“Being a fifth-generation Texan, I like to think of us as being fiercely independent, fiercely protective of our communities and the people in those communities,” Pittman said. “That’s exactly what this model does.”
Alumni and Friends,

as the days lengthen and we begin to think about tilling the soil and planting flowers that will sprout into something beautiful to behold, so too do we in higher education look forward to new beginnings and new challenges. One of the roots of the word educate is from the Latin word educere meaning “to lead or draw out of.” Drawing out the inherent potential of our students is what McMurry University does to make a difference to the future. Whether it is smoothing transitions from high school, community colleges, or a period of “stop out” to take care of a child or an elderly parent, McMurry is crafting a customized environment to enhance student success – no matter what the student’s prior situation before joining the McMurry academic community.

We’ve designed a first-year experience that enriches the initial year in college. We’ve identified the barrier courses that give students difficulties and have put resources into supplemental instruction to improve student success in these demanding courses. We’ve created a fully on-line general business degree. We’ve established partnerships with Cisco College and Western Texas College that will ease the transition from the college setting to a university environment. We’ll be adding more night and weekend offerings to serve those who have family and work obligations during the day as well as new majors in criminology and criminal justice. We are in the preliminary stages of creating new science-related majors with heightened student research opportunities and a new business-related focus on entrepreneurship.

In addition to these programmatic and structural changes, an academic environment should challenge all of the members of its community to learn from others who are wiser, who are different, and who have competing visions of the future. According to the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, “Colleges and universities bear a unique responsibility to society. They foster dialogue and the examination of divergent perspectives, even those that could be considered objectionable.” To be able to have a civil dialogue about issues of great import is a cornerstone of higher education. A key element of a McMurry education is the access to a rigorous education which examines the world from multiple perspectives. While this may be challenging in these contentious times, McMurry University looks forward to partnering with those individuals and organizations who are committed to lead or draw out of our students their potential to improve our society.

SANDRA S. HARPER, PH.D.
PRESIDENT

This column was originally published in the Abilene Reporter-News Progress Edition
Transforming Healthcare
Austin Pittman ‘91 is Front and Center on National Issue

Determined to Succeed
Danni McMahan ‘12 Overcomes Challenges

Building a Career in Bioethics
Maj. Jeff Matsler ‘89 Fascinated by Concept of Ethics

McMurry Inspires: Volunteering in Guatemala
Tara Goodlow ‘14 Inspired by McMurry Mission Program

Women’s Leadership Luncheon
Fourth annual event highlights former professor Dr. Nancy Jones
Students Attend Event in Austin

Financial aid counselor Misti Hauger traveled with students Thierry Tchenko ’17 and Cody Kovar ’18 to the Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) Student Advocacy Day in Austin on February 21 and 22. The event was an opportunity for students to make contact with their respective representatives and lobby for continued support of the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant. This grant is a huge benefit for many McMurry students and without it, many of them would not be able to attend McMurry. We are grateful to all of our Texas representatives that continue to support this grant for private universities.

Thierry Tchenko ’17 Accepted into Prestigious Master’s Program

Congratulations to senior political science major, McMurry Student Government president, and basketball four year letter winner Thierry Tchenko ’17 as he takes one step further towards his academic and professional pursuits.

Thierry has been accepted into Georgetown University’s prestigious Master’s program in American Government starting Fall 2017. As he awaits details of his financial package, Thierry will be finishing up his Honors Thesis on Christianity and Politics and rounding out his athletic career as a member on the men’s tennis team before graduation in May.
Model UN Team Wins Awards
The McMurry Model UN team won two awards at the National Model UN-Japan conference held November 20-26, 2016.

Representing Portugal and Spain, McMurry’s Model UN team won a delegation award for sponsoring numerous working papers and draft resolutions. Sociology major Quintin Gorman ’17, representing Portugal in the General Assembly, also won an Outstanding Position Paper Award for his recommendations on establishing a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty as a response to mitigating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Model UN delegates were feted by actual UN and Japanese leaders during the conference. The Secretary-General of the United Nations – Ban Ki-Moon – delivered a message of welcome to the Model UN delegates, and the mayor of Kobe, Kizô Hisamoto, spoke at the conference’s opening ceremony. The conference proceedings were covered by 14 different newspapers across Japan, and the City of Kobe also hosted the Economic and Social Council committee in its City Hall chambers during the final morning session. All delegates were given one minute to speak before the assembly, which was aired live on TV in Kobe.

Prior to the opening of the conference, the Model UN students traveled to Kyoto to visit World Heritage temples and shrines, and to visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial museum.

Dr. Harper Named to University Senate
Dr. Sandra Harper was one of thirteen new senators for the 2017-2020 quadrennium as The University Senate of the United Methodist Church convened in late January for the first of its two annual meetings.

The University Senate, established as the first accrediting agency in the U.S. in 1892, is an elected body of professionals in higher education created by the General Conference to determine which schools, colleges, universities and theological schools meet the criteria for being listed as institutions affiliated with The United Methodist Church. The University Senate also provides support for the development of educational institutions whose programs reflect significant educational, cultural, social and human issues in a manner reflecting the values held in common by the institutions and the church.

