

Signatures



ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM
Sets a High Bar

Preparing for change

Growing up, I always loved the start of a new school year. A new teacher, new stuff to learn, new school supplies, and best of all, ordering new books at regular intervals through the Scholastic Book Club. Of course new produces its own anxiety. What if my new teacher doesn't like me? What if Holly Hobbie book bags aren't in this year?

Here at *Signatures* magazine, we are also embarking on something new. In the fall of 1999, we unveiled a redesign of the alumni magazine and have been happy with it for many years. But fifteen years later, we are ready for a new look and the excitement and energy such a change can bring to our publication. You will notice some change already in this issue of the magazine. Over the years as social media has grown in popularity and use, class notes have dwindled. To expedite the sharing of both personal news from alumni and the passing of alumni, the traditional "Class Notes" and "Remembering Our Friends" sections of the magazine will now be shared exclusively through the electronic version of every issue of *Signatures* at www.anderson.edu/signatures.

While the physical work of the redesign will happen in the Publications Office of Anderson University, we will be gathering ideas from many places across campus. And of course, we want to hear from our readers also. What do you want to see in your alumni magazine? Please share your ideas by emailing me at dlilly@anderson.edu or by writing to us at the Office of Publications, RE: Signatures, Anderson University, 1100 E. 5th St., Anderson, IN 46012. We looking forward to hearing from you!

— DEBORAH LILLY

Signatures *Anderson University Alumni Quarterly Magazine*

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Anderson University is a four-year liberal arts institution with programs for 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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Signatures

Contents

COVER STORY *page* 10

Athletic Training Program Sets a High Bar

An early leader in teaching athletic training, AU continues the tradition.

ON THE COVER: Athletic training students work with a student athlete.



AU NEWS

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Editor's note | 2 | Ambitious professors create opportunities for students | 6 |
| President's message | 4 | Leadership transition in the SOT | 7 |
| Short named alumni director | 5 | Student Essay: The Barista Life | 8 |
| Students form men's volleyball club | 5 | Faculty Q&A: MaryAnn Hawkins | 9 |
| Writing conference coming to AU | 6 | | |

ALUMNI JOURNAL

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Homecoming 2014 Calendar of Events | 16 |
| Alumni Profile: Laura Markle Downton | 18 |
| Alumni Profile: Ann Espey Smith | 19 |

FIND US ONLINE



Preparation for career and service

Vocation is more than a job. It is a calling. Liberal arts colleges often celebrate the love of learning for learning alone. However, Anderson University also chal-



*James L. Edwards,
President*

lenges students and alumni to lead a purpose-filled life. We see the purposes of God in preparing lives for service in the spirit of our Lord who “came not to be served but to serve.” I learned early in my college years that the call to serve is a call to prepare. We are moved by the passion of living a life of purpose that makes a difference in the world.

Vocation is tied in some way to virtually every major, every course of study at AU because it is centered in our mission “to educate for a life of faith and service in church and society.” Our students are changed by such an education. Parents who often sacrifice much to give their children a promising future are justly relieved to know that their daughter or son may leave college and actually find a job. Recent studies indicate that a college degree is certainly worth the investment. Unemployment rates for college students are roughly half that of those with only a high school diploma. And over a lifetime, on average, a college graduate will earn an income twice that of one who has only a high school diploma. For AU graduates in last year’s class, more than 90 percent either took a job in his or her chosen field or went on to graduate or professional school.

Students are encouraged now more than ever to seek internships that will make learning practical. It is always exciting to speak with community business leaders and hear their thoughts on AU interns. The glowing reports are gratifying, and recommendations from those who provide practical experiences — often with pay — can lead to career opportunities after graduation. Learning by doing, with the guidance of skilled practitioners, can set the course for a career and set the student apart when seeking that first job.

A few days ago, I welcomed to my office some newly hired admissions counselors, all AU alumni, who are just beginning their work with prospective students. We talked about many things, such as what sets AU apart from other universities and why students seek out such an educational path within a faith-focused community. I love their energy and vision for changing lives by helping students to find their way into an AU experience that meant so much to them. The brief visit brought to mind my own early days as an Anderson admissions counselor many years ago. I hosted a visit from a promising student who went on to graduate and then return as a faculty member to help us launch our highly acclaimed program in sports medicine and athletic training. Hundreds of students have been touched and encouraged into the profession through this exceptionally gifted teacher. At AU everyone has a role to play in student success. We are proud to have some wonderful young people fully engaged in such important work. And we are deeply grateful for all who mentor, teach, and serve in this good place.

Short named alumni director

Colin Short BA '00 has replaced Ben Davis as Anderson University's director of alumni relations. Davis concluded his service to the university at the end of the school year to accept the position of CEO/executive director of the Parkview Huntington Family YMCA in Huntington, Ind.

Short graduated from AU with a degree in business management. He played on the Raven football team during his student days at AU. After earning his bachelor's degree, he studied at Fuller Theological Seminary in California and became an ordained minister in the Church of God. Prior to returning to AU, he worked for four years as a national scholarship program director for the American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis.

As director of alumni relations, Short will continue the university's work to engage and connect AU's base of 26,000 alumni. He will also collaborate with other areas of the university administration, such as Admissions, Athletics, and Career Development, to find avenues through which AU alumni can serve and support prospective and current students, as well as the programs of AU.



