coach

Jasen Jonus has worn several hats working with the LaGrange College men's basketball program the past seven seasons. Now, he adds another hat as the newly named fourth head coach of the college's women's basketball program.

"It is an incredible honor to be named the head women's basketball coach at LaGrange College," Jonus said.

"It is a bittersweet transition as I step away from the men's team and the quality student-athletes that make it a championship-level program.

"The LaGrange women's team has and always will be special to my family. My wife, Dr. Hunter Connell Jonus, was a member of the program during the 2010-14 seasons."

Jonus came to LaGrange prior to the 2013-14 season as a graduate assistant coach. He was promoted to assistant coach and has served as the associate head coach the last three seasons and as men's basketball varsity reserve head coach for the past four seasons. He will remain the school's men's and women's cross country head coach, starting his third year this coming fall.

Jonus was part of one of the most successful runs in the history of men's basketball at LaGrange. From 2014 to 2017, the Panthers won three USA South Championships and reached the NCAA Division III Tournament four straight years.

He graduated with a degree in education services from Birmingham-Southern College and began his collegiate career at Wallace State (Alabama) Community College. After graduation, Jonus played semi-professional basketball for the Birmingham Blitz in the American Basketball Association (ABA) for a year before coming to LaGrange.





Two new sports make debut

The 2020 LaGrange College spring sports season saw the debut of men's lacrosse and beach volleyball.

The men's lacrosse team, coached by Brandon Sewell, went 2-6 in their inaugural season. LC defeated Centenary (Louisiana) 18-11 in Callaway Stadium for the program's first-ever win. The Panthers later beat Johnson & Wales (Denver) 23-2 for their second win.

"Despite not being able to finish the last half of our season, I was extremely proud of what we were able to accomplish," Sewell said. "The amount of experience this inaugural team received in just eight games will be an invaluable asset for us moving forward."

Freshman Tareyon Delgado led the team and tied for sixth in the USA South conference with 19 goals. Fellow freshmen Isaac Fuller and Robert Hunt had 14 and 11 goals, respectively. Hunt led the team with 12 assists, tying for sixth in the conference.

The beach volleyball team launched its inaugural season on March 6 under coach Madison Machurek, who also serves as the head volleyball coach.

"Beach volleyball is an exciting addition for our fans," Machurek said. "I know the sport will create valuable opportunities for the young women representing the Panthers."

The Panthers went 0-7 for the season and played their home matches at the newly constructed Strack Beach Volleyball Courts on campus. The venue was made possible by Strack, Inc., a respected heavy civil and utility contractor based in Fairburn, Georgia. Strack provided construction services at cost.

Sophomores Jharia Harris and Kylie Neal picked up the team's first Flight win against Huntingdon, coming from behind to win the match 2-1.

Invitational, tied for first at the Chick-fil-A Invitational and was third at the Callaway Intercollegiate Invitational. Womack helped LC to a wire-to-wire win at the Chick-fil-A Invitational, the Panthers' first team win since 2017. He is the first LC player to be selected to the All-America and All-Region teams since Logan Lanier and Osborn Theam in 2017. Womack was the USA South Golf Player of the Week once and also Co-Player of the Week during the 2019-20 season.

MEN'S LACROSSE The Panthers went 2-6 in their inaugural season, defeating Centenary (La.) 18-11 in Callaway Stadium for the program's first-ever win. The Panthers later beat Johnson & Wales (Denver) 23-2 for their second win. Freshman Tareyon Delgado led the team with 19 goals. Fellow freshmen Isaac Fuller and Robert Hunt had 14 and 11 goals, respectively. The trio of Delgado, Fuller and Hunt led the team with 23 points each. Delgado tied for sixth in the USA South conference in goals scored. Hunt led the team with 12 assists, tying for sixth in the conference.

SOFTBALL The team went 7-5, including a 2-0 USA South conference record. Senior catcher Riley Densmore batted .459 to lead the team. She also had a home run and a team-leading 14 RBIs. Sophomore infielder Landon Delamar had a .441 batting average, while senior outfielder McKenzie Brunel hit .400 and was a perfect 6-for-6 in stolen bases. Freshman Abby Gardner was a perfect 4-0 pitching with a 2.08 earned run average. At the plate, Gardner had a team-leading two home runs, while batting .390 with 10 RBIs.

