

Spring 2017

THE Royal

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF WARNER UNIVERSITY



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Stay on my wheel...



One of my passions outside of my time serving at Warner is riding my bike. I have been privileged to race and train with many high-end cyclists who compete around the world.

Drafting is a key skill to learn when you are “on the wheel” of a teammate. Drafting saves about 30% of your energy. Think about it, working together makes you more productive and you can last longer in an endurance event.

It's been one year since the board selected us to serve as the third president of Warner University. Joanna and I could not have felt any better about how the community has embraced us this year. We are committed to build on the foundation that has been laid by those who have gone before us.

This year we have been “riding fast” at Warner to focus on our three priorities: Recruitment, Retention, and Serving our Students. I have been able to meet one-on-one with every faculty member and their love for Warner is evident. They are committed to creating the best learning experience for our students, with a Christ-centered atmosphere. The experience our students have is transformational, NOT transactional. We strive to make the environment Dynamic, Diverse, Relevant, and Innovative.

This next academic year will be a great one as we are adding several new majors and programs: Criminal Justice, Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Marine Technology. Our campus will continue to grow as we begin the construction of the new Ag Complex, to keep up with our thriving Ag program. All in a Christian environment.

Stay on my wheel as we grow together...

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David A. Hogg".

David A. Hogg, Ph.D.



2016 Distinguished Alumni



Mr. Lee Jackson (BA '03)
The Distinguished
Alumni Award



Dr. David Sebastian (BA'75)
The Alumni Founder's
Award



Dr. Patsy Charlene "Dodie" Haynes (BA' 78)
The Alumni Servant Award
Posthumously



Kent Adcock (BA'79)

Chief Executive Officer/President of Habitat for Humanity of Lake-Sumter, FL is overseeing the construction of the first "Habitat For Humanity Veteran's Village" in Umatilla, FL. Kent spoke in chapel during the Spring Semester and his daughter, Mindy Adcock (BA'02, MAE'09) joined him on campus.



Warner University is making history as softball signee, **Alona Harris**, is the first "fourth generation student" to attend Warner. Alona comes from a family of 11 Warner Alumni, including her great-grandparents, **George (BA'76) and Janice (BA'76) Robillard**.



WARNER UNIVERSITY
BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION

\$100K MATCHING
CHALLENGE

BY JUNE 30, 2017

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or mail your check postmarked by
June 30, 2017 to: Warner University
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Lake Wales, FL 33859

WU Alumni Spotlight: Dena Yohe



Warner University alumna Dena Yohe (BA '74) earned her degree from Warner in Social Work, and is now an author, speaker, and mentor to parents.

Dena and her husband Tom (BA '75) co-founded their ministry "Hope For Hurting Parents" in 2011, and in July 2016 Dena published her book *You Are Not Alone: Hope for Hurting Parents of Troubled Kids*.

You Are Not Alone: Hope for Hurting Parents of Troubled Kids has endorsements from CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ), Family Life, Focus on the Family, and Dr. Dobson's Family Talk ministry.

WU Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Brenda Longshore

Dr. Brenda Longshore (BA'93) graduated from Warner with a degree in Elementary Education, which she now uses to serve in her newly elected position as Superintendent of Highlands County Public Schools.

"Whether working with students in a classroom, with teachers on a campus, or with staff across our nation, collaboratively working together toward common goals is very rewarding," said Longshore. "To see others excel to greater levels than they ever thought was possible is a humbling feeling of accomplishment."



WU Alumni Spotlight: Chukwuka Monye



Warner University alumnus Chukwuka Monye (BA'01) returned to Warner on March 8 to speak, offer advice, answer questions, and meet students not only in the Business Club, but any student with an interest in business.

Monye is an innovation strategist, corporate development and consumer intelligence expert. Born in Nigeria, he is the founder and currently the Managing Partner at Ciuci Consulting and a Director General at Delta Economic Summit Group in Delta State, Nigeria.

Agriculture



A Note from Abby Crawford

My what a transformation Warner University's Ag program has experienced over a few short years. With over 65 students enrolled in our major, we are one of the fastest growing majors here at Warner.

In the Fall of 2016, we added two new organizations and an honors fraternity! With the addition of Collegiate Cattlemens and Farm Bureau's Young Farmer & Rancher, we have a total of 19 students serving their peers on the leadership board.