"It's great to be an Anderson Raven! What an incredible place! Our team is excited to grow alumni chapters in cities across the country, expand our alumni career network, and show unwavering support of the Orange & Black. We want to develop the strongest and proudest alumni base in the world."

Colin is married to **Julie (Sebastian) Short BA '00**. Julie is the assistant director of admissions at AU. They have two children. —DEBORAH LILLY

Students form men's volleyball club

Many people are aware of the Anderson University women's volleyball team, but now there is a campus club for guys who like to spike the ball. The AU Men's Volleyball Club included 13 players on its roster during the past school year. They won one tournament and placed second in two others.

The club organized during the 2009-2010 school year and is open to any male student willing to attend the practices and games, work hard, and have fun.

The club competes against a variety of different schools at conferences and scrimmages with AU's Women's Volleyball team during the off season. **Dalton Cox**, a junior study-



ing information systems and management is the club's captain. He loves "being able to perform both roles as a player and coach, teammate and captain, competitor and friend."

Although the group is based on a collective athletic interest, there is a service aspect to the club as well. Last year at Christmas, the men put together boxes filled with a variety of goods for a charity group. Cox says, "Collectively, the people who make up the volleyball club here on Anderson's campus have positively impacted each other and those around them." For Cox, the AU Men's Volleyball Club is just another place for Christ to permeate his life.

—CHELSEA DAWSON

Writing conference coming to AU

The Department of English at Anderson University will welcome the Indiana Faith and Writing Conference (IFWC) on campus on Oct. 31-Nov. 1. The conference, formerly known as the Indianapolis Christian Writers Conference, is hosted by Wesleyan Publishing House. For more than a decade, IFWC has provided publishing opportunities for Christian writers while mentoring writers to create works of literary and academic excellence.

“It’s been invigorating to see the AU community rally around this event,” said Heather Gemmen Wilson, AU adjunct professor and IFWC founding director. “From the English department catching the vision, to the administration award-



ing the Falls Departmental Initiative Grant, to the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance providing the York Performance Hall, to students applying for the student assistant director internship, IFWC was created to generate excitement about our university and to draw new stu-

dents. But it’s already turning out to be so much more: a morale booster for the AU family.”

The Indiana Faith and Writing Conference will be hosting three keynote speakers at this year’s event including Ken Abraham, a New York Times best-selling author and known around the world for his popular writing collaborations; Philip Gulley, a Quaker pastor and author of the popular novel series *Harmony*; and Lisa Sharon Harper, *Sojourners’* senior director of mobilizing and featured writer in *God’s Politics Blog* and *Huffington Post*. The conference will also feature workshops on writing and publishing.

The conference is open to the public. Those attending the conference may also sign up for the IFWC’s writing contest. Winners will be chosen in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Registration and conference fee information can be found at faithandwriting.com/registration. —HILARY HUGHEL

Ambitious professors create opportunities for students

Dr. Scott Kennedy, professor of chemistry at Anderson University, is in California this summer working at Google X as a guest researcher. Though the assignment Kennedy has at Google X has been confidential, AU’s Department of Physical Sciences and Engineering are transparent about the fact that their faculty creates amazing opportunities for AU students.



In 2010, Kennedy partnered with his colleagues in the university’s department of physical sciences and engineering to form Aurum Consulting, a scientific consulting firm that provides services to small businesses and educators in central Indiana. In addition to meeting the needs of its clients, Aurum Consulting also provides internship and research opportunities to Anderson University students.

Kennedy and department chair Dr. Chad Wallace, along with chemistry professor Dr. Scott Carr and physics associate professor Dr. John Millis, initiated a two-week summer program Research Experience for Teachers (RET). The project is a collaborative effort between researchers at AU and Dr. Barry Hicks at the United States Air Force. The work aims to chemically modify fluorescent proteins so they can be chemically bound into hydrogels.

With the addition of electrical and mechanical engineering majors, programs initiated like RET and continuing opportunities for physical science and engineering faculty to work in the field, Anderson University’s science programs have a lot to offer prospective students.

“The obvious quality and heart of AU’s science and engineering faculty has been one of the best kept secrets in central Indiana,” said Wallace. “It will not be for long.”

—STEFANIE LEITER

Leadership transition in the School of Theology

As Dr. David Sebastian retired from his role as dean of the Anderson University School of Theology at the end of the school year, he did so with the comforting knowledge handing the seminary reigns over to Dr. James Lewis would be a smooth transition.

Sebastian retired after 19 years at the helm of the SOT, and Lewis' appointment was announced during last school year. Lewis came to AU in 1992 as assistant professor of Christian theology and ethics and served in a joint appointment with the undergraduate Department of Religious Studies and the graduate seminary. He was later appointed full time to the faculty of the School of Theology and promoted through the ranks to full professor, most recently serving as associate dean. Lewis also served the seminary as the director of the Doctor of Ministry Studies Program.

"I am just delighted that he was selected by the president to follow me in this role. We came to the university in a joint appointment," Sebastian said. "I've seen him grow in his administrator roles not just with seminary but with the university and association of seminary schools. He is not only a capable academic but also has strong relational skills."

