

MID-AMERICAN

THE MAGAZINE OF MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Celebrating Dr.
Cliff Sanders'
29 Years of
Service

*Dream Bigger.
Do Greater.*
Summer 2021



President's Letter

Someone once said, "You have never truly lost anything when you know where to find it."

You hear people talk about "losing" a relative that moves to another state. You hear others say, "We 'lost' a great leader!" even though there has been no funeral, just a retirement.

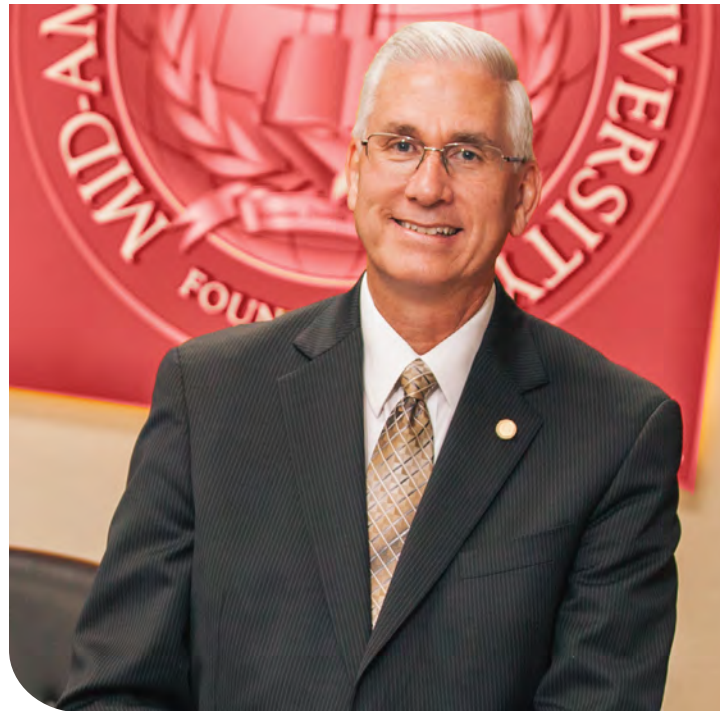
I suppose our campus feels a sense of loss mixed with gratitude upon learning that Dr. Cliff Sanders would be leaving the University because he has accepted a leadership position at Crossings Community Church in Oklahoma City.

On April 28, 2021, we honored Dr. Sanders for 29.5 years of faithful service at Mid-America Christian University. The campus has enjoyed Dr. Sanders' humor, instruction and outgoing personality. Students have chosen him on several occasions as "The Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year." Some incoming freshmen lament his departure, noting that they were looking forward to being in one of his classes. Alumni have contacted me saying, "We can't let this happen!" Their lives and many ministries have been shaped by Dr. Sanders' wonderful instruction and friendship.

I cannot help but recall Solomon's words, "For everything there is a season...." I can see God's timing in Dr. Sanders' transition. He has been instrumental in leading the School of Ministry to receive national recognition for teaching inductive Bible study skills, Wesleyan Theology, Chaplaincy and Ministerial Candidacy. Yet we all have recognized a growing passion with Dr. Sanders, a passion that has unfolded into a profound calling. Dr. Sanders has become a compelling author and instructor of Wesleyan Theology. Whenever we have traveled together, I have had attendees at his conferences remark, "I wish I could have had this teaching many years ago!"

This new position at Crossings will help Dr. Sanders to further develop the School for Wesleyan Studies. I anticipate his published works will increase. His invaluable instruction will become global because he will no longer be focused upon eight different courses being taught in an academic year. He will give laser focus to the teaching of Wesleyan theology.

MACU has not lost Dr. Sanders because we know where to find him. We are fortunate that he has agreed to return to campus to teach from time to time. I'm grateful that he intends to continue to disciple students as he has each week. Dr. Sanders will



continue working with MACU to offer two online certificates in Wesleyan Theology, with online certificate programs already forming for this summer and next fall!

This issue of the Mid-American features Dr. Sanders' leadership as well as a new faculty endowment. This endowment has been named to honor the ministries of four Sanders men who are alumni of this university and who have changed the world for Christ.