Alpha Zeta, our agricultural honor society was added last fall and was awarded colony status from The National Alpha Zeta Organization. The first set of students inducted were Keri Greenwood, Douglas Batson Jr., Morgan Kennedy, Cameron Salter, Mikayla Allison, Jacob Bryan, Timothy Cuellar, Savanna Register and myself, Abby Crawford. This national organization was founded in 1897 at Ohio State University and we are thrilled to join more than 3,000 other students at 74 different universities.



Our new Ag cattle brand

Earlier this spring, we were able to send two of our students, Bristol Wells and Maegan Meredith, to compete in the Collegiate Discussion Meet against the University of Florida. Wells was selected to advance and compete in the Discussion Meet at the national level! The two girls studied very hard and trained for these meets and we could not be any more proud.

Aside from organizations to join, we also have two new teams: a ranch rodeo team and a clay shoot team. In January, President Hoag hosted the first Presidential-Sanctioned Clay Shoot on campus. We had approximately 25 students, faculty and staff participate.

Being a part of an ever-growing major here on campus is such an amazing opportunity. Every semester we add something new to benefit all of our students and I am so excited to see what the future semesters hold for us!



Congratulations to Doris Gukich on 40 Years of Service to Warner University!



"Her fingerprints are all over this campus" ... that's what has been said about Mrs. Doris Gukich at many Board meetings.

For 40 years Doris Gukich has touched the Warner University campus and community in profound ways. She has touched the lives of students via scholarships she raised to allow them to attend school. She orchestrated events with an incredible balance of class and the hometown feel. She designed and decorated many of the buildings she helped raise funds to build. And, she forged friendships with donors, the community at large and co-workers that will last a lifetime.



Mrs. Gukich began teaching at Warner University, then Warner Southern College, in 1977 as a Student Development Counselor and Instructor in Social Work. In 1992, she became Warner's first female administrator as Vice President of Advancement and became the first female VP for Advancement in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCCU). Mrs. Gukich has been tireless in her efforts to raise money for campus development, special events and student assistance.

Among the many roles she played on campus, Mrs. Gukich chaired the committee transitioning Warner to University status. She was an integral part of the first \$1 million dollar gift to Warner and during her tenure helped raise a total of \$50 million. She helped raise the funds to build and designed much of the current campus including Rigel Student Center, Pontious Learning Resource Center, Raines and Fulton Residence Halls, Darby Academic Building, and the soon to be Agriculture Complex. A special mark on the campus are the "campus landmarks" she was instrumental with such as Michael Crews Clock Tower, Love Essence sculpture, the Gazebo, and the entrance Wall.

Mrs. Gukich is an active community leader through her involvement with the Chamber of Commerce, AAUW and other local organizations. She is a leader at her church, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. She is the wife of Dr. Robert Gukich, a respected veterinarian and mother of 5 daughters, (4 are Warner graduates) and soon to be 14 grandchildren. As a two time breast cancer survivor, part of her ministry has been to reach out to others battling cancer.



The Warner University Board of Trustees would like to thank Doris Gukich for touching our lives and the entire Warner community. As she transitions to retirement we are sure she will continue to leave a special touch (her fingerprints) on her family, the community at large and Warner University.

Rob Quam, MSW
Chair, Warner University Board of Trustees



Sports Update

Warner's Very Own Iron Man

Jeff Meeks is more than a WU Admissions Counselor, he is now an Ironman! Meeks competed in the Ironman Chattanooga Triathlon, consisting of a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike race, and 26.2-mile marathon, and despite the brutal heat conditions, Meeks accomplished what he had set out to do: finish the race.

"You have to find blocks of time. It's all about the discipline," Coach Jeff Meeks said.

The day of the race was a very unexpectedly hot one in Tennessee. Nearly a third of the athletes ended up dropping from the race. It had the second largest dropout rate of any Ironman event.



**Thanks to alums
John & Laura Motis
for sponsoring the
refinishing of the
tennis courts!**



Cross Fit at Warner

Warner is one of the first universities in the country to have a CrossFit club that students can join.

"So far we have ten athletes taking part in the program who are traveling and competing across the state," said Meeks. "We have at least two CrossFit Level One coaches to work with our athletes."