MEN'S TENNIS The men had a 3-2 record, winning their final two matches by identical 9-0 scores over Louisiana College and Huntingdon. Freshman Daniel Vincent was a perfect 5-0 for the Panthers at #2 singles. Vincent dropped only one set in the five matches. He earned a USA South Rookie of the Week honor during the season. Will Thompson, the only senior on the team, was 3-2 at #1 singles in his final season as a Panther.

WOMEN'S TENNIS The Panthers (1-4) finished the season with a 9-0 win over Louisiana College. Sophomore Makayla Red had a team-leading 3-1 record. Red was 1-0 at #5 singles and 2-1 at #6 singles.

Classnotes

HEROES ALL

They are on the front lines. The many LC graduates who serve as doctors, nurses and other health care workers have been on our hearts and minds during the current pandemic. Their labors have made a critical difference for so many. Thank you. You are all heroes.



—MARTHA PIRKLE

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

P.S. Whether as a healthcare worker or in another field, if you have been serving to make the world better during this challenging time, share a photo with us at alumni@lagrange.edu.

1950s

1957 Fred and Winnie Langley Allen of Thomasville have been featured in "Crescendo," a biography co-written by their grandson, Allen Cheney '11, and Julie Cantrell, New York Times author. The book is an inspirational story based on the lives of Fred and Winnie.

the position of psychology department chair at Central Michigan University. His department oversees the undergraduate program, a master's program and four doctoral programs and is part of the interdisciplinary program in neuroscience.

a licensed psychologist specializing in neuropsychology, is the associate chief of staff for research at the Manchester Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

2004 Ryan McArthur '14 of LaGrange is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at LaGrange College.

2007 Jeremy Dockins of LaGrange has been promoted to assistant special agent in charge of the Region 2 office of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in Columbus, Georgia.

1970s

1974 Dee Dee Godwin Williams of West Point was elected to West Point City Council.

1990s

1990 Jill Willis Kemp of LaGrange, a kindergarten teacher at Hollis Hand, was selected as a finalist for Troup County Teacher of the Year.

1993 Valeria Cameron Heard of Fairfield, Ohio, is a cost and estimating analyst for Ball Aerospace.

1998 Dr. Antipas L. Harris of Virginia Beach, Virginia, earned his second doctorate from St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida.

1980s

1981 Kathy Reese McCollum M'17 of Macon joined the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank as executive director.

1981 Dr. Moody McCall '81 and his wife, Eugenia Bishop McCall '81, traveled to Tanzania with a National Geographic photographer, Todd Gustafson.

1982 Dr. Hajime Otani of Mount Pleasant, Michigan, accepted

2000s

2001 Dr. Sherry Thrasher Roach of Manchester, New Hampshire,



Jane Ellen Summer Spears '47 celebrated her 94th birthday on May 1.

* This issue's Classnotes are from information received through May 11, 2020. (Unless otherwise noted, geographic locations refer to Georgia.)



Alumni gathered for a luncheon in Rome earlier this year. Standing, from left, are Rebecca Roth Nicks, Vice President for External Relations; Martha Pirkle, Director of Alumni and Community Relations; the Rev. Dr. Jessica Terrell '03; and Bettianne Hyde Ware Grover Harris '50. Seated is Frances Moody Jones '51.



Alfreda Barrow Fannings '71 of Lanett, Alabama, right, recorded an interview with Felecia Moore M'93, LaGrange College Suber Archives Specialist, and continues to work as program supervisor with the food stamps program for the State of Alabama. Her husband, George, is the mayor of Fredonia, Alabama.

2008 Rachel Samples Jones of Grovetown works as a national security analyst for Savannah River Research Lab.

2009 Nathan A. Masters M'12 of Rome is the football defensive coordinator at the University of West Georgia.

2010s

2010 Kimberly Beaver of Bessemer, Alabama, is the assistant vice president of corporate training for CRC Group.

2010 Luke Riley of Dallas, Texas, is a data analyst for Megaphone LLC.

2010 Dr. Eric J. Keels of Birmingham, Alabama, serves on the faculty at U.S. Air Force War College at Maxwell Airforce Base.