Dr. Marvin Sanders, father of Cliff and Mike, worked in Advancement and was a professor at MACU. His brother, Rev. Paul Sanders, pastored churches and went on to become the Director of Hope Hill Children's Home. Dr. Cliff Sanders became a professor here and has served as the Chair of the School of Ministry. Dr. Mike Sanders is presently serving as MACU's Interim Chair for the School of Ministry. Mike previously served 31 years at Warner University in the School of Ministry and as a dean. Collectively, these four men have given 183 years of ministry to the Church of God!

I don't know what it takes to be designated a "Treasure of the Church." I only know that Dr. Cliff Sanders is MACU's gem, and his love for Christ has glistened bright as he has shown the truth of the Bible through teaching and preaching.

We pray God's blessings upon Dr. Sanders as the Lord gives him an even bigger classroom in which to teach the world!



Dr. John Fozard, President



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Please send it to:

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Celebrating The Class of 2021

MACU became the first-ever institution to hold graduation inside the new Oklahoma City Convention Center downtown with exercises held on May 1. More than 500 graduates were celebrated in the university's 70th commencement ceremony.

More than 500 graduates were celebrated in the university's 70th commencement ceremony.

After an opening foreword from MACU Board of Trustees member Jeff Russell and a special music performance by award-winning musical artist Gaby Sampredo, President Dr. John Fozard introduced Rev. Jaime Cervantes as the commencement speaker.

Cervantes, who currently serves as campus pastor at First Church in St. Joseph, Mich., and oversees local missions and outreach initiatives, left graduates with an inspiring word and hope for their promising futures.

"As I prepared and prayed for these graduates, the Lord put Proverbs 3:6 on my heart. It's a passage that came to my mind over and over again. It reads: 'In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.'"

Cervantes stressed that the most important word of the Scripture was "all."

"That means in your decisions, in your affairs, in your relationships, in all facets of life, acknowledge and consult God, and He will direct your paths and lead you in the way you should go."

He challenged graduates to turn to God not just for help but for direction.

"So often we only come to God when we need, lack or want something," Cervantes said. "My challenge to you today is this: don't just ask God and tell God what you want from Him, but rather get in the habit of asking God what He wants from you. Put Him first in all that you do, and He will direct your paths."



Hey Alumni!

You can take the next step in your educational journey by enrolling in a Master's program at MACU. For a limited time, you can receive a special alumni discount of **10% off** your tuition when you begin your graduate degree with us.

Graduate classes begin on August 10th! Visit www.macu.edu or call **888-888-2341** to begin your Master's Degree with us.



The MACU Golf Classic returned this year with 25 teams, 53 sponsors and other valued donors raising more than \$49,000 for student scholarships. The tournament was held Monday, May 3, at Lincoln Park West in Oklahoma City with a hundred participants taking part in the annual event.



Establishment of the Eric Baird Spiritual Care Internship

Late last year, Professor Justin Key and I began to dream about what a partnership would look like between Mid-America, The Butterfield Memorial Foundation and Crossings Community Church. Supported by dollars from the foundation and offering an opportunity to serve at Crossings Community Clinic, the new Eric Baird Spiritual Care Internship will provide unparalleled experience for our Pastoral Care graduates, as well as much-needed scholarship dollars. We are planning to duplicate this effort in other clinics with other interns going forward.

As the contracts for this effort were being signed, I had a conversation with a couple of alums from ten years or so ago. They had both been impacted by their Pastoral Care training through the Practicum in Pastoral Care. They expressed their desire to give back, investing in today's Pastoral Care students. So they have agreed to a monthly gift to go toward a new Pastoral Care Scholarship. This has come during a time in which the two of them are still paying off their own student debt from college days! That's how much they feel led by the Lord to "pay it forward" to current ministry students.

Steve Seaton

- Rev. Steve Seaton
Vice President for University Advancement



If you would like more information on how to support this new effort, please call us at 405-692-3191. Your check directed to the "Pastoral Care Scholarship" will add to this fund. Or you can go to Give.MACU.edu. Every dollar helps train a student to care!



"One of my favorite things about this internship is just meeting with so many different people and getting to connect with them and meet with them in so many different areas of life. I am able to touch the lives of different people, both believers and unbelievers, and show all of them the love of Jesus Christ in different ways."

