

Signatures



Saying Goodbye

Indiana's longest-serving college president
preps for life after AU

THANK YOU

THIS SEMESTER HAS BEEN ONE OF GREETINGS AND GOODBYES

at Anderson University. Dr. James L. Edwards made his final chapel presentation as president of the university on Feb. 19, while incoming president John Pistole made his first on March 5, the first official week of his leadership at AU. The campus, Anderson community, alumni, and friends celebrated Dr. Edwards and his wife, Deanna, with a tribute concert in Reardon Auditorium at the end of February, and the couple has been downsizing for months in preparation for the next chapter in their lives. In this issue, we celebrate the commitment Dr. and Mrs. Edwards made to Anderson University and the Anderson community 25 years ago and the care and dedication with which they carried out that mission. When you consider that at this point in the university's history, Dr. Edwards provided leadership for just over a quarter of the life of AU, his impact on this campus and on students, faculty, and staff is undeniable. Under his watch, AU has expanded in facilities and academic programs — graduate and undergraduate. Marketing now includes television advertising, making our name and reputation much more familiar to a statewide audience. He also spent a considerable amount of time representing Anderson University to a national audience, including his leadership and involvement in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCCU). But more importantly, he has been a dedicated caretaker and mentor to students, even enduring their popular nickname for him, "P. Eddy." While focusing on the larger picture of university finances, branding, and name recognition, he never forgot the mission of Anderson University: To educate students for lives of faith and service to the church and society. So as Dr. and Mrs. Edwards begin the next chapter of their lives, we wish them well, express gratitude for their work, and remind them they will always be part of the Anderson University community. — DEBORAH LILLY

Signatures Magazine

Anderson University Alumni Quarterly

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The official alumni periodical of Anderson University, *Signatures* magazine is published by the Office of Publications and distributed free of charge to alumni, friends, faculty, and staff. Editorial offices are located in the Office of Publications, Anderson University, 1100 E. Fifth St., Anderson, IN 46012-3495. *Signatures* is a registered trademark of Anderson University.

Printed by Mignone Communications Inc., Berne, Ind.



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Anderson University is a four-year liberal arts institution with approximately 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students. Established in 1917 by the Church of God, the university offers more than 60 undergraduate majors and graduate programs in business, theology, nursing, and music.

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FIND US ONLINE



THE ART OF BINH D. PHO

Anderson University will be hosting an exhibition by Vietnamese artist Binh Pho through May 10, 2015. "Shadow of the Turning: the Art of Binh Pho" will feature Pho's extraordinary wood art. Pho explains, "My work primarily reflects the Far East culture and my journey to the West. I love to bring the beauty of nature and hand-creation techniques together to create character and soul in a piece."

The exhibit is titled "Shadow of the Turning: the Art of Binh Pho" and is integrated with a book collaboration with Kevin Wallace of the same name. This is their second book together. The first, *River of Destiny: the Life and Work of Binh Pho*, recounted Pho's childhood in Vietnam, eyewitness accounts of the Fall of Saigon, life in a communist prison camp, his daring escape, and his new life in the United States. The second book is fictional and focuses on art, philosophy, and storytelling, blending the mythic worlds of fairy tale, fantasy, adventure, and science fiction.

The exhibition is located in the gallery at York Performance Hall. Hours for the show are Wednesday, 6-8 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 1-4 p.m.; and from March 28 to May 2 on Saturday from 1-4 p.m. The exhibition will be closed the week of March 15 due to spring break. Group tours can be arranged by calling (765) 641-4320. Admission is free.



The Knower and the Known



Sinus Amoris Renovation



World Within



Roots of Heaven

LINCOLN EXHIBIT COMES TO AU

Anderson University and the Nicholson Library have been selected as one of the sites to host the traveling exhibition "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War." Since 2009, the exhibition has been traveling to public, research, and special libraries; historical societies; museums; civic, community, and heritage organizations; and institutions of higher learning across the nation. The traveling exhibition and tour are funded by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to the National Constitution Center.