Sebastian ended his tenure as the longest serving dean in the seminary's history. He was largely successful in his efforts to keep theological education accessible and affordable. Under his leadership, student scholarship endowments increased by 300 percent to \$3.5 million. The York Seminary Village — a \$2 million project — also came into being, thanks in part to his efforts and partnership with the York family.

He says there is one word that comes to mind to sum up the experience. Steward.

"I have been blessed to have this opportunity [as dean]," said Sebastian. "It is now my privilege to hand it over to my colleagues to be stewards to their generation."

Lewis plans to build and expand on conversations with various constituents of the church — across racial, ethnic, and



Dr. David Sebastian (left) and Dr. James Lewis (right)

regional lines. "I want to assure the church that the seminary is here because the church is here," Lewis said.

At the center of it all is living out the school's mission statement: to prepare men and women for the ministry of biblical reconciliation.

According to Lewis, the AU SOT is a fundamental place for the church to reflect on what it is during these changing times.

"Given that kind of passion that I believe seminary has for the world and the church, we have the great challenge of communicating that to a wide range of students. I always tell people in the Church of God that this is your seminary. I love to say that because it is true," Lewis said. "We have to think seriously about students who are even in high school and earlier years and begin to imagine them as leaders in the church and certainly in the world and what seminary education might look like for them."

Sebastian is expected to continue to serve the university and the church through special assignments in preaching and church leadership support. Was he ever tempted to give it one more year to end at an even 20? "The thought did not cross my mind in any sense!" Sebastian said, laughing.

—SCOTT REES

STUDENT ESSAY

The Barista Life

*Ashley Kelly*

When I was a little girl, I eagerly waited for the day when I would put on the infamous green apron of a barista and work at Starbucks, home of real Seattle coffee. It is a strangely specific dream for a child, but, you see, coffee is an inherited addiction in my family. I can remember still learning how to talk and walk but already beginning my coffee instruction. My grandma would pour herself an early morning mug of coffee and pour just a bit into my sippy cup. My fascination with coffee was, really, inevitable.

This year my café dreams transferred from Starbucks to Anderson University's very own Mocha Joe's coffee bar, a much more loveable source of caffeine — if I do say so myself. My experience at Mocha Joe's has been a bit of an education. Who knew that coffee was more than a positive reinforcement for getting out of bed in the morning or a cup of inspiration for the soul before American Lit but, rather, an art! An experience! After much practice I have finally developed a sixth sense for creating the perfect latte. I can now see, smell, listen, and feel (physically and emotionally) if a drink is ready before trading it over to an expectant customer.

In addition to new discipline, I did not expect to find family at Mocha Joe's. But the loving, accepting, delightful atmosphere of community seems to be inherent of every AU institution I have been a part of — even a barista bunch. Every shift is filled with some sort of fun and yes, my fellow baristas and I do manage to achieve the standard of work that we must. My co-workers are a group of individuals as diverse as our favorite coffee creations. They are each kind, intriguing, energetic



people with an irresistible love for life. They share their passion daily with our campus by encouraging others, giving of themselves, and generating joy one Americano at a time. I, along with countless other students and faculty, have made it a habit to stop in and visit their smiling faces almost every day, even if I am not working!

As my dear friend and co-barista Olivia Hacker put it, Mocha Joe's is a venue to establish connections. Every sort of Raven, past and present, can be found at our coffee bar throughout the year. The Dativus Enthusiast, Late-Night Swing Club Member, friendly theology professor, and even the occasional dean all stop in for a Thin Mint Blast. Mocha Joe's offers coffee grounds for common ground, and it has been my privilege to fellowship with all who have made Mocha Joe's a dwelling place. It seems AU is a smaller, more joyful place when a mug of coffee is shared in this endearing room with balancing act floors and indie records playing faintly above the dusty rafters. —ASHLEY KELLY

MARYANN HAWKINS: *Backing women in ministry*

Dr. MaryAnn Hawkins, director of the doctor of ministry studies program, professor of intercultural studies, and associate dean of the School of Theology, knows what it means to fight for your passion and calling. Navigating skepticism and discouragement throughout her experience in ministry, Hawkins now seeks to empower other women in ministry and challenge thoughts on “who” is best equipped to serve in God’s kingdom. Her experience across the United States and the globe has allowed her to encounter an immensely diverse group of believers who exemplify why race, denomination, age, and even gender should not establish standards when serving Christ.

**Where does your passion for women in the ministry originate?**

In my own call to ministry. I had to walk through some difficult times, and, as I began to talk to other women called to vocational ministry, I found that there was a lot of “hurt” that mostly came from the church.

How did your work in Kenya and California prepare you for your role as professor of intercultural studies at the SOT?

I was the first academic dean of Kima International School of Theology in Kenya. In California I finished up my PhD work at Fuller Theological Seminary. My dissertation concerned Church of God Clergywomen: African-American, Latina, and Caucasian.

What’s next for you?

I work with Qara — our Church of God women clergy organization, and I serve as VP for the Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy. In the midst of that, I teach classes and serve as the SOT associate dean. I also have two young grandchildren I want to spoil!

What advice would you give a female student interested in entering the ministry after graduation?

