

Typecasting

Coloring outside the lines

Family tree

It takes a network

THE MESSENGER

McMURRY UNIVERSITY FALL/WINTER 2021-2022



1923

**McMURRY
UNIVERSITY**

2023

CENTENNIAL ERA





FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As I write this article, I cannot believe that I have been back on campus for six months. In some ways, it feels like I have just returned, and in other ways, it seems like I never really left. One of my reflections that I know is true – our alumni are the greatest assets that McMurry University produces, and this has been affirmed for me since the day I stepped back on campus in July. I have witnessed the core values that the university has instilled in each of us: Personal Relationships, Learning, Excellence and Service, all undergirded by a Christian Faith perspective.

McMurry has produced our greatest assets – you – and these core values are the standards by which we measure ourselves. I cannot begin to share the number of exemplars I meet every day who carry our university-instilled mission and values with them, both professionally and personally. The reality is that many McMurry faculty and staff poured their time and energies into you and helped shape who you are and who you have become.

If the truth were revealed from within us, I imagine many of you would say, “McMurry changed my life.” From the major you ended up choosing and the friends you made while here to the friendships that many of us continue to have today, we all share a legacy of strong relationships built that impact our lives and the incredible memories we share of this treasured 52 acres in Abilene, Texas. And McMurry will continue to change lives.



So what does this mean to you and me? It means that while we look to our Centennial Celebration in Fall 2023, we need your help. There are many critical decisions that the university will make in the near future, and your input is needed. What does a reenvisioned homecoming experience look like for our alumni? How do we continue to connect our alumni to this special place? Would you be willing to serve as a volunteer on one of our many boards; help recruit a student; fly the flag for your alma mater; or make a gift to help support our current students, faculty, and staff? These are all areas in which

we will need your help and support as we begin to craft the steps leading to McMurry’s next century.

I want to hear from you personally about your interest in helping your alma mater achieve new heights. If you are willing, contact me directly at hutchison.mike@mcm.edu or 325-793-4609. Or, if you simply want to share some feedback that you believe would be important for me to know, please feel free to contact me. All the best from all of us at your alma mater.

Ala Cumba,

Michael V. Hutchison '87
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

THE MESSENGER

FALL/WINTER 2021-2022

A PUBLICATION OF McMURRY UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT

Dr. Sandra S. Harper

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/ DEAN OF THE FACULTY

Dr. Matthew J. Draud

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION/CHIEF OF STAFF

Ms. Lisa Williams

VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Mr. Michael V. Hutchison '87

VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Robin G. Daniels

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS & INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Dr. Sam Ferguson

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Mr. Grant Greenwood

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN & DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

Rev. Marty CashBurless '78

EDITORIAL OFFICE

PUBLISHER

Ms. Robin G. Daniels

EDITOR

Ms. Katelyn Coll Scott '97
Director of Alumni Engagement

ART DIRECTOR/DESIGNER

Mr. Bill Dunham

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Mr. Christopher Bartlett
Ms. Lindsey Cotton
Ms. Sierra Lackey

CONTRIBUTORS

Ms. Kim Bonfadini
Mr. Mike Ezekiel
Ms. Alaisha Montanez '11

1 McMurry University #938
Abilene, Texas 79697
325-793-4609
mcm.edu
alumni@mcm.edu

THE MESSENGER is published by McMurry University. ©2022 McMurry University. The views and opinions presented in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors or the official policies of the university.

TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

325-793-4609
alumni@mcm.edu



SOCIAL.MCM.EDU



FEATURE STORIES

- 6 Typecasting
- 12 Coloring Outside the Lines

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

- 2 Around Campus
- 10 Homecoming

DEPARTMENTS

- 16 Finding Future War Hawks
- 17 New Director of Alumni Engagement
- 18 Alumni Awards
- 21 Alumni Class Notes
- 22 Athletics – Hall of Fame Honorees
- 24 Friends We'll Miss

SUPPORT

- 20 Meet the Melbourne Sisters
- 25 The Donor Difference

Around Campus

1. Michael V. Hutchison '87 announced as new vice president for institutional advancement

After a robust and fruitful search, Mike Hutchison was announced as McMurry University's new vice president for institutional advancement in July. In this role, he serves as the chief development officer for the university and provides leadership for the growth, administration and management of all functions relating to McMurry's comprehensive fundraising and alumni engagement efforts.