Using the Constitution as the cohesive thread, the exhibition offers a fresh and innovative perspective on Lincoln that focuses on his struggle to meet the political and constitutional challenges of the Civil War. Organized thematically, the exhibition explores how Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the war — the secession of Southern states, slavery, and wartime civil liberties. Visitors will leave the exhibition with a more complete understanding of Abraham Lincoln as president and the Civil War as the nation's gravest constitutional crisis.

An opening event and dessert reception are scheduled for March 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Nicholson Library on the AU campus. Anderson University history professor and Lincoln author Dr. Brian Dirck will be the featured speaker for the evening. The event is free. To register, go online to anderson.edu/alumni/events or call (765) 641-4066.



FORMER RAVENS RETURN



Women's basketball alumnae from the late 1970s - 1980s were on campus Jan. 3, 2015, to cheer the Lady Ravens. They shared a meal, laughs, and memories. They are (front row from left) Jan Koeniger BA '79, Kelly (Buchs) Getts BA '81, former coach Becky Hull, Robin (Gregory) Pennington BA '84, Kim Roberts BA '86, Jenny (Hughes) Lewis BA '83, (back row from left) Di Hird BA '84, Carol (McMillan) Houser BA '82, Tammy Burt BA '84, Suzan (Starr) Hardin BA '84, Jackie (Determan) Tretten BA '83, Cindy (McIntosh) Cook BA '83, Becky (Closser) Crowder BA '84, and LeAnn Holding BA '77.

AU INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

AMONG THE BEST IN THE NATION

“Building a top-25 intramural sports program is accomplished one relationship at a time. Everything else stems off from that,” says Trent Palmer, director of student programs at Anderson University.

“I think the draw is first and foremost the relationship element. We have teams that sign up from resident halls, social clubs, or people play just because they want to be with one of their friends and other people,” he says. “Secondary to that is the physical activity aspect. It is a fun way to exercise and be active. Third, we offer a competitive program. For those students not able to play in a collegiate sport, they can play in a highly structured sports arena.”

Anderson University has been named among the top 25 colleges and universities for intramural sports by *bestcolleges.com*, which publishes a variety of rankings. According to the website, three items of criteria factored into the rankings — variety, leadership, and facilities.

“I have played in every intramural season since I was a freshman at AU. I’m a big sports junkie and AU helps feed that need for me,” says Armani Crews.

The two semesters are divided into four seasons, each lasting five weeks. Team sports offered are basketball, volleyball, water volleyball, indoor and outdoor soccer, ultimate Frisbee, softball, floor hockey, dodgeball, and handball.

“Basketball is really our most highly anticipated and generally most intense sport. We are in Indiana, so you would expect that,” says Palmer.

There are also sports offered in individuals and pairs that have been gaining popularity, such as cornhole, ladder golf, and kanjam.

Palmer says the program was already in good shape when he took it over six years ago. He began evaluating each sport and how effective they are, as well as adding new sports, sometimes at the expense of another sport losing popularity. He also puts a large emphasis on referee training, which employs students.

He discovered the connectivity of intramural sports for himself during his time as an undergraduate when he failed to make the basketball team. “Through that I found a real affinity for intramurals. It provided me an outlet to participate in a sport that I loved,” he says.

Eight years ago, AU, in collaboration with fellow conference schools Huntington University, Indiana Wesleyan University, and Taylor University, began offering “extra-murals.” Rotating venues annually, students from all four institutions would compete against one another in the tournaments for basketball and flag football.

“Especially for those pro teams that are really competitive, that is a real incentive, being able to play against our (school) rivals,” says Palmer.

Student Kyle Fawcett says playing intramural soccer and basketball has afforded him the opportunity to interact with other students he would normally not meet elsewhere on campus.

He says he was also attracted to the low-pressure atmosphere.

“It’s great to compete with your friends, and at the end of the day, it’s just an intramural game so there is no reason to be over competitive,” he says.

Student Sam Schinderle says he plays a variety of intramural sports to stay in shape and affirms the value of relationships gained from the program.

“I would say that the biggest thing that I have drawn from the experience would have to be camaraderie. I have made many friends both while playing and refereeing the sports from year to year,” says Schinderle.