Don’t do it unless God has called you to vocational ministry. If God has called, do not let anyone talk you out of it. You will probably always be questioned about your right to be in ministry, so settle your biblical-theological understanding. Get as much education as you can and go through the ordination process, even if it’s painful. You will need all of the foundational pieces you can get. —ASHLEY KELLY

Fun Facts about MaryAnn:**Most beautiful places you’ve traveled?**

The rainforest in Africa, the mountain passes in Shillong, India, the colors of the Grand Canyon at sunset, the roar of the surf hitting the rocks.

Woman in the Bible you admire the most and why?

In the Old Testament, it would be Hulda. She was a contemporary of Jeremiah, but when a copy of the “scroll” was found as the temple was being cleaned, the priests went to Hulda for verification. What a reputation she must have had! In the New Testament, it would be Pricilla (Prisca). She functioned openly with her gift of teaching (and probably preaching). She and Aquilla must have had a wonderful marriage — he let her do what God had called her to!

Best advice you have ever received?

“Say what you mean, and mean what you say — and back it up with appropriate action.” My father.





ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM

Sets a High Bar

by Maryann Koopman Kelly

Anderson University's athletic training program has been going strong since its inception in 1976, graduating more than 200 students in that time and equipping them for further study and successful careers.

According to **Steve "Doc" Risinger**, who started AU's program, there were very few schools that offered athletic training as a major at that time in the United States. He saw a need, and thought, "Why not here at Anderson?" In his mind, the field of athletic training already fit with the college's greater mission. "Ultimately, it's about caring and giving back to other people," he says.

Anderson University was the first private college in the state of Indiana to have an athletic training program, Risinger says.

Starting from the ground up required innovation and passion, which Risinger was able to bring to the table. Director of Athletic Training Education **Christina Merckx BA '92** says AU stands out because it set the standard and has been doing it the longest, inspiring other small schools to pattern their athletic training programs after AU's.

"We were the first private Christian university in the country to get accredited in 1989," Merckx adds, and says that this was "all down to 'Doc.'"

AU's accreditation for athletic training is a huge advantage to students, Risinger explains, because in order to become a certified athletic trainer, a student must earn a degree from an accredited program.

Over the years, the field of athletic training has changed and flourished across the country, Risinger says. Students who graduate with degrees in athletic training now have a wider array of employment opportunities, he explains, including professional sports, college sports, education, as well as jobs in hospitals and clinics.

ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM

Sets a High Bar



The rise in interest for athletic training as a major field of study in universities like AU has also resulted in an increase in female enrollment.

“In the beginning, it was a rather male-oriented profession,” Risinger says. Now, he estimates that 50 percent or more of the athletic training students he sees at AU are female.

Anderson’s athletic training program stands out not only because it was the first, but also because it provides a high standard of education in facilities that are hard to beat.

Risinger says he thinks students get a great education at AU. “We focus on quality,” he says. “We produce some outstanding students.”

“We focus on clinical education, which I think is an advantage,” Merckx says. She also said that AU’s sports medicine training facilities are top of the line, a factor that students and trainers alike notice, especially when traveling to other schools. “We’ve just been blessed,” she says. Merckx speculated that the program’s numbers have increased since the opening of Kardatzke Wellness Center in autumn 2002.

Bruce Willard BS ’90, spent 14 years working for Butler University, eight of which were as director of sports medicine. He now works as an outreach athletic trainer for Methodist Sports Medicine/The Orthopedic Specialists in Fishers, Ind., a job which entails providing the athlete medical care at Fishers High School. He says AU prepared him very well for his career in athletic training.

“To this day, I refer back to things I learned as far back as my freshman year at AU. I also vividly remember a couple of ‘come to Jesus’ talks with Steve Risinger that really helped me see the road I should go down with my life and career. I probably really needed those talks, although they scared me to death at the time!”

Willard is one of countless success stories to come out of the AU athletic training program. Some others include:

Zach Jones BS ’07 who has worked for the Indianapolis Indians, the Triple-A affiliate baseball team for the Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Also, **Jason Good BS ’05**, who is currently the director of athletic training for the Ohio State University Buckeyes.

"I chose the athletic training program at AU is because of the facilities. In my opinion, the athletic training room that I get to learn in every day is the best Division III athletic training room in the country." —ELLIOTT REIFF

"We have a really, really high placement rate," Merckx says. According to her, graduating athletic training students tend to be very successful in finding jobs, and, in her opinion, a lot of that is due to Risinger and the extensive number of contacts he has outside the school. She also says there is a broad alumni group from which to draw that helps graduates find jobs and current students find internships.

AU athletic training graduates live and work all over the world, some on the high school or college level, others in professional sports or in more traditional medical institutions. Similarly, AU athletic training students have found internships with a wide array of organizations.

Merckx said that students land internships with professional sports teams on a regular basis. "Every year we have student interns with the [Indianapolis] Colts," she says. Past students have also interned with the Indianapolis Indians and the Indianapolis Pacers.

Junior **Elliott Reiff** will be interning with the NFL this summer.

"This summer I will have an internship with the Buffalo Bills athletic training staff in the National Football League," he says. "I will be with the team starting in early July until the end of August. I am extremely excited for this challenging opportunity because it will put my skills to the test."