2010 Zach Dennis M'10 of Wooster, Ohio, is the offensive coordinator for The College of Wooster football team.

2016 Tejay Rae Dowden M'16 of

LaGrange is the head volleyball coach at LaGrange High School.

2016 Teresa Lee Foshee of Sharpsburg was featured as the Newnan-Coweta artist of the month in the Newnan Times-Herald.

2016 Alex Hughes earned his Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Alabama in December 2019.

2016 Olivia Wolfe M'18 of Fortson teaches first grade and coaches basketball at Hogansville Elementary and was teacher of the month for February. She also coaches softball at Troup High School.

2016 Caitlyn Brooke Flanagan of LaGrange earned the DAISY Award for extraordinary nursing at Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center.

2017 Corey Morgan of Camilla was elected to the Camilla City Council.

2017 Asti White '17 of Kalamazoo, Michigan, will be attending Candler School of Theology at Emory.

2017 Courtney Agurs M'17 of Newnan, a science teacher at Callaway Middle School, was a finalist for Troup County Teacher of the Year.

2018 Alexis Cruise Evans of Sharpsburg received the DAISY Award for extraordinary nursing at Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center.

2018 DeAundra Zhane' Green of Duluth is an audio engineer technician for Georgia Southern Multimedia Development Center.

2020s

2020 Madison Elzey of Cumming is pursuing a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction degree at Georgia Southern College. She accepted a kindergarten teaching position at Ethel Kight Elementary School.



The Rev. Ryan Snider '08 and Danielle Snider '08 of Blairsville pause for a photo, along with their daughter, Eden, and son, Paxton. Ryan serves as the chaplain and dean of the chapel at Young Harris College, and Danielle is a family nurse practitioner working in a family practice.



Laura Dresdow Driggers '09 of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, is a physician assistant at a community health center, and served on the overnight transition team to begin coronavirus pandemic care.

A dedication for dad and daughter

Family, friends and college officials dedicated the Baker Room, a study room in the Ida Callaway Hudson Lab Sciences Building, in January with doctors and alumni George '74 and Joy '02 Baker.

The space is named in honor of George W. Baker Sr. and Lois H. Baker, Dr. George Baker's parents and Dr. Joy Baker's grandparents. George and Joy Baker made donations that helped fund the new science building, which opened in 2017. The event also celebrated Joy Baker's return to LaGrange to open her OBGYN practice as part of Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center.

George Baker said they wanted to name the room after his parents because of their inspiration to him and his daughter, Joy.

"Our family was one where we had lots of role models, and our most important role models were our parents,"

George Baker said. "They were always there pushing us, supporting us and cheering us on."

Joy Baker related a time when she was in medical school in Atlanta that her father came to help her study for an exam, and they were left to use a professor's cramped room.

"I said, 'Dad, we need a study space for students.' I don't ever want them to be in a situation where there is no place for them to go and study on campus."

Dr. Nickie Cauthen, Coordinator of the Sciences Department and Associate Professor of Biology, thanked the Bakers for the study environment they have helped create.

"Your gift has so dramatically changed the science we can do and the experiences we can offer our students," she said. "This is a great space, as you can see. Our students hang out in this building, they are studying together and sometimes tutoring each other and



making lifelong friends as well."

President Dan McAlexander said places like the study room are an important part of the college's focus on personal interaction between students and faculty. He said this dynamic was one of the hallmarks he noticed when he first came to campus a little more than a decade ago.

"I just want to take this moment to honor and praise two of LaGrange College's most distinguished alumni," he said to the large crowd gathered for the dedication. "You make us so proud in all you have done throughout your years of service."



Dr. Judy Greer '57, H'07 was honored by the naming of The Greer Forum in the new Oxford Student Center at Emory-Oxford College.

2020 Payton Smith of Denver, North Carolina, received the Judge David Fowler '85 Award presented by the Political Science Department at LaGrange College.

2020 Peter "P.T." Alford Jr. of LaGrange received the Judge David Fowler '85 Award presented by the Political Science Department at LaGrange College.