Palmer says the program is an inclusive opportunity for students to engage in an extracurricular opportunity that ultimately contributes to their holistic development.

“That is kind of our mission statement in a nutshell,” he says. “Learning can happen outside the classroom and these sports contribute to that.” — SCOTT REES



SPORTS DEFINITIONS

Ladder Golf — A four person game (2 teams of 2) where you toss foam balls attached together on a string over to a 3-runged ladder. The goal is to string the tossed stringed golf ball contraption onto the rungs of the ladder.

Corn Hole — A 4 person game (2 teams of 2) where you toss corn-filled bags to a board with a medium-sized hole cut in it. The goal is to have bags go through the hole or at least land and stay on the opposite board.

KanJam — A 4 person (2 teams of 2) throwing frisbees at or into a trash can. The thrower tosses over to the can where his/her teammate is able to tap the disc to hit the can, go into the can, or let it hit the can without touching it for varying amounts of points depending on which option was realized.

— COURTNEY BRANDSMA



EDWARDS TO ADDRESS 2015 GRADUATES

Dr. James L. Edwards, outgoing president of Anderson University, will end his final academic year of leadership by addressing AU graduates during the 2015 commencement exercises. The baccalaureate service and commencement are



scheduled for May 9 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. respectively. Both programs are open to the public.

Edwards began his leadership of Anderson University in 1990. He is only the fourth person to hold the office of president in the university's nearly 100-year history. In his 25 years of service, he has overseen several comprehensive capital campaigns,

raising funding support totaling more than \$200 million. A number of major facilities have been constructed during his presidency, including the Kardatzke Wellness Center, York Performance Hall, York Seminary Village, and the Anderson

University Flagship Enterprise Center, plus additions onto Decker Hall and Hartung Hall and the acquisition of a new business school facility. He has also been influential in raising awareness of Anderson University across the United States.

Edwards will also receive an honorary doctorate from the university during commencement.

The Rev. Dr. Diana L. Swoope will address graduates, family, and friends at the baccalaureate service. An alumna of the School of the Theology and ordained minister in the Church of God, Swoope is the senior pastor at Arlington Church of God in Akron, Ohio. Swoope led her church in establishing the Arlington Christian Academy, which is a chartered elementary school that enrolls students from kindergarten through the eighth grade. She is a frequent speaker for conventions, revivals, and seminars across the United States, Canada, Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Bermuda, Australia, and South Africa. She is also a published author.

Baccalaureate will take place in Reardon Auditorium and commencement exercises in the Kardatzke Wellness Center.

AU ADVOCATE DIES



Phil Fair, a 1961 graduate of Anderson University and a longtime employee of the university, died Oct. 19 at his home in Oklahoma City. Fair came to AU from Oklahoma. As a student, he met Betty Ruth Aved, and they married Sept. 3, 1960. His career spanned business, church ministry, mass communication, and higher education. He joined the staff at AU in 1981 and spent nearly three decades working in the admissions and development offices. He retired in 2008. Fair Commons, university apartment-style student housing on the east edge of campus, was named by developers Tom and Sch'ree Ward in recognition of the Fair family. In addition to his wife, Fair is survived by his son, the Rev. Kelly Fair, and his daughter, Lori (Fair) Layugan, along with several grandchildren.

A LETTER FROM A FORMER PRESIDENT

I first met Jim Edwards when he was a student in the Anderson College Choir and I was the director. He must have had more than a passing interest in music because he also took my choral conducting class, the last class I taught at Anderson College before becoming dean. Even after he finished college, I kept my eye on him.

After completing 13 years of teaching and another 25 years as academic dean at Anderson, I was nearing retirement at the same time I was preparing to move into the office of president following Bob Reardon. Bob and I had a conversation about Jim and the future of the university. We believed Jim Edwards ought to be considered down the line for president. Independently of each other, Bob and I talked with Jim and encouraged him to consider a move from a leadership role in a church to leadership in the university and to pursue a doctoral program at The Ohio State University lending itself to higher education. I have championed him ever since.