"It's been a really great experience. My friends that I work out with are my best friends and it helps create a bond through working out together," said Warner's CrossFit Club member Daniel Jones. "We constantly push each other and it helps us to become better athletes."

Leaving It All on the Court

Warren Hall is undoubtedly a gifted basketball player, but in his senior year, Hall has shattered some of the biggest records in NAIA history.

Hall has back-to-back titles of Sun Conference Player of the Year, NAIA First Team All-American, and Sun Conference Tournament Championship. He has Sun Conference Tournament MVP accolades, and now a well-deserved NAIA Division II National Player of the Year.

"When looking back at my college career, I'm surprised at how many accomplishments I achieved here," said Hall. "It's humbling to know that with keeping God first and staying focused, everything will fall into place."

Hall's National Player of the Year came from a season of redefining brilliance. Hall became The Sun Conference's all time leading scorer, sitting at 2,631 career points and the leading single season scorer with 948 points.

Both records were previously held by the former NAIA National Player of the Year and Warner alumnus Josh Hall in 1999.

Basketball has always meant something deeper to Hall.

"I want to play professional, but I take it day by day," said Hall. "If it's meant to be, God will allow it to happen. That's why every day and every practice I work as hard as I can, because if I don't make it, I won't have any excuses that I didn't work hard enough, because I did."

"I can say I left everything on the court."

Written By: Monique Frandji

Psalm 119 Court Dedication



Josh Ellis, Warren Hall, E. Tye, Coach Hanrahan
at the court dedication

In November, the court and the fitness center inside the Turner Athletic Center was dedicated in honor of the Tye Family.

The court was aptly named the "Psalm 119 Court" after Mrs. Tye's favorite scripture for the young men and women coming through Warner.

*"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word."
Psalm 119:9.*

Thanks to her generous support of Warner University's athletic program, our men's basketball team was able to travel to the NAIA National Championship Series in Spring 2016 to Branson, MO. Our men's basketball team ended up in the Elite 8!

A big thanks to Mrs. E. Tye from the Warner University family!

Hyman and Durham Set Track & Field Off to a Winning Start

Coming off a fantastic 2016 season, Warner's Track & Field team has picked up right where it left off. At the 2017 NCCAA Indoor Track and Field Championship in New York, Tobias Durham and Oshin Hyman came home with multiple medals around their necks.

Hyman won first place in the Women's Long Jump, was runner-up in the Women's Triple Jump, and received All American.

Durham got runner-up in the Men's 60 Meters, the Men's Triple Jump, the Men's Long Jump, and received his sixth All American.

"It's always hard work that pays off," said Durham.

Durham is coming off a 2016 NAIA Indoor Men's Field "Athlete of the Year" title for the Southern Region, and is the school record holder for the 60 Meter Dash, the Triple Jump, and the 4x1.

Durham has four Conference Championships and has helped Warner hold the Sun Conference Meet Record for the 4x1.

Another member of the team that helped break the 4x1 record was Nykemis Pelham, who along with Durham has qualified for the 2017 NAIA Nationals on May 25.

All three athletes have also qualified for the NCCAA Outdoor Track and Field Nationals on May 12, along with 11 others.

With talent and hard work, the last key to success is a knowledgeable coach.



Coach Emperatriz Gonzalez-Henao is the 2016 Sun Conference Men's Track and Field Coach of the Year. She has been the Warner coach for Track and Field and Cross Country since 2001 and helped start the Track and Field program.

From Medellin, Colombia, Gonzalez-Henao was the National Coach for the Colombian Team where her athletes medaled in the Olympic games and got runner-up at the World Championships.

Since her time at Warner, over 100 hundred athletes have gone to nationals in Indoor Track, Outdoor Track, and Cross Country, with at least one athlete qualifying for nationals every season. There are a total of 45 All Americans and counting under her leadership.



2016 Football Season

Warner University had a phenomenal 2016 football season, finishing with an 8-2 record. The Royals finished second in The Sun Conference, as well as, being named Victory Bowl Champs and NCCAA National Champions. Several members also earned the All-NCCAA awards and the NAIA All-Conference awards.

Head Coach Rod Shafer received Coach of the Year, while Defensive Player of the Year went to Drew Clark. Clark finished the season with 41 tackles, 14.5 for loss, and eight sacks from the defensive end position.