Enjoying an impressive career in higher education advancement, Hutchison has worked at three nationally recognized colleges for the liberal arts and sciences, including Austin College in Sherman, Texas; Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas; and Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. Under his leadership, each of these institutions achieved considerable success, which will be valuable to McMurry as it continues to move toward the school's 2023 Centennial.

A 1987 alumnus of McMurry, Hutchison recognizes that the alumni are the most valued asset that the university produces, and he looks forward to working with them to help McMurry achieve an ever-increasing reputation for educational quality.

His connection to Methodism includes working 19 of his 24 career years with United Methodist colleges. He also served as director of youth ministries at First United Methodist of Lubbock and Trinity-First United Methodist Church in El Paso and director of church relations for McMurry.

We are excited to welcome Hutchison, his wife, Monica, and their daughters back to McMurry and the Abilene community. Hannah and Maggie will be attending McMurry in Fall 22.



2. Back to business

As the COVID-19 pandemic stretched into yet another semester, McMurry University continued to monitor and adapt campus policies taking into consideration safety precautions guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Texas Department of State Health Services. With the delta variant top of mind statewide, nationally and globally, the university created policies aimed at protecting students, faculty and staff that would also allow it and the campus community to get back to business as normally as possible.

With a strong start to the semester, McMurry was able to welcome alumni, families, friends and guests back to campus to celebrate homecoming in October. The campus was abuzz with the familiar fall event, and the sense of normalcy was ever present as alumni and students shared traditions old and new. Celebrating together was just what McMurry needed!

As the pandemic continues, McMurry will remain diligent in its actions to protect the campus community. Look for more events and opportunities to safely visit campus this spring!



2



3. Enrollment increase

Reporting a total of 1,155 enrolled students, McMurry University welcomed its largest freshmen class in nine years, as well as a strong transfer class of 129 combined full- and part-time students. This 4.8% enrollment increase rivals pre-pandemic numbers and sets the university back on track to meet its Centennial goals.

After withstanding a global pandemic that caused a slight enrollment decrease during the 2020–2021 academic year, McMurry was pleased to enroll one of the largest and most diverse new student incoming classes in the past decade. This banner year is a result of multiple efforts the university implemented in 2020. These efforts include a test-optional admission policy and the Community Commitment financial aid program, which promises that at least 50% of a student's tuition would be covered by McMurry if a family member or the student worked in a serviced-based career.

Other strategies credited as contributions to the increase in enrollment include a newly revised business program in the Walter F. and Virginia Johnson School of Business and a large increase in the newly energized theatre program. Looking to the future, enrollment growth efforts such as the university's new online cybersecurity program, recently added sustainability and renewable resources majors in the sciences, and McMurry's continued commitment to student success in the form of new academic success coaches and the War Hawk Success Center could further advance enrollment growth.

4. New home for Bill Libby Plaza

In early August, McMurry University dedicated Libby Plaza in honor of Bill Libby. Many faculty and staff members attended the ceremony to honor the beloved pastor, coach, professor and mentor. The McMurry community also shared their greatest moments with Libby on the McMurry Alumni Relations Facebook page.



U.S. News and World Report rankings

This fall, McMurry University celebrated recognition as a top-ranked institution by the *U.S. News and World Report* "Best Colleges" guide for the 26th consecutive year. McMurry ranked 11th in the first tier of top-ranked institutions in the West Region of Best Regional Colleges. In addition, the university has improved rankings in several categories, including fourth for Best Value Schools, fourth for Best Colleges for Veterans and 17th for Top Performers in Social Mobility.

McMurry ensures that the education its students obtain is the balance of quality and affordability. This year's rankings illustrate that the university is indeed continuing to achieve this balance. Partnering McMurry's pledge of affordability with programs such as the newly created Community Commitment, its dedication to its students and students' success continues to be the driving factor that allows the level of quality programming the university provides.