Every university president has a different set of challenges before him, and Jim has met them all well. Perhaps one of the most important roles, however, is advancing the name and reputation of the institution. By the time I became president, I was well known in the Church of God, so I reached out to the city of Anderson and built bridges between the college and the community. Jim extended that reach in new and different ways. One of his important strategies was to reach out and position Anderson University within the sights of the leadership of Indianapolis and the leadership of the state of Indiana. Jim has done that very well. It was also important to become a strong member of the national Council of Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCCU), headquartered in Washington, D.C. One of Jim's greatest gifts is that of being comfortable in the arena of higher education. Jim has also been well liked among university presidents. Not only was he an active participant in the CCCCCU, he also served as the board chair of the council.



Pictured above are the three living university presidents at the time of Edwards first year at AU: (left to right) the late Dr. Robert Reardon, Dr. Robert Nicholson, and Dr. James L. Edwards.

Why was this work important to Anderson University? We needed to be known for what we do and then we needed to be better known. Our greatness is what we can do for individual students at AU. As our reputation began to spread, opportunities for new programs and new donors grew as well. In turn, doors have also opened for our alumni. And Jim leaves a legacy not only at Anderson University but also far beyond the campus community.

After 25 years of working under the pressure of being a university president, it will take awhile to adjust to a less demanding schedule. Jim has proven himself as a pastor, a problem solver, a leader, a networker, and more. As he moves into the next phase of life, I wish him freedom for relaxation and most importantly, time with his grandchildren. He has certainly earned it. —DR. ROBERT NICHOLSON



President
1990-2015



Saying Goodbye

Indiana's longest serving college president preps for new leadership ... and life after AU.

BY HOLLY G. MILLER

AS HIS PRESIDENCY AT ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

comes to a close, Dr. James L. Edwards has been crossing items off his list in preparation for new leadership of the university. The traditional note, written by one president and left atop the historic Morrison desk for his successor, has been written. Edwards — currently the longest serving university president in Indiana — is ready to hand over the job of AU to his successor. He began his finals early this academic year

— welcomed his final class of freshmen in September, hosted his final homecoming in October, and celebrated his final Candles and Carols concert in December.

When he reflects on his long career and his upcoming retirement, he often uses travel terms. He recalls his

"journey" from pastor of an Ohio congregation to CEO of his denomination's publishing house; he remembers the short "walk" he took across East Fifth Street from the headquarters of Warner Press to the campus of Anderson University. He describes the "turns in the road" that he encountered in his 25-year tenure at AU, and he jokes about the "exit ramp" that somehow eluded him.

"I didn't expect to be here more than a dozen years or so," he admits. Unlike the majority of college presidents

who leave their posts after seven or eight years — the national average for university leaders — "it never occurred to me to hand this off," he says. "Even during the difficult times, I've felt blessed to be here. When I say that I never found an exit ramp, it's because I never looked for one. I never thought about life after the presidency. I tell folks that I'm a one-instrument band and I only have one tune. Now I've got to figure out what the next tune is."