Along with Clark, Dajshon Oliver was named to First Team All-NCCAA as an offensive lineman. Rahim Booker made Second Team All-NCCAA for offensive as a returner, and DJ Davis and Bryant Benton were both named to the honorable mention All-NCCAA team.

Emmanuel Bien-Aime was also named to the All-NCCAA team as an Honorable Mention selection.

Here is the list of the 2016 All-Conference team awards for the Sun Conference our Royals received:

First Team All-Sun Conference:

Offense: OL- Dajshon Oliver
RB- Byrant Benton

Defense DL- Drew Clark
DL- Larry Faison
LB- Emmanuel Bien-Aime
DB- Travell Sherrod
DB- Raheem Phillips

Specialists: Return Specialist- Rahim Booker

Second Team All-Sun Conference:

Offense: OL- Wesley Brooks
OL- Donald Carruthers
OL- Cody Cox
RB- Jerome Lindo
TE- Justin Jackson

Defense: DL- Lane Burnett
DB- Leonard Faison
DB- Ronnie Harris

Academic All-Conference Team:

Bradley Coogan



The New Man on Campus

...and his First Lady



Within a year, Warner University's third president, Dr. David Hoag has won the hearts of the faculty, staff, and the entire student body, and has immediately dove into the presidential role in God's perfectly crafted plan for Warner.

The journey began in December of 2015 when Hoag received a phone call about the opportunity from a friend, who was the consultant doing the search, encouraging him to consider the presidential position because he believed Hoag would be perfect for Warner.

"Joanna and I prayed about it and we filled out our packet of information," said Hoag. "Then in mid February they told us they were down to four candidates and asked if I could come to Florida for an interview."

During his first visit to Warner, Hoag got to take a covert prayer walk on campus and met with the search committee including several board members, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing Dawn Rafool, Chairman of the Board Rob Quam, and Associate Professor of Communication Dr. Tim Craig.

That same night the consultant called Hoag informing him he was their number one choice.

But the decision wasn't final yet, and as the journey continued and Hoag made a second trip to Warner where he met more faculty and staff members, sat at a chapel service, and went in for a second interview, he was more and more amazed by the university.

"The people here are phenomenal. I can't get over how friendly, nice, and passionate they are," said Hoag. "They just love this place."

The Hoags had to keep their position a secret until the final decision by the board was made at the end of April.

April 29 was confirmation day, Hoag was now officially the third president of Warner University, and the announcement to the Warner community was made on May 2.

"We were so humbled because all of a sudden you feel the responsibility that you're going to have for 1,200 students and 189 employees. It was just an awesome feeling," Hoag said. "Meanwhile, it was so neat to see how God just kept working things out in our lives."

Entering into his first year in office, Hoag had his priorities established for the institution.

"What I have been sharing since day one is recruitment, retention, and serving our students. If it weren't for the students we wouldn't even be here," said Hoag. "And if you look at this past year you can see some examples in ways we have served the students."

Royal Services was implemented as a one-stop shop to better serve the needs of the students, as well as, the new paved road at the entrance.

"One thing I loved doing this year was asking faculty and students if they were president for a day, what they would change, and this has helped me have the heartbeat of the institution and know which areas we need to address," said Hoag.

First Lady of Warner University Joanna Hoag has been alongside her husband every step of the way.



"When we took the position, we accepted it as an assignment for the both of us. Joanna travels with me as we meet donors, friends, alumni, and she also comes to events and activities, although I couldn't convince her to come to paint wars," Hoag laughed.

Even their youngest daughter is taking classes as an online student in business.



Hoag doing the “Usain Bolt” while preaching in Jamaica

“Joni has been under the radar because her last name is Stanick, not Hoag. Because no one really knows she’s the president’s daughter, she’s been able to experience this genuine, loving, caring faculty that everybody else gets to experience on a regular basis,” said Hoag.

Many of Hoag’s former colleagues and friends have all expressed how Hoag’s entire career laid the foundation for this moment. Some for instance, Wheaton College’s Ministry Associate for Discipleship Ray Chang, has said during his visit to Warner that he believes the university could not have chosen a better president.

When Hoag first started out in higher education he was in admissions learning recruitment and understanding the value of it and how it works. He then went into advancement where he learned about fundraising and working with alumni and friends, and during Hoag’s time at Greenville College as the Senior Vice President, he got a chance to understand finance and learned to find a way to make an institution financially viable.

