



SPRING 2020

ECHOES

CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH THE UNCHANGING WORD

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Blossoming Into A Brighter Future

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JULY 6-10, 2020

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Statement of Mission

The Baptist College of Florida shall operate within the context of a Christian worldview to promote, provide for, operate and control a program of education and training for Christian leaders through awarding certificates and associate, baccalaureate and graduate degrees in a co-educational post-secondary setting.

To fulfill its mission, the college seeks to develop those qualities in students that contribute to effective ministry. In the area of personal growth, we seek to foster a desire for knowledge; develop cultural awareness by introducing students to a wide range of knowledge; nurture the ability to acquire, evaluate, assimilate, and use information; and promote personal and social maturity.

For spiritual growth, we provide the resources for gaining biblical and religious data; we also assist students in learning and living the Christian life. In terms of professional growth, students are enabled to gain the credentials that enhance opportunities for ministry, and they learn to master a specialized body of knowledge.

At the same time, we encourage positive attitudes toward ministry and foster both an awareness of and a loyalty to the Southern Baptist heritage.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The beautiful picture on the cover of this issue captures the beauty of Spring and the source of that new beauty. I always look forward to the blossoms on campus as our Lord reminds us of the fact that new life is always in process through His power. This particular issue of Echoes provides me with a way to say a heartfelt “Thank You” to each of you who has supported The Baptist College of Florida through your prayers and your financial gifts. We simply could not do the work that our Lord has given to us without your faithfulness.

In 2013, we launched an ambitious program called 2020 Vision: A Focused Plan for a Brighter Future. It is hard to realize that in a few short weeks we will celebrate the completion of that emphasis. God has poured out His blessings in ways that we had anticipated as well as in ways that we had never dreamed possible. Much of what we planned has been accomplished while other

goals remain before us. Also, much of what we did not anticipate has been accomplished through our Lord’s guidance and your generosity. I look forward to celebrating these blessings with you in the coming weeks.

Please note on the cover of this issue of Echoes the statement Blossoming Into a Brighter Future. For the last seven years, we have been focusing and planning as we have carried out the mandate of our Lord. Now is the time for the Blossoming. Plans for a Central Florida Campus are blossoming through a pilot course this semester and the opening of classes on site in August 2020. Plans for the utilization of the Blue Springs property in Marianna are blossoming as we are in negotiations with a very successful Christian camp that desires to open an additional location in Marianna. Recovery efforts from Hurricane Michael damage are blossoming as we continue to make repairs on campus while still negotiating with our insurance carrier. I am looking forward

to sharing with you further details of Blossoming Into a Brighter Future in the coming weeks.

Our Lord has blessed The Baptist College of Florida in untold numbers of amazing ways. In most of those ways, He has used individuals such as you. The days in which we are living are the most challenging that I have ever encountered. In order to stand as a Christian institution of higher education, we must live out the daily resolve to work and walk in a path counter to the culture around us. We have done that since 1943, and we are totally surrendered to doing that in the future. We need your continued help. Please pray for us. Please support us financially. Please help us to recruit Christian students so that we might give them the opportunity to become Christian Leaders.

God Bless You,

Thomas A. Kinchen, President



BCF Maintenance, Daniel Hyde, painting in the Administration Building.



Thank you, COM.

BCF Campus Blessed by Volunteers

The Baptist College of Florida (BCF) in Graceville, Fla., not only appreciates but depends on the mission volunteers that come to the campus and faithfully serve. The volunteers this year came from states both near and far with the latest ones representing Georgia, Missouri, Tennessee, and Florida.

While at the Graceville campus, the men have installed new bathrooms, constructed room partitions in the Administration Building and converted several married student housing units into lodging for camp attendees. Another gentleman, from Missouri, worked night and day to build new shelves in the Archive Building to house books from the hurricane damaged library. To date he has built a total of 31 units consisting of 258 shelves.

Several of the ladies have worked alongside office employees helping where needed, providing a sweet spirit of encouragement, and tremendous helping hand. Other ladies have been busy sewing in the log cabin located in Heritage Village, making items for pregnancy

centers, nursing homes, and for the children's homes.

Campers have stated that although they come to help the college, they are the ones truly blessed by being able to serve on a campus such as BCF. The faculty and staff have been amazed and eternally grateful for the mission volunteers that give of their time, talent, and resources to make a difference on the campus! Special projects and much needed assistance is their forte and everyone on the campus benefits from their expertise and experience.