Forgiving debt

Funds awarded to McMurry University as part of the American Rescue Plan and designated as Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (ARP HEERF III) allowed the university to forgive up to \$1.215 million of unpaid student account balances for students enrolled during the pandemic, between the Summer 2020 and Summer 2021 semesters. More than 400 students whose debt averaged \$3,005 were offered institutional debt forgiveness, which allows them to continue their studies and prepare for a life of leadership, service and professional success.

5. Sun power

McMurry University's greenhouse is now powered by electricity generated with solar panels installed on the roof of the pavilion, which serves as our outdoor classroom. The 4.62-kilowatt system provides adequate power for at least 12 hours of greenhouse operation, even when the panels are not producing. Students in the new sustainability and renewable resources major will be able to examine the system and use the data it generates as they consider how renewable energy can be used to power a small facility. This is one more advancement because of the Title V grant.



Making families proud

McMurry University honored its first-generation students, faculty, staff and alumni on Nov. 8 in recognition of the National First-Generation College Celebration. An estimated 37% of the current student body are first-generation students, who contribute to the university’s rich diversity and offer inspiration in their determination to overcome economic, language and social obstacles to achieve a quality college education.

6. Expanding students’ world perspective

Eight students from the Model U.N. program at McMurry University attended the National Model U.N. conference in Washington, D.C., Nov. 5-7, 2021. They represented Guatemala and worked on a variety of security and environmental related topics, such as nuclear proliferation, human trafficking, climate change and building a global blue economy. The students co-sponsored a dozen working papers, and all their resolutions were approved in their respective committees. While in D.C., they visited Arlington National Cemetery in honor of Veterans Day and explored the National Mall and other historic monuments, concluding their trip with a cultural dinner of Central and South American cuisine. Sutton Welch who was on the Peace and Security Committee, won a position paper award.



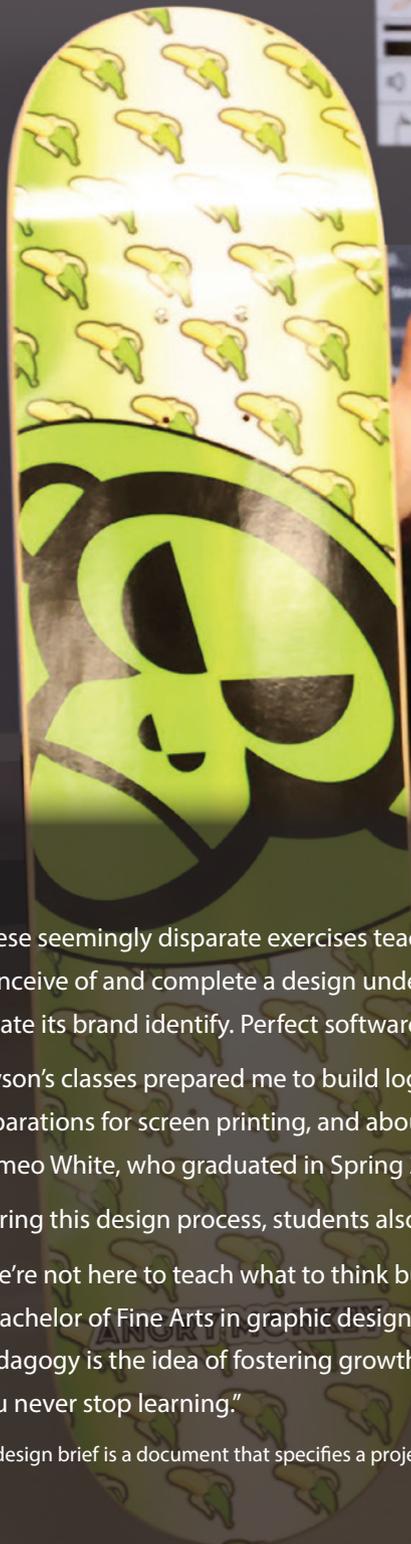


The only thing predictable about this McMurry art professor's graphic design course is that it's unpredictable

While it may be no surprise to hear that an art professor is considered a creative type, Tyson Terry's innovative teaching methods take this moniker to a whole other level. His unconventional classes prepare students for life after graduation in prodigious ways.