During his years at Greenville, Hoag was also working on his PhD in higher education with a focus in evaluation and finance.

“As I look back on my life, on my 29-year journey in Christian education, I can see how God has been preparing me along the way,” said Hoag. “My strengths and the things I have learned just really fit with Warner and where we are now.”

But there was one thing Hoag wasn’t prepared for.

“One of the biggest surprises I had this year is how I just love being engaged with the students and attending activities,” said Hoag. “I even challenge myself to see how many events can I get to in one day. Four athletic events is my record right now.”

The President has even taken over social media as “Hoagmania.”

“This generation of students is very social media savvy and I knew that would be a touch point I could have with them,” said Hoag. “It’s a way to connect with the students and show them that I am interested and invested in them.”

Hoag is a well-known athlete as a runner and cyclist, even competing in the hardest mountain bike race in the United States to celebrate his 50th birthday, and now Hoag has brought his passion into his career.

“Cycling has taught me about setting goals, accomplishing things you never thought you could accomplish, and it’s also taught me how deep I can dig if I need it,” said Hoag. “There are many parallels between athletics, life, work, and even faith.”

Although cycling is his passion, Hoag says higher education is his calling.

"I want my legacy to be student driven. We are here for the students and we are here to serve them," said Hoag. "I want my service to be the impact I make."



And Hoag is ready to make an impact. Besides what he's already started, Hoag has a vision he is ready to set in motion and if Warner were to receive 10 million dollars from a donor he knows exactly what he would do.

"A performance field area for soccer, track and field, and football. We also need to expand the gym, locker rooms, and parking lot area. We need practice rooms for music and have some good student hang out space so if students just want to watch TV or have an activity they can, instead of being in the dorms all day."

Since he's taken office, Hoag has been able to do some exciting new things, from attending a Miami boat show to preaching in Jamaica. But this president has a fun side and Warner activities like the skeet shoot and paint wars bring it out of him.

Hoag's spontaneous nature, along with the love for his students was apparent at his inauguration. The mutual love from the students was voiced as they started to cheer after the Hoags said their vows, and in response, Hoag lifted his hands and formed his fingers in the shape of a "W" for Warner. It's become his trademark ever since.

"That was a totally spontaneous moment," said Hoag. "I didn't know what to do when I heard them cheering and I just did it, it just happened."

"The entire inauguration was such a great gift with our entire student body, community leaders, peers from other institutions that I have developed friendships with, our family, and our parents all in attendance," said Hoag. "It felt like getting married again."

The First Lady is taking this adventure in stride and becoming a part of the Warner family.

"We want to work right alongside of you, we are here to be a team," said the First Lady. "I'm excited about what God has done here at Warner, what He is doing here now, and what He will do here."



As for the President's favorite dessert and movie...

"I love pies, pumpkin with vanilla ice cream on top, and "Gladiator" would have to be my favorite movie," said Hoag. "The line right before they go to battle: 'What we do now echoes into eternity' parallels our own Christian walk because if we live a Christ-like life and keep Christ at the center of our lives, we will spend eternity with Him."

-Written by Monique Frandji

Volleyball

Men's Volleyball Strikes Again

Warner University's Men's Volleyball team had another incredible year having finished the regular season with a 17-game winning streak, an (8-0) record in conference play, (21-4) overall record, number four ranking in the nation, and becoming Conference Champs securing a spot for Nationals.

"All of our players from seniors to freshman have sacrificed so much to be where we are as team," said Head Coach Steve Benson.

A couple of those seniors have been outstanding assets to the team, helping lead the team to success not only this year, but all throughout their time at Warner.

"Martin Kruger and Hui Ding have been incredible players for Warner. Ding a three time All-American and Martin earning his first last year," said Benson. "They are great players on the court, but even better teammates off the court."

Ding has also received the 2016 Defense Player of the Year, Krueger has earned the 2016 MVP award and Setter of the Year, and Benson was awarded the 2016 Coach of the Year.