- Savannah Balute
MACU's First-Ever Eric Baird Spiritual Care Intern

After 29 Years at MACU, Dr. Cliff Sanders Transitions to New Role

Cliff Sanders grew up in a strong, Christian family and was raised in those beliefs his whole life. Sanders grew up with his father pastoring and changing lives in churches from New Mexico to Florida.

Cliff's father, Marvin, was often thought of as the rock of their family. When growing up, Marvin wished to pursue a career in preaching and sharing God's Word, but his family did not. His family encouraged him to stay in his blue-collar job. Yet, Marvin prayed a lot and then went through with it anyways. Years later, seeing his own two sons pursuing the same career delighted him.

With this strong example of Godly love, Cliff and his brother, Michael, decided to pursue the same career. They both attended Gulf Coast Bible College, now known as Mid-America Christian University.

"Dad was proud that his boys served in ministry and that they were trained for it," said Cliff Sanders.

They both worked their way through college to be able to continue learning and sharing God's Word. Twenty-nine years later, Cliff Sanders was able to have a full circle moment by returning to his alma mater, this time as part of the faculty. In nearly thirty years as a professor at MACU, he has touched countless lives by teaching future generations of pastors, worship leaders and everything in between.

One of those lives is Peyton Kirkpatrick, a sophomore majoring in Ministry Leadership who has taken several of Sanders' classes. "Learning from Cliff has been one of the highlights of my time at MACU. In the classroom, I have benefited from his extensive work in inductive Bible study, where he's taught me how to dive into God's Word and make practical applications."



Kirkpatrick said as a mentor, Cliff has shown him his most important calling: a call to fellowship with Jesus Christ, rooted in 1 Corinthians 1:9. "Cliff's leadership has challenged me to remember that my value is not found in my performance but rather that I am a human 'being' before a human 'doing,'" Kirkpatrick said. "I am so thankful for the opportunity to laugh, learn and grow under the leadership of Cliff Sanders — he has truly changed my life."

Cliff Sanders holds his beliefs near and dear to his heart, and he funnels that passion right into the classroom.

"I'm a firm believer in Christian institutions as a place for discipleship, not protection and isolation from what's going on in the world. College is about more than just academics. It is a time when young men and women begin to make lifelong decisions about their futures and their morals."

This year, after serving the MACU campus for 29 years as a professor and Chair for the School of Ministry, Cliff Sanders left MACU this summer to accept a newly-created position at Crossings Community Church in Oklahoma City. There, he will continue to train church leaders, publish books and develop curriculum through the School for Wesleyan Studies.

His brother, Michael Sanders, will take over his role as part of the ministry faculty and will continue their proud family legacy.

"College is truly an important time for any student's life," said Cliff Sanders. "I count myself blessed to have been able to be there for my students and help guide them along the path God has chosen for them."

Sanders Faculty Endowment

Every day as I walk the halls of this university, I am greeted by the brightest and best. Our brilliant and committed faculty members are all here at great personal sacrifice because they believe in our students and believe in offering the best in a quality education, but with a Christian worldview.

The Sanders Faculty Endowment is an effort that is the right thing for us to do at this moment in history! Led by Dr. Fozard, the MACU Trustees have put in place a bold plan that will take care of our world class faculty in a way that is sustainable for future years. The university has made a significant investment in designating reserve dollars to establish the fund. Each year the fund will be undergirded by investment income from that fund. **But more dollars are needed.** That's where you and I come in. As we approach the end of MACU's fiscal year (May 31), you and I can make an investment in this much-needed effort for now, and for years to come.

Please consider giving your best gift by designating your gift for the "Sanders Faculty Endowment." Gifts can be received through personal check, by transferring stocks, bonds or other securities, or by going to endowment.macu.edu. Or call me at 405-692-3191 for more information. We are already receiving some monthly gifts. Others are asking, "How can I get involved?" **In recent days, friends of the Sanders family and this university have come forward with a matching challenge of up to \$100,000. That means every dollar you give will be matched dollar-for-dollar!** What a great legacy!



PHOTO: Rev. Marvin and Pat Sanders.