The Senate will reconvene in June 2017. To learn more about the University Senate and to view a listing of senators, visit www.gbhem.org.

Congratulations Dr. Harper
Congratulations to Dr. Sandra Harper for being selected as one of Abilene’s Women of Achievement by the American Association of University Women – Abilene Chapter. Dr. Harper was recognized by the group during their annual luncheon at ACU’s Hunter Welcome Center on Monday, April 3.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation’s leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since their founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.

Victoria Chavez ‘17 Accepted into Summer Internship
McMurry biomedical science student Victoria Chavez ‘17 has been accepted into a summer internship at the University of Washington through the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP).

SHPEP is a national program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with direction and technical assistance provided by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the American Dental Education Association (ADEA).
McMurry Signs Early Admission Articulation Agreement

Under the early admission articulation agreement, McMurry students will be able to begin their studies in Parker’s Doctor of Chiropractic program after their junior year. After the first two trimesters, they will be awarded their bachelor of science degree from McMurry, said Dr. Larry Sharp, associate professor of Biology, pre-medical and pre-dental advisor and Joint Admission Medical Program faculty advisor at McMurry.

Dr. Sandra S. Harper, Phyllis Frase, director of recruitment at Parker University, and Dr. Gary Wilson, professor of Biology sign an early admission Doctor of Chiropractic program articulation agreement on Tuesday, February 14.

Theatre Professor Recognized with Distinguished Alumni Award

Theatre Professor Charlie Hukill has been selected as this year’s recipient of the Stephen F. Austin State University School of Theatre Distinguished Alumni Award. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin in 1977 with a bachelor of fine arts in theatre.

During the afternoon of May 6, he will be in Nacogdoches to conduct a workshop for theatre students and that evening will be the honored guest at the awards convocation.

Group Attends Breast Cancer Symposium

Dr. Malaney O’Connell, visiting assistant professor in Biology and students Rachel Thompson ’17 and L’Ne Kirkes ’17 attended the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium December 6-9. This meeting featured breaking news in breast cancer research and an opportunity for researchers to connect and forge alliances to support the effort to understand and defeat this disease.

The McMurry group is part of Dr. O’Connell’s research team and their attendance at the meeting was funded by a grant from the Geographical Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMaP), funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Williams Accepted to Prestigious Leadership Program

Senior English and Writing major, Dorothy Williams was accepted to the NEW Leadership program held at the University of Texas at Austin June 1-6, 2017. She was one of 36 women chosen from 21 different institutions across the state to participate in the program. “NEW Leadership™ is a national bi-partisan program developed by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University to address the underrepresentation of women in American politics. The six-day residential summer institute educates college women about the important role that politics plays in their lives and encourages them to become effective leaders in the political arena.”

After graduating in May, Dorothy plans on obtaining her Ph.D. in Africana Women’s Studies.
My initial weeks at McMurry University as the new Dean of Students and Campus Life have coincided with the beginning of the spring semester 2017. I have felt a warm, friendly welcome by so many students, faculty and staff.

In the evenings, I have taken the opportunity to walk the campus and explore - partly to learn building names, athletic facilities and the like, but also to get a sense of the campus culture and history. What a rich history it is! I've noted the various campus building names and walked through campus spots that McMurry alums will recognize such as the T.I.P. Anchor Garden and the Ko Sari Oak Grove. This helps me to understand the history and heritage of the place similar to my own alma mater, Alderson Broaddus University, in my home state of West Virginia. As I get settled here, I am enjoying the opportunity to learn about my new home in Texas.

One thing I know already about McMurry students is that they are involved! In my short time here, I have been able to take advantage of attending men’s and women’s basketball games and a tennis match. I even had a chance to meet the swim team at poolside in the Phillips Activity Center and attend an art exhibition opening in the Ryan Fine Arts Center. That’s not all. I’ve met the Resident Assistants, students involved in Campus Activities Board, McMurry Student Government, social clubs and other campus groups. I can’t wait to see students in McMurry’s choral and instrumental groups and theater productions! These “involvements” build leadership skills, life skills and require students to make decisions in one way or another that impacts their lives and the lives of those around them. They learn to work effectively with others, weigh alternatives and work toward consensus – all skills that build their character, personal skills and insight into how to get along in our diverse world.

I have always been passionate about students’ growth and success. I enjoy the opportunities to get to know their personal stories – where they are from, their majors, their passions and interests. The work we do in the student affairs area is focused on the development of our students – academically, socially, spiritually, emotionally and in many other ways. At McMurry, we are focused on this development of students as individuals – in the classroom, in the recital hall, the fine arts, on the athletic field and court, in the admissions and financial aid offices, in the dining hall, and other places – it is incredibly valuable work, perhaps even sacred. Working with our students is a calling for our faculty and staff and certainly inspires me to do my best in helping our students focus on developing their best selves – one student at a time. It is an honor to be here and I look forward to the days ahead in this important work!
McMurry Alumnus Front and Center on

TRANSFORMING

healthcare

BY WENDY TAYLOR

It should come as no surprise to those who knew Austin Pittman ’91 when he was at McMurry University that he stands at the center of one of the most monumental issues Americans face today.
The high-energy student, who balanced academics, a healthcare night-shift, student government, football and more, now helps shape the way we look at healthcare access and outcomes in this country. It’s about helping people live healthier lives and to make the health system work better for everyone.