“

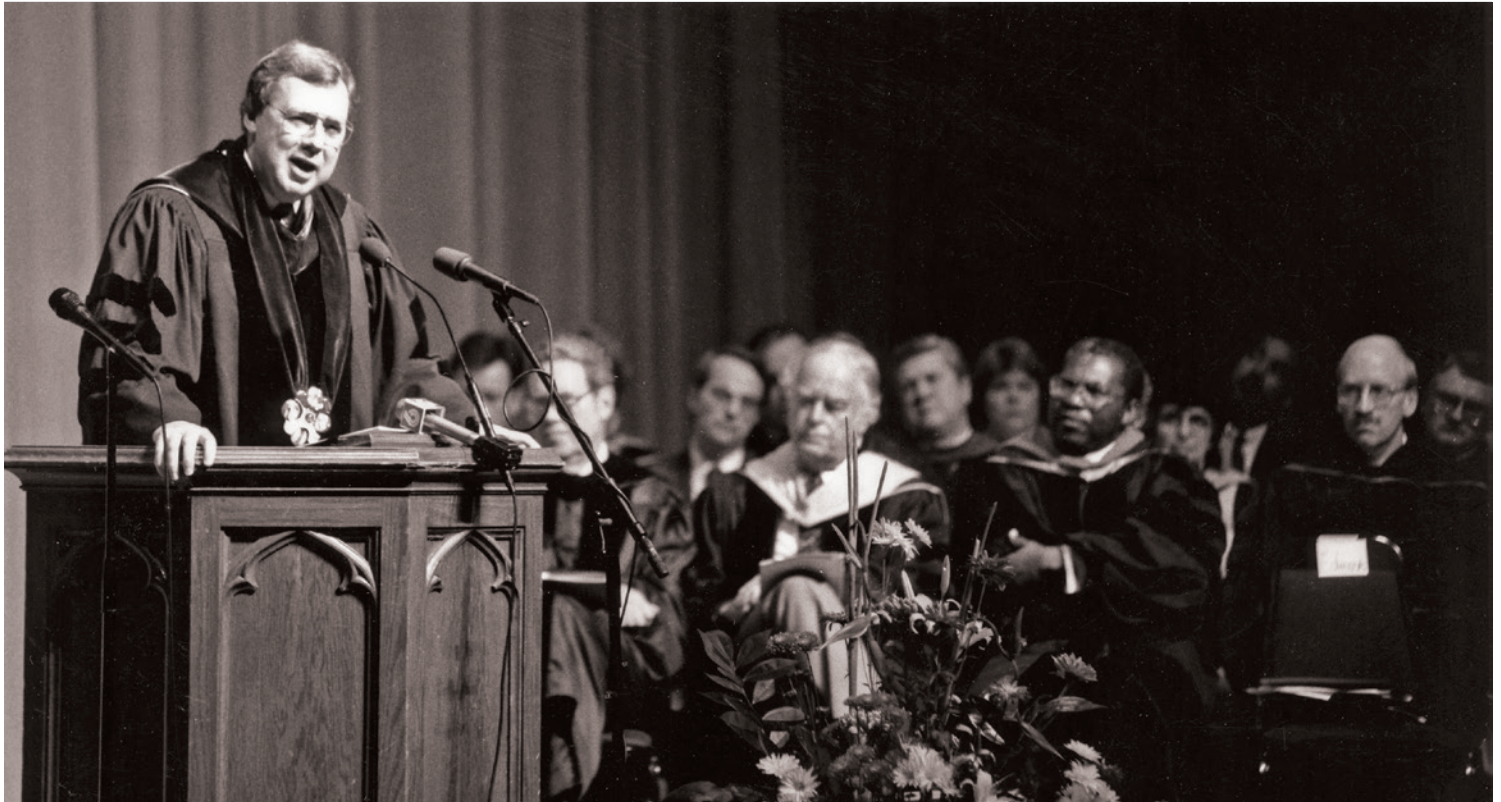
I'VE DEDICATED THIS ACADEMIC YEAR TO DOING WHATEVER I CAN DO TO LAY THE TRACKS FOR THE FUTURE. IF THERE'S ANY HEAVY LIFTING YET TO ACCOMPLISH, I WANT TO TAKE IT ON.

”

He's counting on his wife, Deanna, and their six grandchildren to help him with that. At this point he and Deanna only know that the next tune will play out on the West Coast, where they've been shopping for property close to their three children. In the meantime, the Morrison desk is stacked high with unfinished business that

needs his attention. His goal is a smooth transition to new leadership and the presidency of John Pistole.

"I've dedicated this academic year to doing whatever I can do to lay the tracks for the future," he says. "If there's any heavy lifting yet to accomplish, I want to take it on. That means managing well until AU has a new voice, and that new voice will be so welcome. I'm excited because I've seen the benefits of fresh leadership, new ideas, and new perspectives."



President Edwards at his inauguration ceremony October 1990

WELCOME TO THE CLUB

In its almost 100-year history, AU has had only four presidents, and Edwards has known all members of the elite club. He claims them as role models and credits Robert Reardon with indicating the path to the presidency and Robert Nicholson with encouraging him to take the first step. It was at a ministerial meeting at St. Joseph, Mich., that Reardon called him aside and asked him what he wanted to do with his life.