Births

To Caitlin Bruggeman Causey '07 and her husband, Hunter, a son, Everett Leland, on May 6, 2019

To Matt Carter '08 and his wife, Katie, a daughter, Eleanor Jo "Ellie," on December 20, 2019

To Amy Hartman Harder '10 and her husband, Christopher, a son, Coulson Allen, on April 4, 2020

To Christian Johnson '10 and his wife, Sky, a son, Shepherd Woods, on April 14, 2020

To Becky Johnson Loveless '10 and her husband, Cody, a son, Connor Ray, on December 14, 2019

Every November, the college's Wisteria Garden Club offers parents a chance to ease the pain of finals week for their students. The Final Exam Survival Gift Bag includes treats, pencils, highlighters, memo pads, hot chocolate, water and other goodies, as well as a note from the giver. Other senders include grandparents, guardians, friends and even students themselves. This is the only fundraiser for Wisteria Garden Club and the proceeds are used for student scholarships, as well as local, state and national dues and other garden charities supported by the club.



To Rebekah Ralph M'10, Ed.S'15 and her husband, William, a daughter, Norah Brynn, on October 29, 2019

To Devin Billings '11, M'13 and Lindsey Hogan '15, a son, Nash Turner, on February 22, 2020

To Ben '11, M'13 and Krystal Clark Crumbley '11, M'13, a son, Clayton Lee Thomas, on December 13, 2019

To Craig Mobley '11, M'18 and Jessica Reed Mobley M'11, a son, Clayton, on December 16, 2019

To Courtney Sherman Denney '12, M'15 and her husband, Chris, a son, Reid Alexander, on December 25, 2019

To Cassie Jo Sharman Kelly '12 and Patrick Eugene Kelly '16, a daughter, Madison Jo, on February 13, 2020

To Daniel Stephen Garrett '13 and Maranda Mitchem Garrett '13, a daughter, Piper Ann, on March 1, 2020

To Hannah Butts Loftin '13 and her husband, Joseph, a son, Nathaniel Jude, on February 7, 2020

To Kelsey McClain Partin '14 and her husband, Matthew, a son, Matthew Crew, on December 6, 2018

To Marius Truitt M'15, Ed.S'17 and his wife, Lindsey, a son, Griffin

Reid, on November 4, 2019

To Jennifer Pearson '18 and Jeffrey Davis, a daughter, Malaighdyn Alandria, on December 30, 2019

To Hiram Haro-Oropeza '19 and his wife, Bethany, a son, Liam, on September 11, 2019

Engagements

Mark Wagner '16 to Sarah Grace Bearden '18 on September 6, 2019

Solomon Whitfield M'17 to Elizabeth Arena on March 6, 2020

Garrett Wallace '18 to Kylie Sierra Taunton '18 on January 31, 2020

Bonny K. Woods '18 to Justin Gunn on November 4, 2019

Kylie Brooke Cofield '19 to Ryan Addison on October 19, 2019

Caitlyn Jeanelle Deal '19 to Dylan McCollough '20 on December 13, 2019

Weddings

Merri Herbert '77 to John Lawrence on April 25, 2020

Chandler Robert Winner '13 to Heather Morris on November 23, 2019

Michael L. White '16 to Brianna Logan Phillips '17 on November



COVID-19 has affected everyone. For LaGrange College students, it has meant adjusting to a new way of living and learning.

With the help of generous gifts, the college had the tools available to take learning online, putting students' safety first while continuing to provide a transformative education. Every year, donations directly assist students by funding scholarships, free academic coaching and tutoring centers, and so much more.

This year, however, the college has been financially affected by the pandemic, making your gifts more important than ever. In the fall, young men and women will return to campus. Your contribution by June 30 will give new and returning students the resources that provide a personal, comprehensive and safe education.

We recognize many of you are also facing uncertainty, but every gift counts.

Together, we can persevere and continue providing LaGrange students with opportunities and a bright future.

Visit lagrange.edu/give or use the included envelope to make your gift today.



Leigh Anne Hamlin '19 of Fitzgerald performed at the Holiday Dinner at Mount Hope. Pictured here are, from left, Jay Knoll, Professor Kim Barber Knoll, Joshua Hoes, Leigh Anne and her parents, Barney and Debbie Hamlin.