“I don’t sleep – still,” says Pittman, CEO of United Healthcare Community and State, a $33 billion division of United Health Group. “I like being busy. I like being productive. That’s another thing McMurry teaches is that it’s not enough to go through this life and simply show up, do your job and collect your paycheck. I think we’re called to be – and I know I am – as productive of a member of this society as we can.”

Today, Pittman’s group serves nearly six million people who are a mix of economically disadvantaged, medically underserved and those living with a disability or complex health need within 24 states and Washington D.C. Throughout those areas, they manage a combination of more than 70 different public health programs, including Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Special Needs Plans (SNP).

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Today, Pittman’s group serves nearly six million people who are a mix of economically disadvantaged, medically underserved and those living with a disability or complex health need within 24 states and Washington D.C.
costs by working through all aspects of patients’ lives. Their goal remains elevating this small group, which contributes to a high percentage of overall healthcare costs, to improved health and independence, while avoiding greater stressors and higher costs within the healthcare system, such as emergency or long-term, institutional-living care.

“Being a first-generation Texan, I like to think of us as being fiercely independent, fiercely protective of our communities and the people in those communities,” Pittman said. “That’s exactly what this model does.”

Pittman takes pride in the fact that many who might not have the ability to live independently can do so under this program. Others who might be down on their luck often find a way out to better health and a more productive outcome. However, he also notes that heading such an innovative approach, especially with the national spotlight on healthcare, comes with a heavy dose of responsibility. It’s one he feels he shoulders easier due to the multidisciplinary approach he encountered at McMurry.

As a student, Pittman blended liberal arts, sociology and other subjects with his business education. He credits that unusual mix as an asset, as he looks at healthcare not simply as a product or a government program but an entity that affects real people, with real names and often really serious medical conditions.

Today as a McMurry Board of Trustees member and former chair, he sees this interdisciplinary blend as key when looking at the future of the University’s business program. He hopes future students also see the advantages of a broad background in solving today and tomorrow’s complex business challenges. Until then, his hope is that everyone takes an active role in the healthcare conversation, staying informed, engaged and thoughtful about what he sees as both the opportunities and risks that are in front of our nation.

“We do find ourselves at an incredibly important time in history. This isn’t really just a policy debate taking place in D.C. This really is about caring for the country’s most vulnerable populations...”
Despite still dealing with the after-effects of the accident, Danni asked about the difficulty ahead. “Ok, Danni, it’s going to be tough,” she was
When Danni McMahan ’12, first arrived on the McMurry campus, she was in a wheelchair, the result of a spinal cord injury suffered in a fall from a mountainside while on a mission trip to Ecuador the summer before her senior year in high school.

Undeterred, she arrived with a full scholarship, thanks to being accepted into the Honors Program. She wanted to major in biochemistry and perhaps someday do research into spinal cord injuries.

Despite still dealing with the after-effects of the accident, Danni asked permission to take extra classes. A professor gently cautioned her about the difficulty ahead. “Ok, Danni, it’s going to be tough,” she was told.

Her thoughts went back to her senior year in high school in Carlsbad, N.M., spent in physical pain from the injury and emotional stress wondering about the future. “This isn’t tough,” she thought. “This is hard work, but not tough.”
Danni knew the meaning of “tough” and proved it throughout her four years at McMurry, where she earned her degree in 2012 and was named Outstanding Senior in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

“She could easily have looked at her situation and decided that she ‘couldn’t do anything’ and allowed her injury to define her life,” Veltkamp said, “but she didn’t do that.”

Far from it. After earning her degree, Danni enrolled in the Abilene campus of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy. She wasn’t finished impressing people. When she graduated in May 2016, Danni was named Banner Bearer for the ceremony in recognition of graduating at the top of her class of about 140 students.

Today, Danni is a licensed pharmacist serving the first year of a two-year residency at a Veterans Administration hospital in Dallas, where she will work with a medical team in various parts of the hospital. Up next on her rotation will be the spinal cord unit, an ideal place because the patients feel they can open up to her. Although that area is perfect for her, Danni is happy serving anywhere in the hospital. “I just really like working with veterans,” she said. “They’re a good group of people.”

Danni feels fortunate to have attended McMurry, where her professors did everything they could to accommodate her. About mid-way through her four years at McMurry, Danni hadn’t decided on a career path when her dad mentioned pharmacy school.

Danni sought out Dr. Paul Pyenta, chair of the department, and he jumped in immediately to help. “He was very supportive,” Danni said, “and got me all the information I needed.”

Soon, the entire faculty knew about Danni’s interest, and her academic prowess, and they, too, couldn’t wait to be of assistance. “They were all really supportive,” she said.

Veltkamp, one of those professors, said the
University purchased a mobile fume hood and a mobile lab bench so that Danni could work from her wheelchair.

Veltkamp said that in many ways Danni was like other exceptionally bright students. She was gifted intellectually but also worked hard. And, she was fun to be around. “As a person, she has a warm and friendly personality,” Veltkamp said. “She interacted with other students easily and they accepted her.”