"I said that I loved the university and always felt I'd like to work there someday," says Edwards. "He told me that the person in line to the presidency would need three things: experience as the pastor of a growing church, a strong and faithful family, and an earned doctorate." Edwards measured his qualifications against Reardon's criteria. Pastor of a growing church? Yes, Meadow Park Church of God in Columbus, Ohio, was thriving. Strong and faithful family?

The best. Earned doctorate? Not yet. "It seemed as if President Reardon was laying out a plan that day, a sort of assignment that I could either claim or disregard," Edwards recalls. Before shopping for a rigorous Ph.D. program in policy and leadership that would help prepare him for a career in higher education, he made an appointment with Nicholson, then dean of the faculty, for guidance. "Should I take Dr. Reardon seriously?" was his question. Nick's answer was emphatic: "Absolutely. Go for it."

And so he did.

More than a quarter century later, Edwards had no similar role in identifying or recruiting the fifth and newest member of the club. As the presidential search unfolded, the board of trustees informed him only of the impressive number of highly qualified candidates that had applied. He interpreted the number, almost 30, as a compliment to the university. "I'm proud that our institution attracted such a significant group of people."



Edwards and facilities added to campus or renovated during his tenure, including the Kardatzke Wellness Center, the York Seminary Village, the AU Flagship Enterprise Center, and Hartung Hall.



RESPONDING TO CHANGE

His tenure has been marked by constant change, some frustrating and some exhilarating. Technology moved from one category to the other as faculty and staff first resisted and then embraced the shift to digital communication. Edwards jokes that he was quick to adapt to the wireless world, in large part because his administrative assistant — Ronda Reemer — was a member

of the information technology team before transferring to the president's office. He confides, "I've told other presidents around the state that if they ever have problems with their computers, just call Ronda. She'll know what to do."

A far more persistent challenge that he and his presidential colleagues have faced relates to the marketplace and its high expectation for academic excellence and its low tolerance for price increases. Edwards



President Edwards and his wife, Deanna, were known for engaging with Anderson University students.

was the first in his family to graduate from college with a student loan debt, a reasonable obligation of \$1,750, which he repaid before enrolling in seminary. Today's graduates across America enter the workplace owing an average of \$29,400, a debt that often takes years to retire. Edwards extols the practical rewards of a college degree, acknowledges the attraction of less expensive public institutions, but builds a strong case for schools such as AU that have a spiritual edge over their secular competitors.

"I'm impressed with the fact that people who earn college degrees will make on average \$1 million more in a lifetime," he says, "but that's not why we go to Christian colleges. We go to Christian colleges because we want to be in a community that reflects our most deeply held values. While students are making up their minds about whether those are good values or not, they sense that this is a place where the people they admire are likely to get their direction for life."

RUNNING LEAN INTO THE FUTURE

Eight years into his presidency, Edwards noted a shift in presidential responsibilities and a growing emphasis on the role of chief fundraiser. "Every college president today has to ask, 'How do we put together the resources we need?' I found out that persons who want to give significantly to an institution want to talk to the ultimate decision maker." This has translated into hundreds of road trips as he's crisscrossed the country to represent AU at church gatherings, alumni get-togethers, and donor dinners. He claims that he's "loved every minute" of the interaction, then adds, "and I think I've had chicken every way you can fix it."

Less enjoyable have been the tough choices forced upon the university by a national recession and the inevitable shortage of resources that followed. The need to "run lean" has resulted in discontinuing certain academic programs and eliminating the positions that implemented the programs. He met one-on-one with all departing faculty members and was amazed by their grace and accep-



The Edwards family then (1990) and now on the steps of Boyes house, below with the addition of grandchildren.

tance of the situation. Still, "I don't like the idea that some people whom I love and respect no longer work here," he says. "The truth is, we couldn't retain certain majors that we have offered in the past. Students aren't coming here for them anymore. So, we've had to adjust."

The adjustments have taken a variety of forms. "It hasn't been a matter of turning the ship around, but rather making a correction here or there," he explains. His decision-making process has been influenced by the insights of colleagues at two levels. He applauds the concept of shared governance, a trend on all college campuses that he traces to Proverbs 15:22: "Without counsel plans go wrong, but with many advisors they succeed." The challenge for 21st century college presidents is to gather

many collaborators around the table, value their input, and at the same time "be willing to make the hard decisions that only a president can make," he says.