The Sanders family has meant so much to this institution. I'll never forget what Rev. Marvin and Pat Sanders and Rev. Paul and Lana Sanders meant to me in the early days of serving the Church of God in Kentucky, where both of these fine couples were ministering at the time. I found in them love and much-needed encouragement. Maybe you or your family members have been touched by a class taught by Dr. Sanders or have been impacted for eternity by the congregational ministry of one of these God-inspired servants. Please consider giving so that this heritage may continue.

"But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also."

II Corinthians 8:7 (NASB)

- Rev. Steve Seaton,
Vice President for University Advancement



LEFT: Rev. Mike Sanders
RIGHT: Rev. Paul and Lana Sanders

MID-AMERICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Dream Gala

September 16, 2021

Petroleum Club Downtown OKC | Reception 6PM | 7PM Dinner

Gala Raises Scholarship Funds

MACU is proud to announce the sixth annual Dream Scholarship Gala to be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 16, at the Petroleum Club in Oklahoma City.

The Dream Gala helps raise necessary dollars for the Evangel Fund, which provides funding for all of our institutional scholarships — from academic to athletic! Any student from any discipline is eligible to receive these scholarships. With your help, MACU students remain inspired to not only follow their dreams but also to follow God's vision for their lives.

Since 2016, the Dream Scholarship Gala has raised \$485,000 for student scholarships.

Help us raise \$100,000 for future pastors, business leaders, teachers, nurses, scientists and so many other professionals.

For more information about the Dream Scholarship Gala or to purchase tickets, visit dreamgala.macu.edu or call 405-692-3191.

Student Spotlight

Bruce Hayes

Bruce Hayes never envisioned himself going back to college, much less when he was in his 40s. He had just finished up courses at a local vocational school, but the technical skills he learned still weren't enough to get him the job that he needed.

A lot of the jobs he was looking for required bachelor's degrees, and like many adults, Hayes never completed more than a few college courses after finishing high school.

"I almost got my associate's degree, but I got burned out. It just wasn't the right timing," he said.

Hayes went on to proudly serve the U.S. Air Force for more than 16 years but found himself struggling to find a career after the military due to degree requirements. In 2018, he enrolled at MACU and started his Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Management Information Systems.

The next day after earning his first degree, he began his second. Now, Hayes is one of the first students to graduate from MACU's new Data Analytics program, the first dedicated degree of its kind in Oklahoma.

Hayes said when he was wrapping up his first degree, he was actually looking at data science programs from other universities because he wanted to pursue a career in the fast-growing field. When MACU unveiled the Data Analytics program, he felt as though it was meant to be. He became one of the first students to enroll in the program.

"I didn't want to go anywhere else," Hayes said.

Hayes said his enrollment counselor, student support specialists and his professors played crucial roles in his college career — and it's an experience that he believes he wouldn't have gotten anywhere else.

"Being a little older and everything, at first it was kind of overwhelming. MACU really worked with me and helped me acclimate to a college environment and truly walked with me down the road to success. It was very high challenge, high support. Any time I had issues I knew I could go straight to my counselor and she could help me out."

"...It was very high challenge, high support. Any time I had issues I knew I could go straight to my counselor and she could help me out."



Even in the darkest hour of his life, Hayes said that the university showed him unparalleled compassion and support. He lost his beloved wife last November, shortly after beginning his Data Analytics program.

"MACU reached out to me. It was one of those things where they completely helped me out and kept me going. I had just started; most universities would have made me drop the degree. But the people at MACU truly care about their students in a truly Christ-like way."

Hayes kept his wife's memory close to heart as he finished his classes and walked across the stage this May as a second-time MACU graduate. Now, he feels that he is ready to make his mark on the field of data analytics as a polished and capable professional.

"I recommend MACU to everybody I speak with," said Hayes. "I never would have thought that I would have gone back to college, but I'm glad I did. MACU has been one of the best things that has ever happened in my life."

New Hires

Dr. Coleman Patterson

*Chair of the College of Arts and Sciences
School of Business Leadership*

Higher education has been a part of Dr. Coleman Patterson's life for almost as long as he can remember. The son of a college professor, Patterson himself has worked in some form of higher education since he was just 17 years old.