Veltkamp is proud, but not surprised, that one of her star pupils has gone on to such great achievements. Over four years working with Danni, Veltkamp saw what she was made of.

“Danni is very determined to succeed,” Veltkamp said, “and I think that is the secret to her success.”

Danni feels fortunate to have attended McMurry, where her professors did everything they could to accommodate her.
GROWING UP IN RURAL FLOYD COUNTY, IN THE FAR WESTERN REACHES OF TEXAS, MAJOR JEFF MATSNER ’89 WAS ALWAYS FASCINATED BY THE CONCEPT OF ETHICS AND ITS INTERSECTION WITH OUR DAILY LIVES. WHILE ETHICS CAN BE THOUGHT OF AS A SYSTEM FOR DECIPHERING RIGHT VERSUS WRONG, AS JEFF PUTS IT, “THERE WAS NO GRAY AREA ON THE FARM.”

BY JENNIFER PILGRIM
These days, Jeff is a bioethicist with the U.S. Army at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. But it wasn’t until he enrolled at McMurry that Jeff discovered he could translate his interest in ethics into a career. At McMurry, Jeff met Dr. Joseph Stamey, who would become his friend and mentor. While Jeff knew that he was called to serve, he also knew that a typical career in community ministry wasn’t the path he was meant to take. Dr. Stamey had received his Ph.D. in bioethics, and it was he who first encouraged Jeff to pursue a career in ethics and academia.

In addition to inspiring his career path, Jeff believes that attending McMurry influenced his life in other ways. As a smaller school, McMurry offered individualized attention and an element of caring that is so often missing at larger institutions. In particular, Jeff has fond memories of the relationships he was able to develop with McMurry faculty members, including Dr. Stamey; Dr. Gerald McDaniel, whose teachings Jeff continues to cite today; Dr. Robert Monk, who opened up his home to McMurry students and truly cared about their education; Dr. Phil Shuler, Dr. Paul Lack, Dr. Gary Shanafelt and Johnnie Kahl, the campus chaplain. Of the McMurry faculty members, Jeff says “They were always there to mold and shape the lives of students.”

After graduating from McMurry with a double major and a triple minor, Jeff continued his graduate and postgraduate education at Southern Methodist University, Duke University, and the Divinity School at Yale University. At Yale, Jeff earned a Master’s in Sacred Theology, and he continues to teach a summer course in military bioethics at the institution. Reflecting on his graduate studies, Jeff says that McMurry prepared him well—the concepts he studied at Yale were first introduced to him as a student in Dr. Stamey’s and Dr. Monk’s undergraduate religion and ethics courses.

In 1993, Jeff was ordained as a minister in the Methodist church. Jeff recalls a conversation he had back at McMurry with Chaplain Kahl, who suggested that he might be well-suited to military chaplaincy. Jeff agreed. He joined the US Army Chaplain Corps, devoting his time to serving the spiritual needs of soldiers stationed at home and abroad. In addition to numerous assignments domestically, Jeff’s combat deployments included tours in Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf Region.

Jeff’s present role as a bioethicist comprises a mix of teaching, training, and advising, but he says the question he’s asked most often when discussing his work is “what is a bioethicist?”. Put simply, bioethicists are concerned with the moral and ethical questions that arise in the fields of medicine and biology. While a scientist or physician might ask “what can we do?”, a bioethicist asks “what should we do?” To that end, Jeff’s professional responsibilities include advising the army command when issues come up. For example, Jeff was recently tasked with writing a brief on the bioethical considerations related to space combat—that is, warfare in outer space.

Equally important is Jeff’s work in academia. He’s currently an adjunct professor at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS), where he teaches graduate-level courses in ethics. Jeff’s research interests include combat trauma and PTSD; his thesis at Yale examined the experiences of Saint Francis of Assisi as a combat veteran and PTSD survivor. Through his research, Jeff discovered that the thirteenth-century Franciscan monks actually had a very effective model for healing moral injury and restoring joy in the lives of veteran soldiers. After he retires from the Chaplain Corps, Jeff plans to establish a place of fellowship based on the Franciscan model, where veterans impacted by PTSD can come together and heal.

Jeff is married to Michelle (Lance) Matsler of Midland, Texas. They have been married 21 years and have two children, Mary Elizabeth and Charles Taylor, and he credits his family’s support for much of his success in life and ministry.

Chaplain, minister, professor, advisor—Jeff’s career has taken him down many paths and across the world. “Nothing would have completed my life the way that doing what I’ve done for last 25 years has”, Jeff says. “And it all started at McMurry.”
A world map on a card mailed out by the McMurry In Motion program sparked something in Tara Goodloe ’14. She thought about how large the world is and realized that her small University is a big part of it.

The more she thought about how she was in a position to impact that big world, the more the idea appealed to her. “I want to be a part of that,” Goodloe thought.

She didn’t just think that for a minute and then let it pass. Her senior year, she took part in a mission trip to El Paso with a group from McMurry, which further tweaked her desire. The students visited a house where Mexican citizens were waiting to see whether they would be granted asylum. She saw people reaching out to help them without judgment. “They were just there to help people who needed it,” Tara said, “whether they were there legally or not.”