A second level of counsel has come from Larry Osnes, an AU alumnus and the retired president of Hamline University, who has served as his sounding board for the past four years. Some of Edwards' peers at other colleges have been surprised that "the old guy" — Edwards' description of himself — would see the need for a mentor. "Having someone walk alongside me has made me more effective," he says. "Presidents, like pastors, typically don't have best friends because their jobs are all-consuming. I call Larry my 'coach' and our relationship has been a gift."

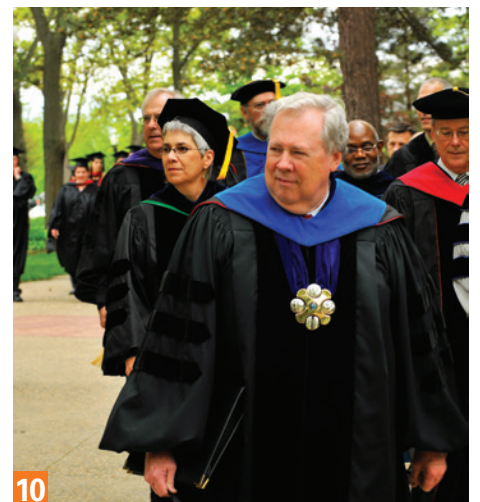


Photo captions:

1. President James L. Edwards with former AU presidents Dr. Robert Reardon (center) and Dr. Robert Nicholson (far right). They are gathered around the statue of John Morrison, the first president of Anderson University.

2. A favorite among AU students, he was nicknamed "P. Eddy." They even created and sold tee shirts showing their devotion to him.

3. Among the many accomplishments of the university during Edwards' tenure was the renovation of Fifth Street. Edwards and his wife, Deanna, celebrate the completion of the project with a ride down the street.

4 & 5. Edwards engaged with students in chapel and with the community at local functions.

6. Edwards gathers with Raven fans at a home football game.

7. Dr. Robert Nicholson (far left) joined Edwards in welcoming John Pistole (middle) to the family of AU presidents.

8 & 9. In the fall of 2014, Edwards and his wife were honored at homecoming by the university at Macholtz Stadium (8) and the Indianapolis Colts (9) in Lucas Oil Stadium.

10. After leading the faculty across the Valley each commencement, this May, he will return as the guest speaker to address the 2015 graduates.

BEATING THE BENCHMARK

In spite of his good intentions to resolve pending issues and clear the clutter from the Morrison desk, he will pass on to his successor a handful of goals yet to achieve. He believes that AU's faculty is second to none, and he's worked hard to keep their salaries at 90 percent of the national benchmark. "But a benchmark is 'average,'" he argues, "and we need to do better. How about beating the benchmark? I would love to be able to fix that."

Another goal, partially met, has been his effort to balance tradition with change. He jokes that he personally created at least one tradition, citing the practice of AU freshmen to leave their first chapel service, walk through the valley, and solemnly touch Pioneer Rock. "I invented that ten years ago," he admits, laughing. "I never called it Pioneer Rock, someone else added that, but I like it. It helps dress up the tradition."

Still a third goal is to build support for a management principle he calls "flexible form" that responds to shifts in the marketplace. "It allows us to not put things into concrete that don't need to be placed in concrete," he explains. "Nothing is more traditional than higher education. When I came here we talked a lot about how we have great and deep foundations. I value those foundations and am determined to honor them. At the same time, we can't think of change as something negative. We need to create a climate of innovation and entrepreneurship. Today I'm asking, how can we take our assets, our resources, and our methodologies and keep them as flexible as the times seem to demand? This will require a great deal of energy and fresh ways of looking at what the future has to unfold for institutions like ours."