Senior **Kelsey Rusterholz** interned at St. Vincent's Sports Performance the summer of 2012 between her sophomore and junior years at AU.

"At the time I didn't feel very prepared and wasn't very knowledgeable when it came to different injuries. However, going through the rest of the program, I think that I have been prepared very well and I am getting more and more confident in my skills and abilities," she says.

Rusterholz continues, "I think that the program at AU challenges the students and stretches them to the limits with homework, projects, and clinical rotations, but looking back on my past four years, I think that all of the long stressful nights have helped to prepare me for a very successful future. Some days it didn't feel like I even had time to breathe because I was so busy, but I wouldn't trade these past four years for anything."

There are many reasons students choose Anderson University's athletic training program. For some, it is the high caliber training facilities, which rival most other NCAA Division III schools and even some bigger Division I schools. For others, it is the small, Christian school atmosphere paired with the excellence in core training.

"I chose the athletic training program at AU because of the facilities," Reiff says. "In my opinion, the athletic training room that I get to learn in every day is the best Division III athletic training room in the country."

Rusterholz says she chose AU not only because it was a small school with excellent facilities, but also because she was able to play soccer there during her freshman and sophomore years while pursuing her athletic training degree, a benefit many other schools do not allow.



ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM

Sets a High Bar

“I was able to balance both school and athletics because of the advisers I have had at AU,” she says. “They made sure I was going to get all the proper classes and still be out on the field in time for practice.”

Natasha Lentz, a senior athletic training major, says when she and her family visited AU and spoke to staff in the program they were “blown away by the kindness and welcoming we received.” She says this, paired with her immediate love for the campus, made it an easy decision to attend AU, despite the fact that she would be studying eight hours away from her home in Pennsylvania.

Yet, it is the quality of the relationships made in AU’s athletic training program that students and faculty alike say they value the most.

Merckx said the students and faculty in the program are “like a big family,” and speculated that they might interact with each other a bit differently than those in other major fields of study, primarily because they are “in the trenches” with each other so much.

“Family” was a word everyone seemed to favor when describing their AU experience.

“The most enjoyable part of being in the athletic training program is the family you gain almost immediately,” said Lentz. “Because of the coursework and required clinical hours you have to get starting freshman year, you are with other athletic training majors almost all day. It provides an easy way to make friends freshman year.”

Lentz continues, “The professors are the parents in our large athletic training family. They are all so willing to open up their houses for us students, for home-cooked meals, birthday celebrations, and even holidays for those of us who live too far away to go home. They really care about each student’s personal life and want to help in any way they can.”

Rusterholz agrees. “College can be a very hard transition time, but coming into the athletic training program I felt as though I could ask anyone for help or guidance and they’d drop whatever they were doing and help me. The faculty in the program have become like second parents to me and I feel that I can talk to them whenever I’m struggling with anything, school related or not.”



Reiff says he has found friendships not only with his fellow athletic training students but also with the student athletes he gets to work with on a daily basis, something he believes may not happen as often at larger schools.

“I have spent a full season with both the baseball team and the men’s basketball team, and I call every one of them friends to this day,” he says. “In being a Division III school, the athletes realize that we are students just like them and they treat us with respect and want to become our friends as well.”

Willard says that he, too, made many lifelong friendships and professional contacts that he carries with him to this day. Now, working with high school students, he advises prospective college students to check Anderson out.



"I tell students looking for an athletic training education to go where they can get a good, solid clinical education along with an excellent practical experience. AU provides this type of an education" —BRUCE WILLARD ,BA '90

"I tell students looking for an athletic training education to go where they can get a good, solid clinical education along with an excellent practical experience starting very early in the college experience. AU provides this type of an education," he says.

Ultimately, Risinger says he feels athletic training as a whole is "still in its infant stages," and that, based on the huge growth and evolution of the field in general, there is bound to be a lot more interest and a lot more development in the future.

Risinger says a master's program for athletic training at AU is not impossible to imagine down the road. However, he says he would like to see the program stay geared toward undergraduates with an option to pursue specializations.

For current AU athletic training undergraduates, however,

the current workload of studies is sufficiently demanding for the time being.

"The most challenging part of the athletic training program is the rigorous coursework," says Lentz. "It takes someone with excellent time management and good study skills to make it through the program."

She continues, "Your day consists of going to athletic training classes in the morning, working sports practices and/or games in the afternoon, and studying for your athletic training classes at night. Time management is definitely key to this major."

"I think the biggest challenge for me personally is yet to come," says Rusterholz, who graduated in May. "It'll be a hard adjustment to go from a huge family to flying solo, but I've been taught by some of the best."