Tyson Terry, assistant professor of art teaching graphic design, multimedia, exploring the visual arts and art history, rarely lectures in his graphic design classes. Instead he challenges. Create a satirical brand identity for soap. Morph two disparate animals into a realistic-looking hybrid. Create sugar skulls for Dia de los Muertos.

"My first impression of Tyson's class was that it definitely was going to be challenging but fun. He always has the most interesting projects, such as a scary movie poster created off of nursery rhymes or writing and illustrating a children's book," said Jade Chabarria, a Fall 2021 graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design and multimedia. "I've never been in a class where everyone could brainstorm, throw out ideas and end up with awesome pieces."



These seemingly disparate exercises teach students to push creative boundaries within the confines of a design brief*. Conceive of and complete a design under the pressure of a hard-and-fast deadline. Research an unfamiliar product and then create its brand identity. Perfect software skills. Communicate effectively.

"Tyson's classes prepared me to build logos in Illustrator, redesign company font packages, build and edit websites, do color separations for screen printing, and about color theory for a mural, all of which I began doing not long after graduation," said Cameo White, who graduated in Spring 2021 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design.

During this design process, students also learn to think creatively and critically.

"We're not here to teach what to think but how to think," said Terry, who has been teaching at McMurry for six years and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design and Master of Fine Arts in graphic design and marketing. "What guides me more in pedagogy is the idea of fostering growth in learning and giving students the tools to teach themselves. If you can teach yourself, you never stop learning."

*A design brief is a document that specifies a project's parameters, objectives and deadline usually in consultation with the client.

Unexpected Innovation



Practical magic

Terry's teaching style has captured the attention of Vice President of Academic Affairs/Dean of the Faculty Matthew Draud, Ph.D.

"Tyson creates challenging assignments for his students that connect with their passion points," Dr. Draud explained. "He finds ways to push them gently out of their comfort zone, and this is precisely where

students discover strengths and skill sets that they did not even know they had. His innovation emerges from his adaptability and student-centric approach to teaching and learning."

Whether graduates go on to work at a frenetic design studio or teach at a small-town high school, they are equipped with the skills they need.

Terry partnered with Tobi Popoola, Ph.D., MBA, assistant professor of management, Johnson School of Business, to work with several companies in Abilene, Texas. Mirroring the kind of working relationship students can experience after graduation, the business students met with these clients to gather information, and then the graphic design students took that information to create design packages.

"Interdepartmental work was the hardest thing we did by far as we had to learn to coordinate and communicate with outside entities who don't understand graphic design," said White, who works as a graphic designer at Levrets Ink

Custom Screen Printing and gallery assistant for the Center for Contemporary Arts in Abilene. "We had to stick to their deadlines, but still create good works of design."

Terry explained that "dealing with clients and revisions and how many people are involved in the overall scheme of getting the design finished" can be eye-opening and tedious – and it's practice for real-life experiences after graduation. Through these assignments, students learn how to coalesce practical solutions and client expectations, as well as listen to feedback while meeting their goals – which can be a delicate balancing act.

"One thing I learned from Tyson is that you do not have to incorporate everything you know in a single project," said Claire Noelle Hillyer, a Spring 2021 graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design.

While Terry can suggest improvements to layout, color balance and typography, the client gives students different cues.

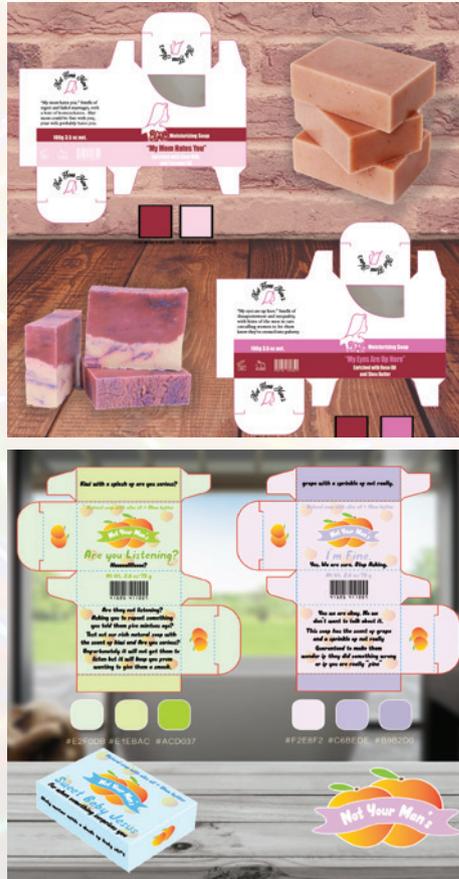
Students learn to be confident in their decision-making and defend their design. "They have to come out of their shell and be able to communicate well with the client," he observed.