Tara went on to earn a degree in nursing from McMurry in May 2014 and started her career at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene. The thought of going on an international mission trip took a backseat to the new job, but it never left her.
In July 2015, Tara signed up for short-term mission trip to Guatemala with her church, Aldersgate United Methodist. That experience sealed the deal for Tara. She came back convinced that a longer mission trip was in her future.

The future has arrived. Tara left on February 22, 2017 for Villa Nueva, Guatemala, where she will serve a two-year commitment as a missionary nurse at New Life Children’s Home School and Clinic. She began training in January and will spend six months in language school in Guatemala before actually starting her nursing position, making the entire endeavor closer to three years.

Wendy Wheeler, director of the children’s center where Tara will serve in Guatemala, said in an email that she took it as a good sign that Tara didn’t immediately jump in and volunteer for the mission. Sometimes, people get excited about missions work and then don’t follow through, she wrote. “Tara has taken one step at a time,” Wheeler wrote, “and has seen that it really is not a sacrifice but a privilege that she has been entrusted with.”

The whole process started for Tara on the McMurry campus, which she described as “mission-oriented.” With the help of faculty, staff and fellow students at McMurry, the spark that was kindled took hold and grew into a flame.

Tara came to McMurry after graduating from Godley High School, where she was “super involved” with sports and cheerleading. At McMurry, she was active in student government, T.I.P. social club, tennis and volleyball.
The whole process started for Tara on the McMurry campus, which she described as “mission-oriented.” With the help of faculty, staff and fellow students at McMurry, the spark that was kindled took hold and grew **into a flame.**

She also got involved at Aldersgate UMC during her time at McMurry and continues to be supported by the church in her mission work. One person connected to both places, Kyle Watson, has watched Tara’s spiritual growth and cites her as a role model for others.

Kyle is the former assistant chaplain at McMurry and director of college and young adult ministries at Aldersgate. He remembered seeing the spark in Tara’s eyes when she returned from the trip to El Paso, her first introduction to missions. “I remember that was really an eye-opening thing for her,” Kyle said.

At Kyle’s invitation, Tara started leading a small group at Aldersgate. He was especially pleased when she mentioned that she would like to use her vocation, nursing, in the mission field. That is a path that Kyle hopes all McMurry students will take, whether abroad or for brief stints at home.

In fact, he believes that is the future of the church — engaging people to use their God-given gifts to help others, no matter their job. “Tara is a great example of that,” he said.
Fourth Women’s Leadership Luncheon Highlights Former Professor Dr. Nancy Jones

Nancy E. Jones, President/CEO of the North Texas Community Foundation and a nationally-prominent leader in the development of community foundations across the United States, was the featured speaker at the fourth annual Women’s Leadership Luncheon at McMurry University. Approximately 300 people attended the event.

Proceeds from the luncheon support the Dr. Sandra S. Harper Women’s Leadership Scholarship program, and the 2017 recipients of the scholarship were announced during the luncheon.

Following the luncheon, Jones attended a student forum to participate in a panel discussion with Linda Egle, founder of Eternal Threads, and Katie Browning, philanthropist and community volunteer.

Prior to her move to Fort Worth, Jones was the founding president of the Community Foundation of Abilene, growing that foundation from an initial base of $750,000 to $80 million in endowed assets. She also served as a business professor at McMurry University.

Two McMurry Students Receive Dr. Sandra S. Harper Women’s Leadership Scholarship

Juniors Symphony Munoz and Chandi Chandler were the recipients of the Dr. Sandra Harper Women’s Leadership Scholarship for the 2017-18 academic year.

The Dr. Sandra S. Harper Women’s Leadership scholarship was established in 2014 in honor of the inauguration of Dr. Sandra S. Harper as McMurry University’s 12th president. A $5,000 scholarship was awarded in each of the past three years to a female student at McMurry who has excelled in the classroom and who has distinguished herself through service on campus and in the Abilene community.

Due to the generosity of event sponsors and attendees at the annual Women’s Leadership Luncheon, the University was able to award two $5,000 scholarships for the 2017-18 academic year, one to a traditional student and one to a non-traditional student. There were twenty-six applicants this year for the two scholarships.

Munoz is a junior honors student from Monahans, Texas, majoring in sociology. Among her leadership positions are McMurry Student Government Senate, NCAA Student Athlete Advisory Committee vice president, Sociology Club secretary, McMurry Phone-a-Thon manager and Delta Beta Epsilon chaplain. She has served as youth intern and volunteer piano player at Aldersgate UMC and as a volunteer at the Swenson Haunted House and the Disability Resources Inc. Pumpkin Patch. Munoz was honored as Outstanding Sophomore Sociology Major, and her future plans are to attend law school.

Chandler is a junior honors student from Abilene with a double major in physics and mathematics. Active in the Society of Physics Students, Chandler was selected to represent McMurry University at the Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics. While a student at Cisco College, she was selected to participate in a field study at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia. She has served as a peer tutor in mathematics and English, and as a single mother of three sons, Chandler has served as a parent volunteer at their schools and as a Cub Scout den mother.
WOMEN LEADING FOR THE GREATER GOOD
ALUMNI EVENTS

3rd Annual McMurry Serves
McMurry Alumni, Students, Faculty, and Staff participated in our 3rd annual McMurry Serves event on Saturday, February 18th! More than 350 participants volunteered for over 850 hours in their communities. Next year’s event will be held on Saturday February 18th – we invite alumni from all over the U.S., and the world, to join us in service! Visit mcm.edu/mcmurry-serves for more information.