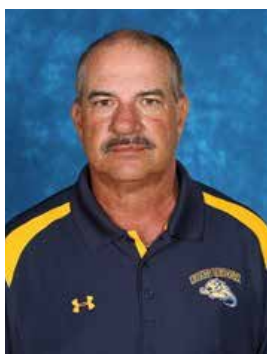
Women's Volleyball Star Adrienne Czaplewski

- 2016 Sun Conference Player of the Year
- 2016 NCCAA South Region Player of the Year
- First Player to reach 1,000 Kills and 1,000 Digs in Warner history
- (2) Sun Conference First Team
- 2016 NCCAA South Region First Team
- (3) All Americans: 1st Team All-American NCCAA
- (3) Sun Conference Academic All-Conference
- (2) NCCAA Scholar Athlete
- 2016 NCCAA South Region Tournament MVP & All-Tournament Team



"From the moment I made a commitment to Warner as my college home, I have been tremendously blessed. My experiences on the volleyball court, in the classroom, and in the community have not only helped me grow as an athlete and student, but more importantly, as a person and a believer. I can never thank all the people I have come into contact with enough for the influence they have had on my life because without them and the Lord's blessing, none of my success would have been possible," said Czaplewski.

Winning Coaches



2016
Rod Shafer
Football Coach
NCCAA



2015
Chrissy Moskovits
Women's Volleyball
The Sun Conference



2016
Steve Benson
Men's Volleyball
NAIA Independent
Conference



2016
Jose Martinez
Men's Tennis
The Sun Conference



2016
**Emperatriz
Gonzalez-Henao**
Men's Track & Field
The Sun Conference

1,000th WIN

Head baseball coach, Jeff Sikes, picked up his 1,000th career victory in a double header sweep of Indiana University-South Bend at WU's campus on March 13. He is currently 1,000-735-4 for his career, with all of his wins coming at Warner University over his 33+ seasons.

Sikes currently ranks 7th on the NAIA career win list amongst active coaches and is also the 7th active coach to reach 1,000 career victories.



Service Projects

Warner University Hosted Wahneta Elementary School Carnival

Warner University hosted the Wahneta Elementary School Carnival where Warner athletic teams, WU Ministry Department, faculty and staff joined together to bring festivities for the students and their families on December 3.

Tennis Serves Local Young Students

Thirteen players from the Men and Women's tennis teams along with Coach Martinez assisted the Snively Elementary School's children's carnival with mini tennis court stations for the young students in Winter Haven on November 2.

Some of the Warner Women's tennis team also volunteered their time to read to students at the Little Highlander Academy in Lake Wales on December 14.

Football Players Teach Leader Skills

Five Warner football players and a coach spoke with the students at Woodlawn Elementary School's DEAL (Drop Everything and Lead) club in Sebring about the characteristics of being a leader in the classroom and on the field on November 21.

Softball Serves the Community

The Warner University softball team and coaches served at the Lake Wales Care Center, assisting in loading and unloading items to the Care Center Christmas store on October 24. The ladies also served breakfast at Give Kids the World in Kissimmee, FL., on November 6.

Baseball "Teams" Up for Local Kids

The Warner Baseball team and coaches teamed up with the First Baptist Church of Lake Wales and the Lake Wales Little League to host a baseball camp for local kids on January 12.



WU's Piano Man



Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Jonathan Reed has an inspiring love and talent for music, having been playing since the age of eight.

"Listening to sound and music has always been a fascination for me," said Reed. "I fell in love with being able to make sounds on my own and creating music."

But there's one little detail to this Piano Man's magic- Reed is impartially deaf with a hearing loss in one ear.

Because of complications when Reed was born, doctors gave him strong drugs in order to keep him alive, but the medications were oxytocic and damaged some of the nerves in his ears, and as a result, Reed lost the upper frequencies of the hearing range.

Reed's never let it slow him down, and in his life, he has shown the power and love of God and what He can do.

"Even overcoming a lot of these inabilities that people would see, either as the disability or the hearing loss or the speech impediment, here I am, a professional musician and a college level teacher," said Reed. "Those things don't happen by accident."



Tyler Benbow, an instructor in the Church Ministry department at Warner University and author of the book *I'm Not Real*, spoke as a special guest speaker at the Creation Museum in Kentucky for their highly publicized event, *No Choice But Pro-Life*.



Dr. Maureen Davin, Associate Professor of Exercise Science and Physical Education, received the Educational Leadership Award at the SHAPE Convention.