Now, he'll continue his career as Chair of the School of Business Leadership in MACU's College of Arts and Sciences.

"This opportunity at MACU is just perfect for me," Patterson said. "All of these experiences I've had over the years, I see them all coming together for me to do some really neat, innovative and groundbreaking things with the students at MACU."

A passionate advocate for experiential and experience-based learning, Patterson's way of teaching is far from ordinary. Among the many learning projects and programs he's started and overseen include the "Bike Ride Across Texas" projects, which began as a way to give students opportunities to practice leadership and teamwork skills in practical and interesting ways — like through long-distance bike rides covering Texas and beyond.

He said he already feels right at home with the university's friendly, caring and close-knit community — and he can't wait to leave his mark on the lives of MACU students for years to come.

"This is a good spirit field. MACU is a Christ-centered institution that exists to teach and make students better, to equip them to serve in all different areas of life and the world," Patterson said. "I can't wait to push the boundary a little bit more and do some really cool things that go above and beyond the normal classroom experience."

Dr. Alicia McCullar

Dean of Student Development and Engagement

For the last seven years, Dr. Alicia McCullar has been fondly called A-MAC. Now, she's one of the newest members of the MACU family — and she can't help but feel that it was in God's plan all along for her to be here.

"It's like a little bit of me and a whole bunch of MACU," McCullar said of the nickname, which has taken on new meaning since she joined the university as the Dean of Student Development and Engagement this summer. In that role, McCullar will be responsible for creating and running exciting events to attract students to campus involvement.

"I believe that involvement gives them a sense of belonging," she said. "That sense of belonging helps them engage more in their courses, and as a result, the outcome is a positive, transformational experience where they encounter the Lord as well."

As a first-generation college student, McCullar said she believes that a college education is hope for the future, for upward mobility and to become a contributing member of society.

"I never had anyone to help me, so a lot of my spirit is for making sure students don't feel alone and that they have a good mentor. I truly believe the Lord has prepared me all along to be right here at MACU."

Growing Bethel Series Seeks Church Partnerships,

Sponsors for International Students

After celebrating the first-ever hybrid graduation ceremony for Spanish-speaking students earlier this year, MACU's Bethel Series is looking to expand its global reach through new partnerships with churches around the world.

The Bethel Series is a deep study of the Bible offered in English and Spanish as a series of online courses taught by MACU President Dr. John Fozard. Program Director Melody Cepeda-Macri said that the series prepares students to have a deep understanding of the Bible and the context in which the books and epistles were written. Local students can also choose to take the courses for college credit, earning them up to twelve hours towards their degree.

"We have students from Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Paraguay who graduated this January and who are already teaching what they learned in their home churches," Cepeda-Macri said.

One of those students, Jefry Abreu, is a native of Paraguay. He said the Bethel Series changed his life and his relationship with God.



PHOTO: Graduates of the Bethel Series in Spanish were celebrated in the first-ever hybrid graduation ceremony at First Church of God in St. Joseph, Mich., earlier this year.

"I cannot fully express my gratitude for these courses," Abreu said. "Through the Bethel Series, I am able to see the Bible differently now. I have grown and gone deeper in my relationship with God and my understanding of His love and His plans for humanity."

Many students like Abreu would not have the opportunity to enroll in the Bethel Series without the assistance of scholarships provided by local and international churches. First Church of God in St. Joseph, Mich., is one of several churches to sponsor students, and it served as the host site for January's hybrid graduation ceremony.

The cost of the Bethel Series per student, per year, is \$200 plus an additional \$25 for textbooks. There are also certificate courses available for leaders and pastors in Latin America at the cost of \$150 per certificate program.

Cepeda-Macri said the program is currently seeking sponsors to help enroll more students in the Bethel Series in Latin America as well as in India.

"Any amount that a church can sponsor will help pastors and leaders across the world continue to dream bigger and do greater for the Kingdom of God," Cepeda-Macri said.

If your church is interested in helping sponsor Bethel Series students, please email melody.macri@macu.edu. You can learn more about the Bethel Series by visiting www.macu.edu/bethel-series.