BCF was blessed to have 138 volunteers on campus this year to include, Blue Mt. College (252 hours), Apopka/ Tangerine (336 hours), FBC Orlando (1792 hours), Campers on Mission (588 hours), Mike McComb (91 hours), Ryan Knight (219 hours), Teen Pact Florida (1120 hours), and BCF Disaster Relief (744 hours) for a total of 5142 hours. We are thankful for these incredible volunteers and their irreplaceable impact!



Campers on Mission (COM) volunteers.



Ryan Knight built 258 shelves in the Archive building.



Dr. William Cook.

BCF Hosts Biblical Interpretation Conference

The Baptist College of Florida (BCF) in Graceville recently hosted the 2020 *Biblical Interpretation Conference*, 'The Battle of the Ages: Satan, Demons, and the Victory of God.' This year's conference that was held on March 9 and 10 directed participants to a better understanding of what scripture reveals about Satan, demons, and God's ultimate victory. Professor of New Testament Interpretation at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS) William F. Cook, led the conference by speaking in chapel both days and leading several sessions expounding on the power of prayer and God's ultimate victory.

In addition to serving as the New Testament Interpretation Professor at SBTS, Cook is the Lead Pastor at Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville,

KY. He is the author of *John: Jesus Christ is God*, and co-author of *Spiritual Warfare in the Storyline of Scripture: A Biblical, Theological and Practical Approach*. Excellent preacher, teacher, and no stranger to BCF, Cook served on the faculty in Graceville for ten years before accepting his current position. The conference was a great experience for students and visitors as they had the opportunity to learn how to stop fighting the battle when it's already been won. BCF welcomed local pastors, the Graceville community, and many out of town visitors to the timely conference.

On Monday, Cook shared from Daniel 10:4-9 on "Spiritual Warfare." In the second session, held

in the college dining facility, the Deese Center, Cook explained the temptations of Jesus. The afternoon session focused on Mark 5 and the Gadarene Demonic and then session 4 finished the day with Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira. Tuesday's sessions begin in the Mills Center where Cook examined the Armor of God from Ephesians 6:10-20. Session 6 took place in the R.G. Lee Chapel looking through Genesis 3:1-21 where the Battle begins. The conference concluded with a time of open questions and answers in the Gallery of the Deese Center.



Dr. Mark Rathel.

2019

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In deep appreciation to those who have shared the vision and supported the mission of The Baptist College of Florida, the following list acknowledges gifts received during the preceding calendar year. Extreme care is exercised to ensure accuracy in the annual report of gifts. Please call (800) 328-2660 ext. 416 for questions or to provide additional information. Gifts to The Baptist College of Florida are an investment in the preparation of men and women for Christian service and ministry. Supporters are recognized in categories on the following pages for their faithfulness and generosity!

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 Violet Hayward
 Eta J. Hilton

Dr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Kinchen
 Charles & Dorothy Litzell
 William Stuart & Frances McArthur
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McDougal
 Lucius Henry McMullen
 Henry Messer
 Leona B. Newman
 Mary C. Ogletree
 Charles A. & Lenore Pearson
 Shoffie Riley Newton Phillips
 Lela M. Prescott
 Anne Rathje

Rev. & Mrs. John H. Reynolds
 Betty Richards
 Lewis & Mabel Rogers
 Dillard F. Sebastian
 Charles D. Shore
 Irene Hale Skinner
 Conrad & Ruth B. St. John
 Norma Taylor
 James H. Warren, Sr.
 Sam Weeks
 R.C. and Lois Mills

BCF Hosts Successful Preview Day

Each semester, faculty, staff, and students at The Baptist College of Florida (BCF) in Graceville host an open house event known as Preview Day. For many prospective students, it is a special day when the Lord makes it clear to them that BCF is where they should continue their education. This semester on March 6, prospective students were able to get a feel for campus life and determine if BCF is where the Lord will equip and prepare them for the future.

After arriving on campus, potential students and their families gathered in the BCF Wellness Center where they were greeted with smiling faces and lots of information. The guests were given welcome bags packed with material relating to campus life and the different degree opportunities available at BCF. During this time of registration, campus visitors were encouraged to visit twenty different exhibit displays with information on campus housing, financial aid, student life activities, BCF's Campus Safety, intramural sports, mission opportunities, disaster relief, and all of the degree programs. Additional booths were available to help students succeed in their college experience to include the Quality Enhancement Program (QEP), library, writing center, and the computer lab. To add to the excitement was a balloon filled photo booth, complete with fun props, where guests could take a picture to remember their trip to Preview Day.