Learning to roll with it

In addition to honing their craft, students are learning to be adaptable in an industry that is constantly evolving and innovating at a rapid pace.

"Not even a professor is going to know how to use the new updated Photoshop. Life is consistently about learning and planning ahead for what you can, and you just have to roll with it and adapt," said Adam Pyenta.

The rise of social media and e-commerce has changed the way consumers get information and companies position



themselves in the marketplace, and this only intensified during the pandemic.

“The marketplace is getting pretty competitive as far as what the pandemic has done with consumers and how they look at purchasing,” explained Terry. “People are starting to look at where their clients have gone and needing to position themselves in the digital world. A lot of what we consider to be traditional print media is starting to transition to more web-based design.”

This competition and the immediacy of marketing on internet platforms only intensifies the speed at which companies operate, which compresses the design process as well. Graphic designers are becoming more responsive and nimble as the time to explore concepts with new media and go to market accelerates.

Instead of a newspaper or magazine ad, it’s an ad that pops up on YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, TikTok or Instagram. “Those have become the new media platforms,” Terry said. Even though print is transitioning to the web, the elements are constant.

“You still need to have an understanding of typography and layout and how those work together...putting graphics and text together in a meaningful way in something that makes the client happy and their consumers more interested in their products,” Terry explained.

Innovation breeds success

You could say Terry’s students are well-practiced in these graphic design skills, as evidenced by a recent design competition – the department’s first.

Three McMurry students entered the Center for Contemporary Arts Graphic Design Student Competition in Abilene, Texas, and competed among students from regional colleges and universities.

They all placed first: Adam Pyenta, *Best in Show, Movie Poster Design*; Cameo White, *First Place, Brand Identity Package*; and Jade Chabarria, *First Place, Typography*.

Terry credits his student’s hard work and McMurry’s culture of fostering innovation for these accomplishments.

“Tyson creates an environment in which students have the confidence to take a risk, to put their thoughts on the line and to try out new ideas. It’s an environment that allows for failure without the fear of failing,” Dr. Draud said. “All of the most influential and transformational inventors, designers and creators express the need to learn to recognize failure as part of the creative process. I think Tyson is a master at this essential aspect of instruction.”

Terry’s incubator gets results:

“Tyson’s class prepared me for work after graduation by requiring an internship where I obtained real-world experience,” said Claire Hillyer, who works as a graphic designer for Bucketheads Screen Printing. “[I was able to] expand and organize an extensive portfolio full of projects under different categories of art and graphic design to give to potential employers.”

“Everything he teaches through projects are things that, even now before graduation, I’ve used for actual graphic design jobs,” said Adam Pyenta who expects to graduate in 2023 with a graphic design and multimedia major and business administration minor.

“Most of my classes have included real-world assignments. There has yet to be an employer disappointed in my portfolio, and I can only thank Tyson for that,” said Jade Chabarria.

His students sum up Terry’s classes this way: “5 out of 5 Mark Ruffalos,” which is a five-star rating for today’s YouTubers.

It’s also an example of spontaneous interactions that Terry shares with his students, showing that innovative teaching breeds successful – if not jocular – students.



McMURRY 2021

HOME COMING

Celebrating Together

Homecoming 2021 was about celebrating together, and alumni were welcomed back to campus to experience new and old traditions. Students launched two new events – the Celebrating Together Festival and walking parade – and traditional events included the coronation, bonfire and tailgating.





COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES

Innovation takes all forms, including building a better mousetrap – in this case, it’s one that transformed an established industry

There are inventors like Marie Curie and Thomas Edison who discover something that the world has never seen before, and then there are the likes of George Washington Carver and Steve Jobs who re-imagine something that already exists. McMurry’s Shawn Hailey is among the latter.

Back in 2011, Shawn Hailey, who graduated from McMurry University in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in multidisciplinary studies, was working as a line locator for Texas Pipeline Construction, finding and marking hydrocarbon production lines that crisscrossed the Permian Basin. Hitting one, as one might expect, is detrimental. Injuries, work delays, financial

hardships and environmental contamination are just some of the concerns. Hailey enjoyed the work and was gaining a reputation for being among the best, and other companies were starting to seek him out.

The idea struck him: Rather than companies working in silos using their own employees as line locators, why not start a business that offered this service industrywide. With this, LineQuest was born.

Hitting the ground running

To understand Hailey’s success is to know where he came from. As a kid, he was always making or selling something, from selling homemade play dough and lemonade to hosting garage sales and mowing lawns as Push Mower Boy, something that became his signature. “I’ve had a way with branding from a young age,” Hailey said.

Hailey was very mature even as a child. He tried to always do his best; he was a natural leader and motivator, “rallying the troops” on his sports teams; and he knew what he wanted.

“I still have the drawings I made of what I wanted my house to look like,” he said, and prophetically, he kept a book he wrote on what he would do if he had a million dollars.

Hailey met Derek Riedel, assistant cross-country and track coach at McMurry, while he was participating as the only high school student in a public road race in which the coach and several McMurry runners were participating. Hailey won the race. This fortuitous meet led to an athletic career at McMurry, where he continued to run cross-country and track for legendary coach Barbara Crousen.

Unexpected Innovation

In college, Hailey's goal was to be a coach. He loved coaching, but what he really loved was motivating people to reach their potential.

"Coaching is one of those careers that it's easy to see what you're getting out of people because there's a week-to-week performance-based result," Hailey explained. "If they're getting faster, you're doing something right; if they're getting slower, you're doing something wrong."

He went on to work as athletic director at Midland Academy and met people through the Permian Basin Running Club, which he was president for seven years.

During this time, Hailey became known for his leadership and motivational skills. He was offered a job in the oil field, which led to his job at Texas Pipeline. Here he oversaw damage prevention and safety. His schooling, which included a Master of Education in administrative management, and his competence as a leader and motivator set him apart from others in the field.

Putting it all on the line

While working for Texas Pipeline, Hailey had requests to do line locating for other companies.

"This wasn't how it was done at the time. You only located for your company and their projects," explained Hailey.

But the outside requests kept coming. This prompted Hailey to contemplate starting a business that eliminated the silos and provided a consistent, reliable service to companies in the oil and gas industry.



He approached four potential partners, which included his current employer and companies in trucking, inspection, and pipeline supply and construction. The latter is where he met Shawn Beard, who would become co-founder and chairman of LineQuest.

Beard would handle back office operations, like insurance, payroll and contracts. Hailey, as president and co-founder, would focus on sales; building client relationships; and training, managing and motivating employees.

But before they could launch the company, Beard asked Hailey to commit by contributing to the startup funding, and he found himself at a crossroads: Hailey could either pay off his student loans, as he had planned, or put all his money into starting the company and challenge himself with this venture. "It took everything I had to start it," he remembered.

Hard work and sacrifice pay off

Launched in 2013, LineQuest specialized in damage prevention providing utility and private line locating and hydro-excavation for the oil and gas industry in Texas. It had nine field employees.

Hailey had an attitude of "doing more with less" and bootstrapped the operation, reluctant to spend more than he had to. With free Wi-Fi and a lobby, his makeshift office that first year was a McDonald's, where he hired and counseled employees and did billing. "They were long days, and I loved it," he said. The first year of operation LineQuest's revenue was \$10 million.

Today, the company has expanded its reach. The oil and gas industry is a third of the business, and utility, municipal, and civil and private companies make up the rest. LineQuest employs 250, operates in six states and generates annual revenue that exceeds \$25 million.

Along the way, Hailey's drive to reach his potential has earned him and LineQuest significant recognitions (see below graphic).