BACK TO HIS FUTURE

Edwards is convinced that AU's new leadership is well qualified to supply that energy and fresh perspective. He sees a similarity between a departing church pastor and a departing university president. He's been both and knows the protocol. "The retiring pastor leaves and only comes back at the invitation of the new pastor," he says. Likewise, the departing president. "I feel strongly that the time is right for this campus to belong to somebody else. We need to give the next president some space. President Nicholson said it best when he told me, 'I will be willing to do anything you ask of me, but you must ask.'"

As for the personal note atop the Morrison desk for his successor, he doubts it will be among "the great poetry of the day" but its message will be heartfelt and simply put: "I want to encourage him to take good care of this wonderful place and to enjoy it."

Alumni Profile

Josh Kaufman

Josh Kaufman Talks “The Voice,” Family, and Broadway



It has been nearly a year since Anderson University alumnus **Josh Kaufman** won the sixth season of NBC’s “The Voice” on May 20, 2014. And what a year it has been.

Following his win as a member of “Team Usher,” Kaufman went on a 31-city tour with other contestants from

the show, then headlined at the Indiana State Fair in August and Indy Jazz Fest in September. Most recently, Kaufman made his Broadway debut as the title role in “Pippin,” appearing from October 31, 2014, through January 4, 2015. All that and his first single with Republic Records will be released this year.

Kaufman attended AU from 1995 – 1998, majoring in vocal performance and, later, philosophy. He then took a break from school, moving first to California and then to Nashville before returning to Indiana to finish his education at IUPUI. While at AU, he sang in Chorale and played in the “Encore” band.

“I always loved being a part of the ‘Encore’ performances,” he says.

He says AU was a positive influence on his musical career, particularly because of the people he got to know while studying there. “I met so many great musicians [at AU],” he says.

Kaufman, who grew up in Florida and Virginia, says he settled down in Indianapolis because of the friends and

connections he made while living in Indiana, and because he wanted to continue to play music. Kaufman’s collaborations with other AU alumni include performances and recordings with **Sarah Scharbrough BA ’01** and **Cliff Ritchey BA ’00**.

Kaufman appeared on “Star Search” during the 1990s and was fast-tracked to the first round of “The X-Factor” later on, but it was “The Voice” where he ultimately found success. Kaufman says things have changed a great deal in the evolution of TV vocal talent shows.

“Everything is so much bigger,” he says. Kaufman liked the format of NBC’s “The Voice,” and in particular, how it “focused more on being constructive and positive” than some of its contemporaries.

While Kaufman says “The Voice” is not a competition suited to everyone, he emphasizes that it can be a helpful platform for some and “really helps to get your foot in the door.” He says even if a singer only gets through one round, a single television performance is broadcasted to 12 million people and offers a unique opportunity to hopeful artists.

He encourages other aspiring musicians to stay persistent in their goals and says there are a million different ways to go about pursuing these dreams. “It sounds kind of cliché, but just be true to who you are,” he says.

Kaufman, 38, is married and has three children. The family continues to live in Indianapolis, while he tours the country and even when he was in New York City during the Broadway run of “Pippin.” The transition has been a difficult one for the family.

“It’s definitely tough,” he says, explaining that he and his family have had to try to “figure out a new reality and a new way of doing things.”

“It’s hard, but we’re figuring it out,” he says. Kaufman says his family visits him on occasion, and, of course, he loves having long breaks between engagements when he can come home to Indianapolis and spend some quality time with them, too. — MARYANN (KOOPMAN) KELLY

UPCOMING EVENTS

AU Chorale/AC Choir 70th Anniversary Reunion Weekend



Please join us for the AU Chorale/ AC Choir 70th Anniversary Reunion Weekend. A special weekend has been planned with multiple social and musical activities scheduled, including a piece sung by the Reunion Choir. Additional information, including a schedule and registration, is available online at www.anderson.edu/events.

Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 – Sunday, April 12, 2015

Baseball Alumni Day



Calling out all baseball alumni of Anderson University. Come support your fellow Ravens as they participate in a double header against conference rival Transylvania University. Additional information about event coming soon!

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2015

Time: Noon – T.B.D.

Location: Don Brandon Stadium, Anderson University

Homecoming 2015



Save the date and watch future *Signatures* for more information.

Friday, October 2 - Saturday, October 3



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