BCF Director of Student Life and Marketing Sandra Richards started

the day off with a huge welcome and presented several \$500 scholarships to prospective students that drove the farthest to attend. She thanked everyone for being a part of such a special day in the life of the campus and made note of the fact that there were six BCF Alumni in attendance with prospective students from their area of influence. It was exciting and humbling to have alumni show off their alma mater.

After the welcome, Richards went over the schedule of events for the day. Prospective students were given the opportunity to experience a typical day in the life of a BCF student as they visited a class of their desired degree interest. The classroom visits included mission/evangelism/theology, teacher education, music, general ed/psychology, dual enrollment, business leadership, and a financial aid briefing. The classroom visits were designed to provide information on the student's academic interest, meet the professors in that area, and learn more about financial aid and dual enrollment.

Immediately following the classroom visits, guests made their way to the R.G. Lee Chapel where chapel services are held three days a week. The Preview Day chapel service began by highlighting the talented musical groups on campus such as the BCF College Choir and Orchestra, College Singers, One Voice, and the Guitar



Katie Gleason and Hailey High with Izzy.

Ensemble. BCF President Thomas A. Kinchen was unable to be there but he sent a video message for prospective students encouraging them to see if BCF is where the Lord may be leading them.

Following chapel, a delicious lunch was prepared by the college dining facility, the Deese Center. During lunch, guests had the chance to mingle with current students and faculty while enjoying the electric sounds of the BCF Jazz Band. After lunch, visitors had a chance to tour campus housing with the BCF Resident Assistants (RAs) or tour the campus with the BCF Admissions Counselors. As prospective students walked into the dorms, current students lined the hallway eager to answer any questions on dorm life.

The day concluded with a BCF faculty vs. BCF student (intramural championship team) basketball game. Both teams left the building as winners, although the faculty can finally say they won one. After the game, a BCF gift basket was given away and several more \$500 scholarships were awarded. As prospective students and their families left the campus, they were encouraged to take advantage of the waived \$25 application fee and apply to The Baptist College of Florida and change the world.



BCF Continues the Sweet Cookie Day Tradition



Olan Strickland, Collin Dollar, and Sandra Richards excitedly grab cookies.

The Baptist College of Florida (BCF) in Graceville received a surprise delivery on March 9, from First Lady Ruth Ann Kinchen. The special delivery called for a campus-wide celebration as the sweet tooth cravings of the BCF family were filled. Early Monday morning, the First Lady arrived on campus bearing trays filled with the sweet aroma of homemade cookies. The trays of cookies were dispersed throughout the dorm and campus offices, ensuring that everyone enjoyed the BCF family tradition known as "Cookie Day."

Over the years, the First Lady has kept this sweet tradition alive simply because of the pure joy it brings to faculty, staff, and students during their busy schedules. Ms. Ruth Ann's generous heart serves as a reminder to students that BCF is more than just classrooms and homework, it's a family.



BCF First Lady Continues a Sweet Tradition!

**IZZY'S ISLE
CAMPUS STORE**

Anniversary

3/11/20



FIND US ONLINE AT [HTTPS://THE-BAPTIST-COLLEGE-OF-FLORIDA.SQUARE.SITE/](https://the-baptist-college-of-florida.square.site/)

ALUMNI UPDATES |

to update your alumni information or to have a packet of promotional information sent to you, please contact us at 800.328.2660 ext. 513 or alumni@baptistcollege.edu

'70

Caskey, Gerald ('74)

and his wife Debbie live in Gibsonia, PA. They can be reached at 724-687-0236; pastorcaskey@gmail.com

'80

Goodman, William ('88)

and his wife Tammy live in DeFuniak Springs, FL. They can be reached at 850-865-4823; wlg041864@aol.com

'00

Jones, Mark ('03)

is the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Cordele, GA. Jones and his wife Angi live in Cordele, GA. They can be reached at 229-322-8577; 710ezra@gmail.com

Buckner, Clay ('06)

is serving as Associate Pastor and teacher at Tahlequah First Indian Baptist Church of Tahlequah, OK. Buckner lives in Tahlequah, OK and can be reached at 918-207-6011; claybuck4@yahoo.com

Williams, Shelby ('08)

lives in Gainesville, FL and can be reached at 352-301-2913; shelbyalyssa86@yahoo.com