Final Ala Cumba
McMurry University will hold its second Final Ala Cumba ceremony on Wednesday, November 1, 2017. This event on All Saints Day honors the memory of alumni, friends, former employees, and students who have died. If there is an alumnus or alumna you would like honored at this ceremony, please contact the Alumni Relations office at alumni@mcm.edu or call 325-793-4609.

McMurry Alumni Awards
Do you know alumni who should be honored for their dedication to McMurry, their professional accomplishments, and/or their selfless service? Nominate them for one of our awards at: connect.mcm.edu/alumni-awards

Calendar of Alumni Events and Activities
For an up-to-date calendar of all alumni events and activities, please visit connect.mcm.edu and click on Event Calendar. We hope you’ll join us for an alumni event soon!

Painting Event
McMurry Alumni and friends in Abilene painted a picture of Radford together for a fun event at Painting with a Twist!

REFER A STUDENT
Do you have friends, family, or neighbors who might be interested in learning more about McMurry? Please fill out the form on the webpage below and a member of our admission staff will be sure to contact them!

mcm.edu/refer-a-student

Return Reconnect Renew
Celebrating milestones
Ko Sari 80th Reunion
XO 60th Reunion
HEI 55th Reunion
50th Reunion for the Class of 1967

mcm.edu/homecoming
Your gifts to the McMurry Fund are allowing Kylie to pursue her dream of continuing her family’s McMurry legacy.
ClassNotes

’60s | FLOYD L. JENNINGS ’61, B.A., B.D., S.T.M., J.D., Ph.D. was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Psychological Association in November 2016. He is now the Chief of the Mental Health Division of the Harris County Public Defender’s Office in Houston.

FRANK FULLER ’68 has retired as professor of adult education at Northwestern State University. An Episcopal priest, he serves as Vicar of Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church in Winnfield, Louisiana. He and his wife Jane live in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

’70s | PUG PARRIS ’73, Rickey Parris ’73, and their son Brad Parris ’01, are recipients of the 2017 Legacy Award given by the Big Country Athletic Hall of Fame! The award will be presented Monday, 5/1, at the Abilene Convention Center. Congratulations Parris Family!

’80s | PHILLIP RHODES ’84 was honored in January as the “Super Coach” by Good Morning America. Coach Rhodes was the recipient of tickets to the Super Bowl in Houston!

’00s | TAMIKA THURMAN BRUNETTI ’02, a member of McMurry’s Business Advisory Council, was the Johnson School of Business monthly speaker series’ inaugural guest presenter in January. She spoke to students challenging them to be proactive in their journeys toward success.

EVA DICKERSON WEITZEL ’04 married Matthew Weitzel in January. Congratulations to the Weitzels!

JAY HARDWAY ’05 was named district director for U.S. Congressman Jodey Arrington in December – congratulations Jay!

DAVE MCNALLY ’07 was named McMurry University’s first women’s softball coach. He had been coaching softball and teaching algebra at Abilene High School since 2008. “Not many people can say they have started a program from the ground up, and I look forward to all that entails,” David summarized. “I’m determined to build this program into something everyone will be proud of; a program that will fit right into the successful atmosphere here on this campus.” Congratulations Dave!

’10s | LINDSEY LOWRY SOBEHRAD ’11 has been chosen as Hardwick Elementary School’s Teacher of the Year in Lubbock, Texas. Lindsey shared part of her personal philosophy regarding education, “I believe no matter what challenges I

MARK SPRAGUE ’01 graduated from West Texas A&M with his Masters of Education in Instructional Designs and Technologies in December! Congratulations Mark!
DAVID REMSCHEL ’14 is having a play published by Dramatic Publishing Company. The play, No Room for a Picture on the Blank Wall, was written while Remschel was a student at McMurry and performed by the McMurry Department of Theatre in November of 2013, during his senior year. Remschel was inspired to write the play while volunteering at the Windcrest Alzheimer’s facility in Abilene for his Servant Leadership class. “It is about a man who suffers from the debilitating disease and the affect it has on him and those around him. He came up with a brilliant idea where the set and props became a metaphor for the memories of the central character,” said Theatre Professor Charlie Hukill. “Two other characters, known as the Movers of Everything Upstairs and seen only to the central character, dismantle the set and remove all the pieces during the course of the play while in conversation with him, symbolizing the disintegration of his mind. It’s a beautiful, moving play and well worthy of publication.”

Dramatic Publishing is one of the three main play publishing companies in America and is particularly noted for helping foster new talent. A native of Fredericksburg, since graduation, Remschel has been teaching theatre at the middle school level for Fredericksburg ISD.

CHARLES HUGHES ’16 is pictured with members of the McMurry Theatre Department after the final performance on campus of the production of “A Park from Noon to Night” in March. The play, written by Hughes, is a series of three related one-act plays that take place in the same park. Following its run at McMurry, the play traveled to the Christian University Theatre Festival at Wayland Baptist University where it received several awards.