Warner Assistant Professor of Elementary Education, Laurie Boulden has published another book, a novel called *Weighed Down: A Love Story Worth Lifting Up!*. This contemporary Christian Romance makes a great summer read.



Congratulations to Assistant Professor of Education Lori Hutto (BA '00, MAE '08) for completing her Ph.D in Special Education Curriculum from Northcentral University in Prescott Valley, AZ. Dr. Hutto's dissertation: *A Multiple Case Study Analysis Exploring Autism Spectrum Disorder as a Culture*.

Around Campus

5th Annual Warner Cares Day Goes Big

Warner University continued their tradition of Warner Cares Day, now the fifth annual, with over 450 Warner University faculty, staff, and students all serving in 45 projects around the community and giving back over 1,600 hours of volunteer work on April 5.

Projects consisted of reading to kids and gardening at elementary schools, such as Hillcrest, painting and cleaning the Lake Wales Airport, to helping the Care Center Thrift Store, and much more.



Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)



With a room of 115 students, this year's Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) kickoff on September 12 was the largest in recent years.

"The FCA is a time to really grow, no matter where someone might be in their journey, and learn about God in an environment that is

nonjudgmental, while having a great time," said FCA Leader, junior, and Warner's men's soccer player Austin Shaner.

FCA meets every Monday with the first Monday of every month for large group meetings with speakers, worship, reflections, games, and food. Speakers consist of students, coaches, professors, and special guests.



6th Annual "Gimme 4" 5k Run/Walk

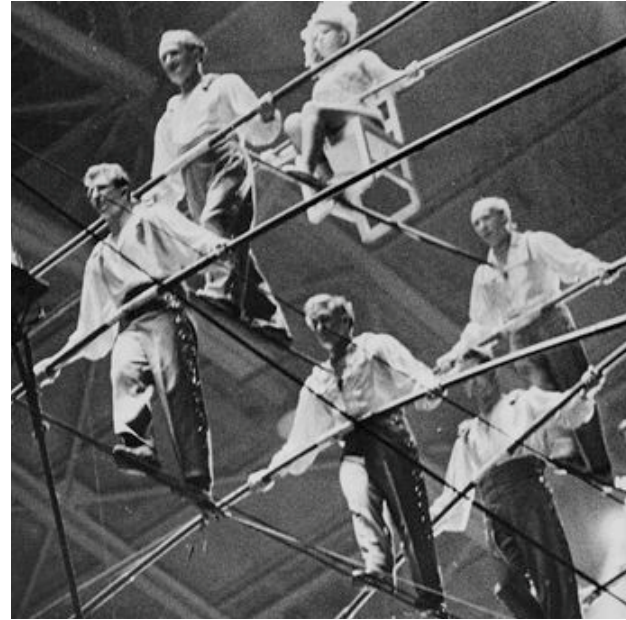
The Sixth Annual Gimme 4 Foundation 5k Run/Walk occurred on Saturday, March 25, and the recipient, thirteen-year-old John Henry Klekamp, is the grandson of Warner University Assistant Professor of Finance and Business Tom Burdsall.

A “Flying Wallenda” Among Us

With a legacy of over 200 years and spanning seven generations, the famous circus act and daredevil stunt performers “The Flying Wallendas” have made a mark at Warner University with family member and baseball player Broderick Rodocker Wallenda.

The Flying Wallenda's are the top five biggest names in the circus since the 1900s with their signature seven-person chair pyramid.

The connection to the famous family comes from Broderick's mother, a former performer herself.



Broderick's great-grandfather Herman Wallenda and his brother, family patriarch Karl Wallenda, formed the family's first act in Germany in 1922.

With the family still performing today, one of Broderick's cousins, Nik Wallenda, has taken it a step further by carrying on his great-grandfather Karl's daredevil stunts.

Nik is best known for his ABC featured high wire walk across the Niagara Falls in 2012, and in 2013 becoming the first person to do it across the Grand Canyon without a harness, which was featured on Discovery Channel.

“It's not another day in the office, for me, it's more like another day on the golf course,” said Nik.

But you won't see Broderick performing anytime soon.

“I tried a four-foot high wire, but I fell, it wasn't fun. I was done after that,” Broderick laughed.
“I think I'll stick with baseball.”