PHOTO: Jefry Abreu, a student from Paraguay, was able to enroll in the Bethel Series with the help of scholarships provided by local and international churches. He graduated from the program this year.

Retirements

Over the coming months, four members of the MACU Family are celebrating their retirements! Chief Financial Officer Mici Sartin, Human Resources Director Darwina Marshall and Human Resources Senior Specialist Rhonda Simpson have each left an indelible impact on the university during their successful careers here. Although they are retiring, they will forever be a part of the MACU Family!

President Dr. John Fozard remembers interviewing a Christian CPA for the position of Chief Financial Officer almost twenty years ago. As the interview progressed, he recognized that the candidate had a deep love for the Lord and a commitment to her family and church. Her credentials were impeccable -- so he thought it only fair to be fully transparent.

"Our business software was antiquated and really not fully implemented," Fozard recalled. "I showed her our latest financial report. At the time, the university was effectively an operating bankruptcy."

Unbelievably, the candidate chose to accept the position.

"What person accepts a position to work for an organization in financial duress with no assurance that they themselves would be paid a regular salary? I suppose the only answer is 'a person who feels called by the Lord to that position!'"

That person was Mici Sartin. Sartin has worked at MACU for the last 18 years, serving as both Chief Compliance Officer and Chief Financial Officer. For her, every day has been filled with thoughtful Christian people, impactful events and a visionary journey that she never would have expected when she first started.

"I am grateful to have been chosen to do the job of CFO for MACU. While I had a good background for the work that needed to be done, I had no idea that I would come to love the higher education industry, which was a new industry for me, and that this was an answer to prayer for me," Sartin said.

And she proved to be an answer to prayer for the university. Fozard said that because of her leadership, MACU today exhibits outstanding financial management and fiscal stability.



Mici Sartin
Chief Financial Officer

"It was Mici's faith and fortitude that began a remarkable leadership journey that helped the university emerge from its financial exigency," Fozard said. "I am personally grateful for her integrity and work ethic."

Sartin said she often laughed when she thought she would never find another industry that would prove as challenging and fulfilling as other industries she worked in, but she realized that higher education would stretch her and cause her to learn something new almost daily.

"I feel very fortunate that I was challenged, fulfilled and able to do what I was called to do for the Lord."

*Thank you for your
many years of service!*

Darwina Marshall has worked at MACU for the last eight years. She said she is thankful to MACU for giving her great opportunities to grow as a person and a professional. During her time at the university, she said she has seen tremendous growth both in and out of the HR department -- and she is proud that she has been a part of the university's many achievements, including the annual Dream Scholarship Gala.

"As I look forward to the next chapter in my life, it will be an exciting time. I have been in faith-based higher education for over 35 years and have worked hard to build my career. Now I can step back, reflect and appreciate how far I have come. I am looking forward to spending time with family and friends, traveling, giving back to my church and to my profession."

Staying true to the mission of human resources, Marshall said that she measures success in the ability to positively impact other people.

"If somewhere along the way in my career I was able to help just one person, then I feel I have been successful. I want to thank all of each and every person who has helped me over my MACU years. Never hesitate to let me know if I can be of service to you. Just because I am retiring doesn't mean I won't be around. I plan to still be a part of the MACU family who welcomed me with open arms many years ago."



Darwina Marshall
Human Resources Director

Over the last decade, Patty Clouse has fulfilled multiple positions at MACU, beginning with her first job as Manager of the Testing Center and Prior Learning Assessment. After several years, she moved into a full-time faculty role as Program Director of the Management and Ethics program while continuing to be the Director of Prior Learning Assessment.

Both Clouse and her husband completed their bachelor's degrees as working adults. She said helping other adults earn their degrees over her career at MACU has been a dream come true.

"I learned long ago that in Oklahoma, a large number of our adult students are first-generation college students," she said. "Research shows that this demographic faces special challenges in completing a degree. But research also tells us that those with college degrees achieve a higher economic status than those without."

She said the impact of that change in economic status affects not only the graduating adult student but the entire family, for both current and future generations.

"My passion has always been fueled by the celebration of commencement," Clouse said. "The family members cheering on their graduates, calling out cheers for Dad, Grandma, Aunts, and Uncles. It always makes me remember my own children cheering for Mom as I crossed the stage. Also, the joy in knowing the change that awaits their future. Commencement is just the beginning!"