Homecoming 2014 Calendar of Events

Thursday, Oct. 16

11 a.m. Homecoming Chapel
6-8 p.m. 3rd Annual Alumni Career Fair

Friday, Oct. 17

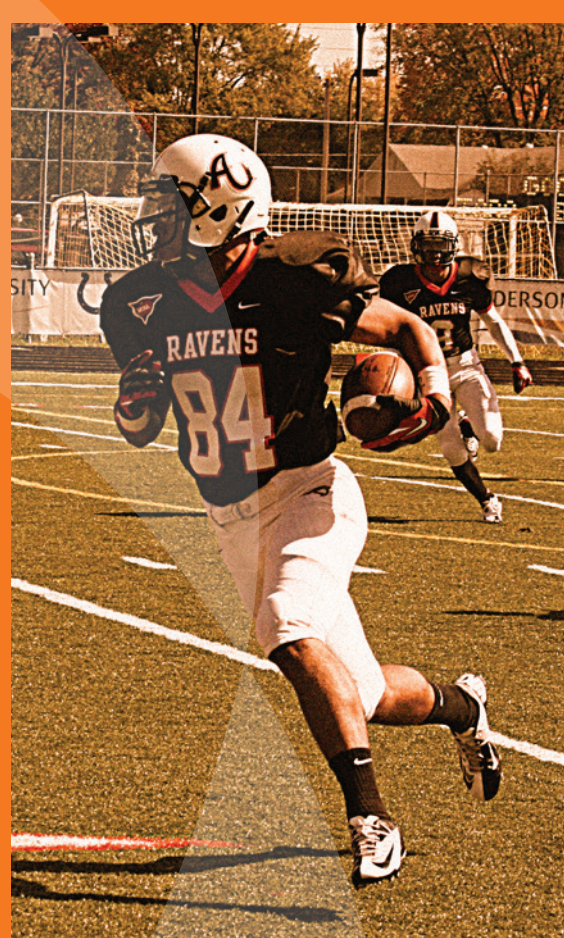
7 a.m.-1 p.m. Discovery Day
6:30-9:30 p.m. Reception in the Valley
Luminaries at dusk
7 p.m. L'Ami Alumni Cookout

Friday, Oct. 17 *continued*

7:30 p.m. Homecoming Concert, featuring the
Wind Ensemble & Jazz Ensemble
7:30 & 10 p.m. Cheap Thrills

Saturday, Oct. 18

9 a.m. Club Breakfasts, Departmental
Receptions, Basketball Alumni Game
10 a.m. Baseball Alumni Game



Saturday, Oct. 18 *continued*

- 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Street Fair, Tri-S 50th Anniversary Reception
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Live Webcast from the Street Fair
- 1-4:30 p.m. 1950's, 1960's, 1970's Hospitality Tents
- 1 p.m. AU Women's Soccer vs. Hanover
- 1:30 p.m. AU Football vs. Hanover
- 3 p.m. AU Women's Soccer Alumni Reception
- 3:30 p.m. AU Men's Soccer vs. Hanover

- 5:30 p.m. 3rd Annual Homecoming Banquet and Alumni Awards
- 7 p.m. AU Volleyball vs. Mt. St. Joseph
- 7:30 & 10 p.m. Encore

Sunday, Oct. 19

- 2:30 p.m. Chorale Concert featuring Women's Chorus & Valley Voices



ALUMNI PROFILE: LAURA MARKLE DOWNTON

Alum does her part to end solitary confinement



Ask Laura Markle Downton BA '05

about the U.S. prison system and she minces no words. “A tragedy,” she calls it. Director of U.S. Prisons Policy and Program for the Nation-

al Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), Downton has seen it up close: Behind bars and in super maximum security (or “supermax”) prisons built exclusively for solitary confinement.

She has also seen the system’s failure in the faces of ex-convicts — “the vast majority African Americans incarcerated for nonviolent drug offenses” — confronted with insurmountable barriers to living-wage work. Those faces helped propel Downton to her present assignment, representing the faith community in advocating for reform of the corrections system, including an end to solitary confinement.

“The U.S. has 5% of the world’s population and 25% of the world’s incarcerated,” she says. “That is not rooted primarily in individuals making bad decisions but in bad policy.” Three-strikes (you’re out) laws and mandatory minimum sentencing, Downton explains, have led to a 400% increase in the rate of incarceration in the US over the last 40 years.

“It’s completely out of proportion, unsustainable, and counter to Christian understandings of second chances and restoration,” she says.

The use of isolation, which the U.S. Supreme Court in 1890 said constituted torture, has likewise accelerated in recent decades, the result of a “get-tough-on-crime” mentality.

“On any given day, more than 80,000 adults and youth in our prisons and jails are held in solitary confinement, locked 23-24 hours a day in a cell the size of your bath-

room. It is treatment that many would object to animals being subjected to,” she adds, and leads to mental deterioration and needless trauma. Yet, Downton says, it has become the “default management tool” as our prison system replaces drug and mental health treatment facilities for those without access. Since the 1980s, the US has gone from one isolating “supermax” prison to more than 40.

But the work of Downton, NRCAT, and their partners has led to newfound awareness, hearings in the U.S. Congress, and legislative reform efforts in states across the country. In Maine, a 70% reduction in the use of isolation has already resulted in a significant increase in institutional safety, says Downton, as prisoner violence and agitation decreases.

For the family science major, 2010 Princeton Theological Seminary graduate, and certified candidate for ordination in the United Methodist Church, hers is a ministry of healing and human rights. It first found inspiration on a Tri-S trip to Washington, D.C., and in the work of fellow alum **Mike Little BA '84** providing transitional housing to recovering addicts.