-Written by Monique Frandji

Former NBA L.A. Laker Paid a Visit to Warner University

The legendary Iron Man, former L.A. Lakers forward A.C. Green, visited Warner University to speak at chapel on Thursday, Feb. 9.

During his 16-year NBA career, Green was most known for two things: having to this day the record for the longest consecutive games played in history, 1,192, and his unwavering faith and love for Christ as a born-again Christian at the age of 17.



Chapel Speakers



Alumnus Bob Hawker ('08), Pastor of Student Ministries at Wildwood Church of God in Kentucky, returned to Warner University to participate in Spiritual Life Week.

"Coming back to Warner to preach at Spiritual Life Week, it makes me really proud to be a Warner grad just to see how diverse the campus has become and how much it has grown," said Pastor Bob. "It was exciting to preach to such a diverse group of students."



Professor of Law at Trinity Law School at Santa Ana, CA Myron Steeves paid a visit to Warner to speak at chapel on the importance of religious liberty and how it's threatened today.

"We need to protect the liberty that we have, but in order to do this we have to be vigilant and see where it's under attack," said Steeves.

With having worked at Trinity International University with President Hoag, Steeves wasn't shocked when he heard the news about Hoag's new presidential position.

"He had the skills to be a university president for a long time," said Steeves. "I knew it would happen someday."



Dr. William Washington, VP for Student Life at Bethel University in Minneapolis, escaped the winter storms to present to the students in two chapel services.

"God has these students' destiny planned and He wants the best for them. I ask them to take the opportunities they have here at Warner and maximize them," said Dr. Washington. "Our students in this generation are our future leaders who will be setting the tone for this country; having a faith-based education is paramount to that."



Warner University welcomed Wheaton College's Ministry Associate for Discipleship Ray Chang, as he spoke at a FCA gathering and in Warner's chapel on Feb. 7.

"I want to make sure the word of God is lifted up, and the students have a sense that they can engage with God through His word confidently without any concerns if they are experts or not because God meets you where you are," said Chang.

Music Major Selected into Florida Intercollegiate Band



Warner University sophomore band member Meagan Yopp was selectively chosen as the first chair trumpet player for the Florida Intercollegiate Band which performed in Tampa in January.

Introduction to Theatre as a Fine Arts Credit

The Introduction to Theatre class has been added to the course catalog as a fine arts credit due to the interest of many students to try acting along with the success of the Drama Club.

"This class gives students an opportunity for a creative outlet," said Professor Alicia Bush. "For me it's about creating an experience for them to do, create, and speak openly."



WU Chapel Worship Band-Red Letter



Red Letter, currently in its sixth year, was started by Instructor in Worship and Music and Director of Choral Music Dana Hofstrom as a worship group that would prepare people for leading worship, but also be responsible for taking care of some of the chapel worship.

Incorporated last year, Red Letter has hit the road for a cross-country tour for a few weeks over the summer. Check out their summer tour dates on the last page!

Warner Music Featured on "Out and About Art"

Warner University's Ensemble Choir and their director, Dana Hofstrom, were featured on Polk TV's "Out and About Art" Christmas edition on December 12 for their performance at the Lake Wales Art Center the week before.

The concert was packed with over 400 in attendance over the course of two nights of performances.

Click below to watch a glimpse of the performance captured by Polk TV:



<https://youtu.be/1bxJihNjecg>



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SAVE THE DATES



Red Letter Band Summer Schedule

Sunday, June 4

Rock Creek Church of God, Bessemer, AL

Monday, June 5-9

Camp Chula Vista, Pell City, AL

Sunday, June 11

First Church, OH

Monday, June 12-16

Camp Whitehall, Emlenton, PA

Sunday, June 18

First Church, KY

Monday, June 19-23

Camp Lebanon, Oregonia, OH

Sunday, June 25

Grace Place, Hermitage, TN

Sunday, July 23

First Church, Morgantown, NC

Monday, July 24-28

Camp Gaston, SC

Sports Summer Camps



Nike Boys' Basketball Camp

June 26-30

Magic Men's Basketball Camp

July 24-28

Magic Men's Basketball Camp

July 31-August 4



Nike Girls' Volleyball Camp

June 13-17

All Skills Indoor

Nike Girls' Volleyball Camp

July 11-15

All Skills Indoor



Nike Women's Basketball Camp

June 19-23