'10

Morris, Jenna ('15)

has taught Kindergarten for the past three years in Tallahassee, FL. In August of 2019, Morris became the Children's Ministry Associate at her home church. Canopy Roads Baptist in Tallahassee. Morris also serves with Child Evangelism Fellowship, a global non-profit organization, that is reaching millions of children daily. Morris is able to teach God's Word to children through Good News Club which takes place in public schools. Morris loves being able to reach the next generation for Christ both at church and in her community. Morris lives in Tallahassee, FL and can be reached at 850-345-8223; georgiagirl0423@comcast.net

Schneider, Jared ('15)

is teaching 6th and 7th grade Bible, math, and science at Dayspring Christian Academy in Marianna,

FL. Schneider is the Worship/ Youth Pastor at Crossroads Baptist Church in Cottondale, FL. Schneider participates in the Tri-State Community Choir in Dothan, AL. Schneider and his wife Alexandra live in Graceville, FL and can be reached at 850-393-5066; rttiger13@gmail.com

Knight, Hannah ('17)

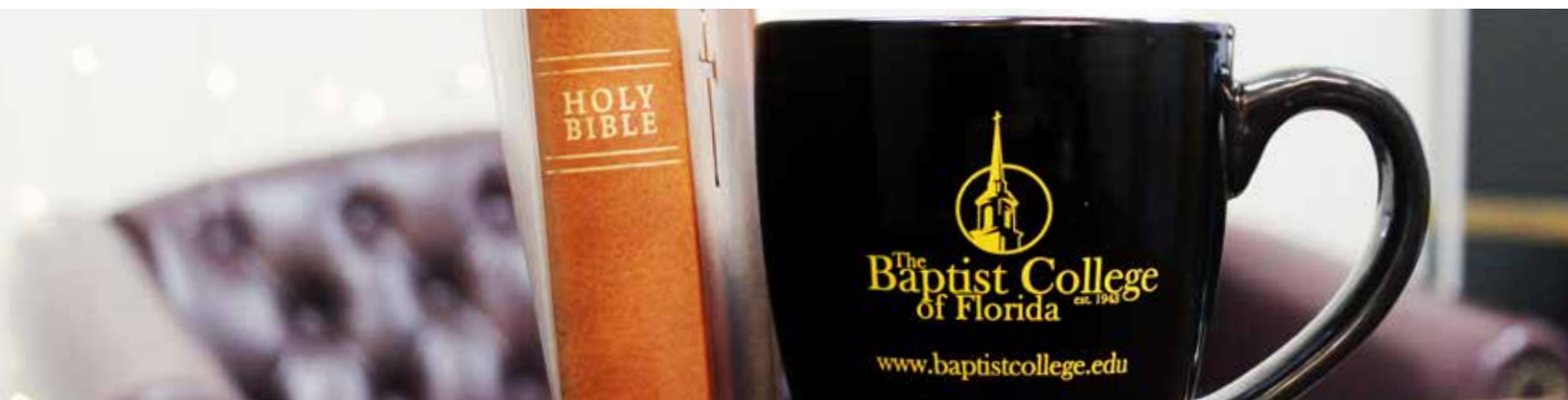
has been serving as the girls' minister to 7th-12th grade girls in a Dallas suburb. Knight and her husband Cody live in Wylie, TX. They can be reached at 229-588-0267; knighthannah11@gmail.com

Logan, Kristy ('17)

is the Media Coordinator at Calvary Worship Center. Her husband Shay is the School of Ministry Dean and LifeGroup pastor. They live in Colorado Springs, CO and can be reached at 719-660-5499; kristyl@cwccs.org

Howard, Josh ('19)

has published a book, "Determined to be Desperate." It is an in-depth look at the call of Isaiah in seeking a desperation for Jesus Christ. "Determined to be Desperate" can be purchased on Amazon.



DEGREES

MASTER OF ARTS

Christian Studies
Counseling
Music and Worship Leadership

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Biblical Studies
Business Leadership
Christian Studies
Education Studies
Elementary Education
English
English Secondary Education
History & Social Studies
History & Social Studies Sec. Ed.
Leadership & Christian Education
Ministry
Ministry Studies
Missions
Missions (Concentration in Aviation)
Psychology
Music

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Worship Leadership
Education

ASSOCIATE

Associate of Arts in General Studies
Associate of Arts in Music
Associate of Divinity