THIERRY TCHENKO ’17, McMurry senior and president of McMurry Student Government, was one of only 80 students, nationwide, selected to attend the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington D.C. in February. What an honor for this young leader, and for McMurry!

Moved? New Job?

Update your information and submit a classnote to let your fellow McMurry alumni know about the milestones in your life—including everything from weddings to births, retirements to awards, adoptions to promotions. We’ll print your update and photos in The Messenger and deliver to over 11,000 of your McMurry friends and family!

Send your note by email to Suzann Couts, Director of Alumni Relations, at couts.suzann@mcm.edu or fill out and mail this form to The Messenger, 1 McMurry University, #938, Abilene TX 79697.

NAME

MAIDEN NAME (IF APPLICABLE)

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CITY, STATE, ZIP

CLASS NOTE:

(USE ADDITIONAL SHEET OF PAPER IF NEEDED)

The Messenger reserves the right to make the final selection of all photography based upon available space, subject matter and photo quality.
The 2015 Spirit of McMurry Award recipient has accepted a position as the Director of Clinical Education for the new Physician Assistant program at Hardin-Simmons University. The program will be the first new Physician Assistant program in the state of Texas in over 10 years.

“We are currently seeking accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission for the Physician Assistants (ARC-PA) to start our first class in August of this year. The program will enroll its first class in August of this year pending accreditation,” Bulls said. “We are currently accepting 30 students and have had over 2200 applicants!”

During the clinical phase of the program, Bulls will be responsible for assigning student rotations in the seven required medical specialties and the two electives that the program offers. He will be responsible for tracking student progression during their clinical training and maintaining clinical rotation sites as well as establishing new sites as they arise.

“My role as the director of clinical education is both teaching in the academic phase of the program and establishing student rotations for their clinical year. I have been very fortunate to have made many contacts in Abilene and the surrounding communities of the last 15 years.”

In addition to his new duties in the program, Bulls also is a physician assistant who specializes in Hospital Medicine, working for Shumacher Hospitalist Group at Abilene Regional Medical Center and in Internal Medicine for Abilene Physician Group. He is a member of the Texas Academy of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of Physician Assistants. He holds a Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) in Hospital Medicine from the NCCPA.

He is a graduate of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine Physician Assistant program. He earned his Master of Physician Assistant Studies Degree from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Bulls currently serves as a member of the Texas Physician Assistant Board after being appointed in 2015 by Governor Greg Abbott.

“The goal of our program is to train outstanding students who are passionate about community service and are mission minded. We hope to train local students in our surrounding communities to stay local and give back to their community. We hope to be an answer for medical provider shortages in our surrounding communities,” said Bulls.
**Class of 2017 Hall of Honor**

McMurry University Athletics has announced its Class of 2017 for induction into its Hall of Honor, with five individuals and one team being recognized in ceremonies scheduled for Saturday, September 16. Those being enshrined will include: Eric Burness ‘95 (men’s basketball); Brittany Cary ‘05 (women’s golf); Richard Compton ‘60 (football); Sam Nichols (women’s basketball coach); the 2006 women’s cross country team, and; Sara Graham ‘63 (Bob and Clara Brown Award).

Below is a brief synopsis of each inductee for the Class of 2017.

**ERIC BURNESS ‘95** (Men’s Basketball, 1991-95): Burness twice earned NAIA all-America honors. Additionally, he was twice named first team all-conference and all-District 8, earning team MVP accolades, while leading McMurry in scoring three times and holds several school records.

**BRITTANY CARY ‘05** (Women’s Golf, 2001-05): Cary is McMurry’s first-ever female national champion in any sport, after taking the 2004 NCAA III national championship on the links. Cary was a two-time NCAA III All-American, a three-time participant at the national championship tourney, voted the American Southwest Conference (ASC) female “Athlete of the Year” and was a four-time all-ASC finisher.

**RICHARD COMPTON ‘60** (Football, 1958-60): Compton was a halfback for the Maroon and White, gaining notoriety for his prowess as a kick returner, with a career-best 90-yard return in 1960. After his time at McMurry, Compton went on to a six-year career in the National Football League with the Detroit Lions (3 seasons), Houston Oilers (1 season) and Pittsburgh Steelers (2 seasons) from 1962-68.

**SARA GRAHAM ‘63** (Bob and Clara Brown Award): Graham has set herself apart as a most-worthy recipient of the Bob and Clara Brown Award: in a leadership role with the War Hawks Club board; with her generous financial contributions, and; by physically attending athletics events to make sure our scholar-athletes see and feel the support she offers. Moreover, Graham also stands firmly behind the mission of McMurry with her campus-wide contributions, as well as serving as a member of McMurry’s Board of Trustees.

**SAM NICHOLS** (Head Coach for Women’s Basketball, 1995-2007): In his 12 seasons at the helm of the McMurry women’s basketball program, Nichols amassed a won-lost record of 199-114 and still ranks as the school’s all-time winningest coach in the sport. Nichols-coached teams made three NCAA III post-season tournament appearances (2000, 2006 and 2007), had a pair of ASC West Division titles and one conference tournament championship.