Patty Clouse
*Management and Ethics Program Director
and Prior Learning Assessment Director*

Rhonda Simpson has served in higher education for more than twenty years, with the last five of those spent as a part of the MACU Family in the human resources department. Although she said she is looking forward to retirement, she will miss spending every day with her work family.

"I really treasure the friendships developed here at MACU; the camaraderie and family feel is a unique quality not often found in the workplace these days. The university's unique leadership training opportunities through M-CORE and GiANT principles made a huge impact on my time here."

In a pre-COVID world, Simpson said she especially cherished the times when she could gather with her co-workers for luncheons and special events.

"I'd even enjoy strategic planning if it meant meeting together!" she joked. "Thanks for the memories, MACU!"



Rhonda Simpson
Human Resources Senior Specialist



Men's Soccer Wins SAC Championship

Bests Central Christian in Shootout

The MACU men's soccer program has continued to rise to new heights. After winning both the Sooner Athletic Conference Tournament Championship and NCCAA National Championship two years ago, the Evangels continued to build upon that success with a thrilling 2020-21 season.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Mitchell Sowerby, the Evangels hosted and won their second SAC title match against Central Christian and advanced to the final site of the NAIA National Championships.

"Winning the SAC tournament is a testimony to the hard work the team and coaching staff have put in all year, in arguably one of the most difficult seasons in collegiate soccer," said Sowerby. "It has been difficult to compete during the pandemic, as there are so many uncertainties. But our team has handled it like true professionals. We continue to focus on the positives of being able to practice, compete and do the things we love."

Evangels Win First-Ever Softball NCCAA National Championship

The top-seeded MACU softball team won its first-ever NCCAA National Championship with a walk-off 3-2 victory over Concordia-Ann Arbor (Mich.) in the NCCAA World Series Championship Game on Thursday, May 20.

With the score tied in the bottom of the eighth, sophomore first baseman Olivia Roberts made the game-winning hit that propelled the Evangels to victory and MACU athletics history.

"That was the most memorable game I ever played in my life," Roberts said after the game. "The energy we had coming into the national tournament was unmatched. We picked each other up as a team. We have accomplished so much together and it is an honor to be a part of the MACU program."

At the conclusion of the game, MACU was awarded the championship plaque and banner while three members of the MACU softball team were named to the NCCAA All-Tournament Team.

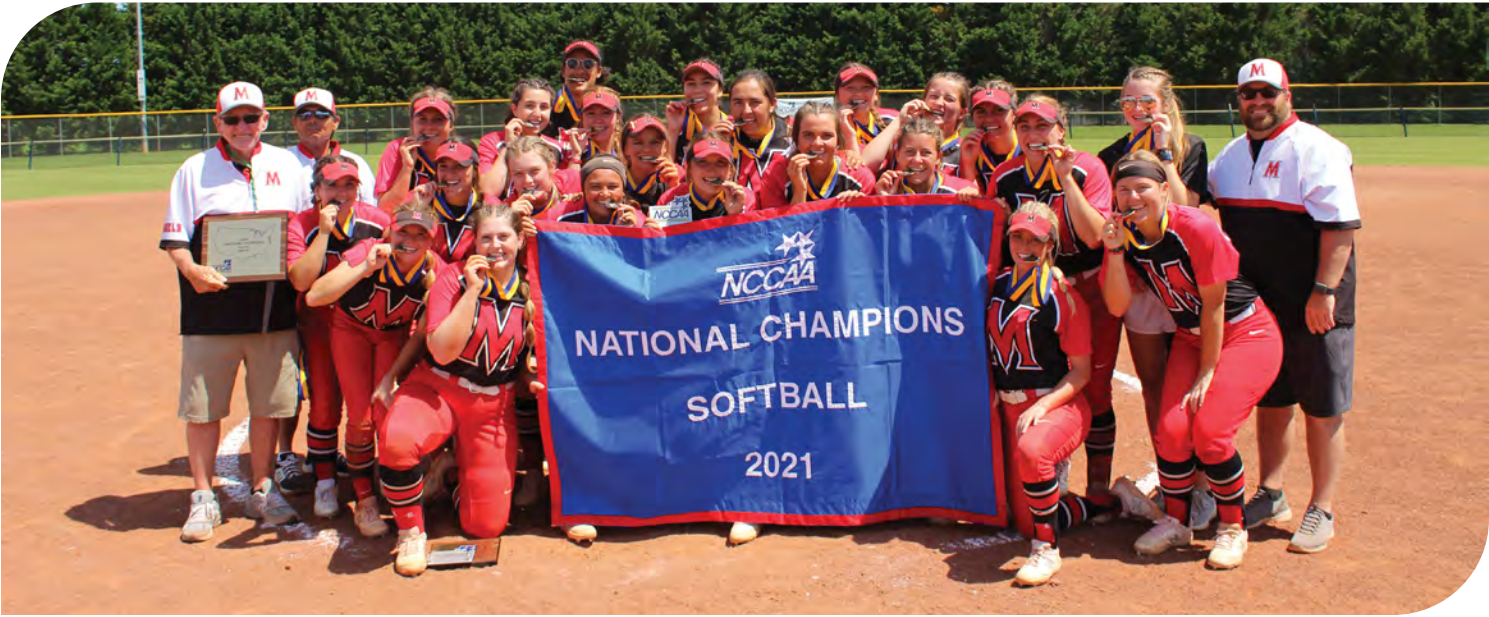
Roberts was named the NCCAA Tournament's Most Outstanding Player. She and both starting pitchers, Katie Long and Regan Martin, were also named to the all-tournament squad.