“We follow a Savior who was himself branded a felon and executed by the state,” Markle Downton says, “and he told us that what we do to those who are in prison, we’re doing to him. So our mandate is pretty clear.” —DAVID HARNESSE

Submit class notes and obituaries

We welcome and encourage updates from Anderson University alumni about achievements, milestones, additions to the family, and other important life events. Class notes and obituaries will be shared through the online edition of the magazine. To submit a class note or obituary visit www.anderson.edu/signatures and fill out the online form.

A Full Life

In her condo near the Anderson University campus, **Ann Espey Smith BA '58** is surrounded by reminders of her years in Asia — Hakata dolls, tetsubin teapots, a portrait of an old friend in Japan.

"I didn't pick these pieces because they go together," says Ann. "Each one has a story."

The story encompasses 30 years during which Ann and her late husband, **Nathan Smith BA '48**, served as Church of God missionaries, mostly in Japan but in South Korea as well.

While they were stationed overseas, the couple also hosted the first Tri-S group to visit Japan. That was in 1967.

"Tri-S has just been such a joy to me," says Ann. "Nick [President Robert Nicholson] led the first group. It was a wonderful group of kids, and they stayed seven weeks."

Ann said that Tri-S helped her to stay in touch with something of the 1960s youth culture in America while living her life in Japan.

Ann sees her decades-long investment in AU as merely returning the favor. She recalls with obvious appreciation how AU changed her life when she arrived on campus as a 23-year-old freshman in 1948.

Ann had been 16 when she and her four older siblings lost their father in a drowning accident. That forced her to quit high school and spend six years working in a steel mill.

"When my grandfather died, that left my mother and me," she says. "My mother said that if I could find a way to go to school, then I should go."

Ann, who knew of AU because of her Church of God background, packed her bags and headed north.

"I had never been to Indiana in my entire life," she recalls, "but I showed up on the doorstep and said, 'I'm Ann and I want to go to school' — and they didn't laugh."

The prospective freshman was given three days of testing to see if she was college material, and then she was accepted



on probation because she hadn't completed high school. But she said she succeeded in part through the encouragement of Professor Carl Kardatzke.

"I'd look in the mailbox and there'd be little scraps of paper that would say things like 'Good job' and 'I knew you could do it,'" she says. "The whole first year, he sent me notes.

"People at Anderson College saw me as a person of potential, and they invested themselves in me, and they believed in something I couldn't see and had never experienced before. It changed my life forever."

Ann met Nathan at Anderson, and they were married in January 1950. A year later they left for Japan.

The couple's primary task in Japan was starting churches. They focused on working with college-age people and reaching the broader community through them.

"I love the country of Japan — the physical beauty of Japan is incredible," Ann says. "The people are gracious and kind. We lived there for 26 years."

Nathan died of cancer in 2003. At age 89, Ann stays busy with friends, church, and community. "My life is full," she says. "If I could live my life over, I'd certainly do some things differently, but there are three decisions I would make again: I would follow Jesus, I would marry Nathan, and I would go to Japan." —COURTNEY BRANDSMA

Signatures

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The College

56 Evelyn Allen Harper BS shares that she began writing at the age of 75 and now that the age of 82, she has eight published books. “The first six, *The Accidental Mystery Series*, I self-published, and the next two were published by a California publisher.” Of the last two, *The Coat* was printed in January. Its sequel will be available in October. For more information, visit Evelyn’s website at www.evelynallen-harper.com. She adds, “I give luncheon and after-dinner speeches at senior centers and assisted living groups titled ‘You Are Never Too Old to Dream.’”

68 Christina Ericson Lovin announces the publication of her fourth and fifth volumes of poetry. The chapbook *Flesh* was published in December 2013 by Finishing Line Press. A new full-length book of poems, *ECHO*, was released in January by Bottom Dog Press (Harmony Series). *ECHO* was funded by the Elizabeth George Foundation, Kentucky Foundation for Women, and Kentucky Arts Council. Lovin’s other books include *A Stirring in the Dark* (2012), *Little Fires* (2008), and *What We Burned for Warmth* (2006). Lovin, who holds an MFA from New England College, is a lecturer in the English and Theatre Department at Eastern Kentucky University.

81 Sterling Evans BA received the Edwin Lieuwen Award for the promotion of excellence in the teaching

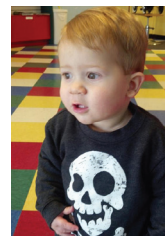
of Latin American Studies. The award was announced at the Rocky Mountain Conference for Latin American Studies in April. Sterling is the director of graduate studies at The University of Oklahoma.

82 Chris Wagner BA ’82, a computer science major, served on active duty in the Marine Corps for 27 years. He is now a program lead engineer at Marine Corps Systems Command for a system called Networking-On-The-Move (NTOM). He recently completed six weeks of testing at Camp Pendleton, Calif., of the Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV) variant of the system. Chris writes, “Although I didn’t specialize in computers while on active duty, my degree was put to good use during my last few years on active duty and since retirement as a government employee.” Pictured is the NOTM AAV variant returning from water borne testing off the coast of southern California. Chris is wearing the yellow life vest.