Wesley Dismuke '17 of Birmingham completed his master's degree in public administration from the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

In Memoriam

- Mrs. Evelyn Hyatt Coleman '39
- Mrs. Imogene Tucker Camp '40
- Mrs. Louise Donnan Priester '42
- Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Middlebrook Anderson '45
- Ms. Helen Clark Loyd '48
- Mrs. Merle Jean Carlisle Jackson '48
- Mrs. Martha Cleaveland Nix '50
- Dr. June Wilder Plachy '51
- Ms. Betty Jean Blackburn '52
- Mrs. Myranelle Pate Layfield '52
- Mrs. Claire Matthews James '56
- Ms. Mildred Ellen Sharkey '61
- Dr. Sammy O'Neal McCord '64
- Mr. Robert Brewell Parker Jr. '64
- Mrs. Jane Ellen Yarbrough Grizzle '65
- Mr. Howard Allen Mayberry Jr. '65
- Ms. Marie Patricia Adams '66
- Ms. Marcia Millwood Player '66, M'95
- Ms. Frazier Wright Sollars '68, M'81
- Mr. Lucius Hannon Harwell '69
- Mr. J. Richard Lowrey '70
- Mrs. Mary Alane Abernathy Thompson '70, M'86
- Mr. Christopher "Corky" Bruce Batten '74



P.T. Alford '20 was runner-up for the Pajari Award for best undergraduate paper at the fall meeting of the Georgia Political Science Association. Dr. John Tures, Professor of Political Science, received the James LaPlant Award, a faculty honor for undergraduate research.

30, 2019

Kirby Lane Knowles '17 to Lauren Taylor Venters '17, M'20 on February 22, 2020

Christopher Wesley '17 to Erin Brooke Addison '19 on August 31, 2019

Emily Faith Wiker '17 to Brandon Butts on November 23, 2019

Cheyenne St. Germaine '18 to Colley Pitts on January 27, 2020

Carli Jones '20 to Nathan Burdette on May 30, 2020

Matthew Jamal Turner '20 to Sade Loreal Branch '20 on April 4, 2020

Mrs. Robbie Lewis Parker '78, M'87
Dr. Otis J. Abernathy H'81
Mrs. Alice Burson Koone '83, M'88
Mrs. Susan Cecile Ellis Booth '83
Ms. Dolores "Dee" M. Stanley Bradley '83, former staff
Ms. Millicent Rosemary Townsend Hilderbrand '83
Mrs. Linda Morrow Daniel '84
Mrs. Vicky Lynn Humphries Ellis '99, former staff
Mr. Lawrence Samuel Young Jr. M'11
Dr. James H. Shepherd Jr. H'13
The Honorable Judge A. Quillian Baldwin Jr., former Trustee
Dr. Carleton Sanborn Guptill, former faculty
Ms. Jacquelyn Devaughn Parker Huckstep, former staff

QUILLIAN BALDWIN JR.

Quillian Baldwin Jr., a former college Trustee, died March 15, 2020. He was 77.



Baldwin was a graduate of North Georgia College and the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. He served as Juvenile Court Judge of Troup County, Judge of the Superior Court for the Coweta Judicial Circuit, Superior Court Judge for the circuit and Judge of Troup County Mental Health Court, as well as administrative judge for the 6th Administrative District.

He also was elected to the Georgia State Senate, where he was assistant floor leader for Gov. Joe Frank Harris, chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee and was vice chairman of the Rules Committee.

Longtime art professor retires

After 50 years in the classroom, John Lawrence, Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Art and Design and gallery director of the Lamar Dodd Art Center, has retired.

Lawrence earned a bachelor's degree from the Atlanta College of Art and a master's of fine arts from Tulane University in New Orleans before beginning his teaching career at LaGrange College in 1970.

A renowned photographer, he has published books of photographs of Rowan Oak, the home of William Faulkner, and the architecture of Troup County.

Lawrence has served on several boards, committees and panels and

as a juror for many competitions. His photographs have appeared in numerous journals and publications, and he received the 2002 Award in Photography from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters.