**2006 WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY:**

The 2006 McMurry women’s cross country team is the first to have won an American Southwest Conference championship in the sport. The squad placed 13 at the NCAA South/Southwest Regionals. The unit also achieved numerous individual accolades, as well.

**For the latest McMurry sports information, visit mcmurrysports.com**

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Proceeds to benefit McMurry University Athletics
Jack B. Holden
Longtime McMurry University administrator Jack Bentley Holden, 93, passed away Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at his residence at Wesley Court in Abilene, Texas.

He was a 1940 graduate of Abilene High School. He attended McMurry College until he enlisted in the US Army. He saw action in five European campaigns and received numerous honors, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Armed Services Service Medal. After his active service, Holden served 33 years in the Army Reserves and retired with the rank of Colonel.

He returned from the war and married Bettie Brown in 1946. They were married for 59 years before her death in 2005. They had three daughters, Kathy, Julie, and Cindy.

After working as a reporter for the Dallas Times Herald and the Abilene Reporter-News, Holden started a 31 year career at McMurry University in 1960. He first served as Director of Public Relations and became the Vice-President of the college in Development and Public Relations in 1972. In 1989 Jack was formally recognized as the school’s outstanding administrator.

After his retirement from McMurry in 1991, Jack began a new career in financial planning. He also continued his community involvement in numerous ways, including being a card-carrying member of the Girl Scouts, serving on the West Texas Girl Scout Council as a member and President.

He was a member of numerous civic organizations including the Abilene Rotary Club, the Abilene Optimist Club, the Taylor County Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Abilene Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Abilene Boys Ranch. He was a member and served as chairman of the Taylor County Historical Society, where he received the Maxine Perini Award in 1999; and oversaw the writing of numerous historical markers in the Big Country. He was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church and served as a Sunday School teacher for many years.

Roy Helen Mingus Ackers of Abilene TX died February 11, 2017
Byron Calcote ’64 of Georgetown TX died February 20, 2017
Charles Dortch ’48 of Abilene TX died December 7, 2016
Patsy Mayberry Hamric ’52 of Rotan TX died February 28, 2017

Bobby Hayworth ’57 of Amherst TX died December 19, 2016
Donald Hunt ’56 of Lubbock TX died January 11, 2017
Jackson King ’65 of Lubbock TX died December 5, 2016
Anne Clark Kirk ’52 of Dyersburg TN died December 18, 2016

Albert Lindley ’51 of Amarillo TX died November 20, 2016
Coral Clark Maker ’48 of Abilene TX died March 6, 2017
Julia Matthews of Abilene TX died November 17, 2016
Thomas Niblo ’86 of Abilene TX died on December 12, 2016

C.L. Rogers ’62 of Lubbock TX died on January 31, 2017
John Harvey Starr of Seymour TX died on October 30, 2016
Robert Surovik of Brian TX died on February 7, 2017
David Weyant ’70 of Odessa TX died on December 18, 2016
For Lynn Yearwood ’70 and her husband Darrell, giving back is an essential part of their life. That philosophy is evident in the Yearwood’s support of McMurry, both financial and through their time and talent.

“We are all connected, and because we are connected, we have a role and responsibility to support each other in achieving our dreams and our destinies,” said Lynn. “Every man, woman and child – we are in this together.”

Lynn’s love for McMurry started where as a student she worked for longtime administrator and fundraiser Jack Holden. Later, she and Darrell established the Margie Lynn Varner White Yearwood scholarship in honor of her former mother-in-law Ann White who played a significant role in helping her to graduate. Later she was called on to bring her expertise in board development to the University where she provided pro-bono counsel to the Board of Trustees (Board) and advisory boards on the importance of volunteerism, what it entails and the impact it can have in support of the University.

That beginning led to other leadership roles at McMurry. She joined the Board in 2010 and in the spring of 2016 was elected to a three-year term as Chair of the McMurry Board of Trustees. She also served as McMurry’s interim president from May 29 to August 10, 2013.

Lynn’s decision to join the Board was based on her positive impression of the vision of then Board chairmen Chuck Fallon and Austin Pittman, and “I believed that having been on a number of boards, I could bring something to the table that would have impact.”

Later, when Lynn was called on to lead the University as interim president, “it was the epitome of my life – bringing together my professional and volunteer experience. I was excited to put some of the knowledge and experience to use in serving the University.”

Her vision for McMurry is to be an institution that develops servant leaders with academic training who make contributions to their families and communities in the longer term.

“We have an awesome Board right now. We have done good work in recruiting and generating interest, enthusiasm and energy. I’m very confident of the Board’s support and leadership going forward to achieve both the strategic plan and the longer term vision.”

“We are all connected, and because we are connected, we have a role and responsibility to support each other in achieving our dreams and our destinies...”
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By taking a distribution from your IRA this year, you will likely pay more in taxes and may even be in a higher tax bracket. Rolling over part of you IRA’s “required minimum distribution” or RMD to McMurry University can help to reduce your tax bill and while supporting the University.

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Debra Hulse | 325-793-4761 | hulse.debra@mcm.edu

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