86 Traci Nichols-Belt BA celebrates the publication of her latest book, *John Sevier: Tennessee’s First Hero*, published by The History Press. Traci co-authored the book with her husband, Gordon. It is the second book they have written together. John Sevier was a celebrated soldier, admired politician, and founding father from the state of Tennessee. Readers can access the book through www.historypress.net. It is also available as an e-book.

98 Ginger Wickline BA was selected

to submit an autobiography for the American Psychological Association for a book they are publishing on exemplary psychology teachers. This follows the selection of Ginger for the STP Wayne Weiten Teaching award for two-year colleges in 2013. She currently teaches at Miami University. She and her husband, **Adam Wickline BA ’97**, have been married 15 years. Their children are ages 7 and 2. Ginger writes, “Life is crazy hectic but good.”



02 Tiffany Miller Thompson BA and her husband,

Travis, welcomed their fourth child, Nathanael John, on Jan. 28, 2014. He was welcomed home by a brother, Benjamin, and two sisters, Sydney and Jessa.



08 Bonnie Sorensen BA married Chris Corwin on May 3, 2014. Chris is a small business owner and entrepreneur. Bonnie works at the University of Iowa. They live in Iowa City, Iowa.

13 Adam Millikan BA ’13 was named a 2014 Woodrow Wilson Ohio Teaching Fellow. The fellowship recruits top-quality teacher candidates to teach math and science in high-need Ohio schools. Each fellow receives a \$30,000 stipend while completing a rigorous master’s program at one of seven participating Ohio universities. Each fellow commits to three years of teaching in Ohio’s high-need schools.



REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS

Betty Lou Walker Campbell BS '53 died Dec. 4, 2013. She was married to John Douglas Campbell. They had two children. The couple worked together in ministry. She is survived by her husband and children.

The Rev. Paul Raymond Wagner BTh '51, MDiv '56 died Feb. 26, 2014. He served as a minister in Kansas for more than five decades. He and his wife, **Gloria K. Ikast Wagner '51**, moved to South Dakota, where he served as senior minister of visitation at the Morningside Community Church. Gloria passed away in May 2013. They had been married 66 years. Paul is survived by their three children, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Woodrow Wilson McIntyre BTh '47 died March 6, 2014. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He married **Dorothy Mae Pitchford BA '42** in 1943. They had four children. He worked in ministry and as a chiropractor. His wife preceded him in death. He is survived by their four children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Sarah Lash Long Kakasuleff '44 died March 9, 2014. She worked as a switchboard operator for Bell Telephone in the planning department of the City of Anderson and at Layman Life Insurance. She is survived by her husband, Mircho "Mike" Kasasuleff, and their children and grandchildren.

Jane Bradford BA '52 died March 14, 2014, in Decatur, Ala. She was well known for her support of the Sixth Avenue Church of God. She lived in Anderson, Ind., for many years, working as an artist and travel agent. She returned to Decatur in the 1970s to care for her mother. She worked for the Alabama Church of God.

The Rev. Adel Masri BA '88 died April 7, 2014. He is remembered by his family, friends, students, and congregations as a great evangelist, scholar, and missiologist.

Rita Jo (Hankins) Yerden BS '59 died May 5, 2014. She was a retired piano teacher and organist, active at Park Place Church of God in Anderson, Ind., and as a music volunteer at Bethany Pointe Health Campus. She is survived by three children and nine grandchildren. She was the former wife of **Paul E. Yerden BS '59**.

The Rev. Richard Lowell Swank BS '49, BTh '50 died May 9, 2014. He was a World War II air force veteran. He was married to **Mary Martha Youngblood BS '49**. Richard began his ministry as a minister of music. Over the years he served several congregations from Ohio to San Francisco to Kodiak, Alaska. He was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by four children, 13 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Barbara Best BS '55 died May 23, 2014. She spent her career as an elementary music teacher in Alabama. She is survived by her sister.

Joan Elizabeth Livingston BS '62 died May 29, 2014. She held nursing degrees from Anderson University and Johns Hopkins University. She was married to David Livingston, who preceded her in death in 2010. They had been married 58 years. She and her husband worked as medical missionaries in Kenya from 1956-1967. Also preceding her in death is a son and an infant daughter. She is survived by three children, 10 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

Mary Louise (Ahlemann) Loewen '48 died June 16, 2014. She was married to the late **Charles "Chuck" H. Loewen BA '50**. She is survived by her two daughters and four grandsons.

**REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS** *continued*

Dorothy Lee (Brown) Rider BS '53 died July 2, 2014.

She was the widow of the late Rev. **Paul Herbert Rider BA '54**. She taught elementary school for 42 years and was deeply involved in the Women of the Church of God. She is survived by two sons, one daughter, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Dr. Ralph Byrum BA '50 died June 26, 2014.

He and his wife, Irene, served the United Methodist Church until his retirement and death. He is survived by his wife. They were married 67 years. He is also survived by two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Nancy "Petie" Joann Lindahl Courtney Persing BA '70 died July 11, 2014. She married Don Courtney.

The couple moved to Anderson, Ind., and raised five children. After Don's death, she married Tom Persing, who survives. In addition to her children, she is survived by 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Mona Ruth Ninemire BA '86 died July 26, 2014. She

worked as an account manager. She was preceded in death by her mother, but is survived by her father, four siblings, and several nieces and nephews.