"John's influence – on students, the college and beyond– is immeasurable,"

said Professor Marcia Brown, Coordinator of the Fine and Performing Arts Programs. "He has been the driving force behind our extensive permanent collection. His passion and talent have inspired students who have gone on to be professional photographers, professors and even the official photographers for the White House and former presidents."

The John Lawrence Endowed Scholarship, which will help students in perpetuity and expand Lawrence's legacy for future generations, has been established. To honor Lawrence, contributions can be made online at www.lagrange.edu/give. For additional information, contact the Development Office at 706-880-8039 or development@lagrange.edu.





Demetris '08, M'11 and Tori Bridge Render M'11 with their family



Rebekah Ralph M'10, Ed.S'15 and her husband, William, along with their four children, welcomed a daughter, Norah Brynn on October 29, 2019.



Christopher and Amy Hartman Harder '10 and their son, Coulson Allen

3D JOURNEYS MARKS 10 YEARS

Although cut short by COVID-19, organizers said there was much to celebrate during this year's 10th anniversary of 3D Journeys.

3D^{10X} Journeys

"Our travelers were very moved during our fall trip to Montgomery, Alabama, where we visited Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice," said Martha Pirkle, Director of Alumni and Community Relations. "We were able to get in two lectures about Switzerland and Italy before the campus closed."

April's event went on in a slightly different way.

"That morning, attendees received a link to watch a presentation by Dr. John Tures, Professor of Political Science," Pirkle said. "Viewers were invited to submit questions via email, and we had an excellent response to that."



Sidney Divine '11 married Shantell McWright on November 30, 2019.



Chandler Robert Winner '13 married Heather Morris on November 23, 2019.



Mark Wagner '16 and Sarah Grace Bearden '18, both athletic champions at LC, will marry on October 23, 2020.



Matt Crawford '17 married Anna Britt '19 on November 24, 2019.



Donna Day Dvorak '70 wed Richard Schimmel on May 1, 2020.



Abigail Hall '13 married Ferris Baughns on June 21, 2019. Pictured fourth from left is Jasmine Farmer '15.



Kirby Lane Knowles '17 to Lauren Taylor Venters '17, M'20 on February 22, 2020



Michael L. White '16 to Brianna Logan Phillips '17 on November 30, 2019

CLASS OF 2020 GALLERY

For more, visit lagrange.edu/classof2020



HOMECOMING 2020

October 16-18

Details at
lagrange.edu/alumni



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 24

First day of classes

OCTOBER 17

Class of 2020 Commencement
9 a.m., Residential Quad

OCTOBER 16-18

Homecoming 2020

Scheduled to be honored are:

Shackelford Alumni Achievement
Award

Michael Thorpe Fay '86
Cheryl Blasingame Garing '98

Outstanding Young Alumni
Award

Eric Keels Ph.D. '10

Honorary Alumni Awards

Charlene Baxter
Linda Cole

Sports Hall of Fame

David Fowler '85
(posthumously)

NOVEMBER 24

Last day of fall semester



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Baxter named 26th president

Susanna Baxter, current president of the Georgia Independent College Association, was named the 26th president of LaGrange College in April after a unanimous vote by the institution's Board of Trustees.

Dr. Baxter succeeds Dan McAlexander, who announced his intention to retire last year after leading the institution for 11 years. She will assume the post July 1, according to Board Chair Bobby Carmichael, who also headed the presidential search committee.

"Our campus leadership could not be more excited to have Dr. Baxter become president of this fine institution," Carmichael said. "She brings a wealth of expertise and leadership in higher education, and she is the right person to not only lead us through

these challenging COVID-19 times, but also to cast a vision and action plan for the longer term."

Having served for 10 years in Atlanta as GICA president, Dr. Baxter said she is humbled to have been chosen for the position.

"About to enter its 190th year, LaGrange College has such a storied history. It is an honor to be joining such a wonderful institution with such a dedicated team," she said.

She will become the second



woman to carry the title of LaGrange College president. Daisy Davies, a missionary, fundraiser and scholar, served as president from 1915 to 1920.

Baxter is married to Mark R. Huffman and they have two children, Inman, 11, and Wade, 6.