"This is what we've worked for all season long," said Head Coach Robert Wakefield. "I'm so proud of this team and everything we've accomplished this season. This group of young ladies represented MACU fantastically all week. This has been a special season with a special ending."

The trip was MACU's third to the NCCAA World Series. Not only was the championship win a first for the university, but for the Sooner Athletic Conference: the Evangels became the first SAC team to win the championship since it began in 1992.

"We could not be more proud of what our softball team accomplished this year!" said Athletic Director Marcus Moeller. "The young women in the program are incredible representatives of our university in the classroom, the community and on the field."

MACU had a dominant run in the tournament, pitching three complete game shutouts and outscoring the opposition 26-2 for the entire three-day, four-game event. Overall, the Evangels closed out the 2021 season with its most successful year in program history, finishing with a 37-14 overall record and its highest-ever winning percentage in SAC play.



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Mid-America Christian University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: DARWINA MARSHALL, Director of Human Resources, 3500 SW 119th, OKC, OK 73110, 405-692-3196.



Pray for our students as they embark across the country!

It's that time of year! Our MACU Camp Teams are headed out to bring fun and faith to many young people across the country! Camp Teams students are trained and equipped to represent MACU at various camps throughout the summer. In exchange for the students' hard work, they will receive scholarships that will go toward their tuition bills.

This is an awesome opportunity for our students to live out our mission to "Dream Bigger" and "Do Greater." They not only get to do that on our campus, but they will get to spread that to each camp they go to. Our students will be in Indiana, Oklahoma, Ohio, Missouri, Tennessee and Virginia.

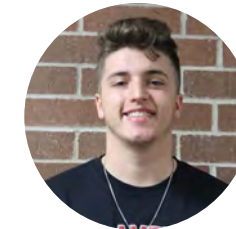
At MACU, we will be actively praying over our students as they embark across the country this summer. We would love for you to join us as well.



Aurian Early



Madison Mullennix



Boone VanDover



Kandi Roberts



Lane Smith



Austin Kyle



Madeline Waggoner

*Thank you for your donations
and prayers for our students!*

You can also help our Camp Teams by contributing to the Evangel Fund. Visit evangelfund.macu.edu and designate your gift to camp teams, or text **Evangels** to **41444** to donate by mobile phone!

What's Next?

- JUN 26** Women's Soccer ID Camp
- JUL 6** Online Undergraduate Classes Begin
- AUG 10** Online Graduate Classes Begin
- AUG 16** Traditional Fall Classes Begin
- SEPT 16** Dream Scholarship Gala
- OCT 21-22** Evangel Experience