Building on McMurry's foundation

Hailey said that attending McMurry significantly impacted his business journey.

"I'm super blessed to have gone to McMurry," Hailey said. "What McMurry taught was the definition of success ... and to me the definition of success is to reach your own potential."

He said that the professors actively participate in their students' learning and know when they are falling behind or aren't applying themselves. They challenge and nudge students to motivate success.

"The professors at McMurry are so intelligent. They know what it means to be successful and get the most out of students," Hailey explained. "When you leave McMurry, you have all the tools you need to succeed."

He believes that McMurry's core values have all the elements for a balanced life – Christian faith, personal relationships, learning, excellence and service – and the university endeavors to nurture this in its students.

Now Hailey is giving back to McMurry as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and member of the Board of Trustees. He describes his fellow board members as "out-of-the-box thinkers" who are working to provide students with opportunities that not every university has, and he's motivated to make this happen.



"I have a goal for the Alumni Board to give more back to the university financially than the group has ever done," he said. To that end, Hailey has pledged to match this year's Alumni Board giving dollar for dollar up to \$10,000.

"I want the students, professors and everyone connected to McMurry to have an even greater experience than what we had," he said. No doubt he'll think of innovative ways to make this happen.



2015 Hailey and an employee placed first and third in the Texas Regional Utility Locate Rodeo, Power and Electric Divisions, a competition by the Common Ground Alliance that judges line locators on accuracy, time and professionalism.	2016 LineQuest becomes the first Texas-based company to receive national accreditation for its training program from Nucla (formerly the National Utility Locating Contractors Association). Hailey is presented the Global Edge Consultants Future Industry Leader award at the Oil & Gas Awards in Houston.	2018 LineQuest is named the Oilfield Services Company of the Year.	2021 Hailey is named to the 2021 Forbes Business Council, an invitation-only organization for successful small and midsize business owners.
2019 LineQuest receives the General Industry Service Award at the Oil & Gas Awards event in Houston.			

McMURRY UNIVERSITY
Alumni
RECRUITING
AMBASSADORS

It takes a network

Finding future War Hawks

A successful enrollment and recruiting strategy is multifaceted. McMurry University wants to engage prospective students and families with relevant and robust messaging across all available platforms in the admission office. While admission coordinators do an excellent job of showcasing the institution's transformative and unique qualities, help is always needed. Who better to speak to the value of a McMurry education than our alumni?

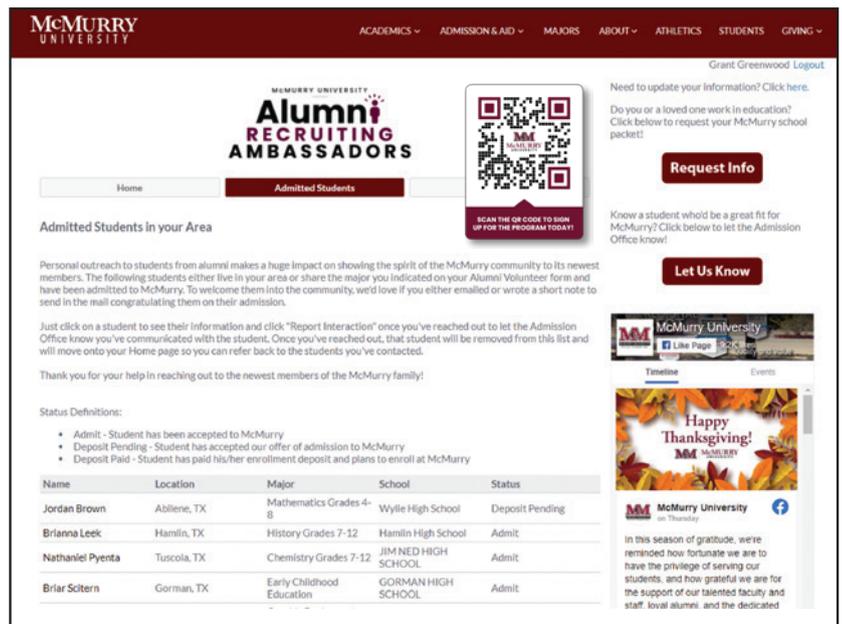
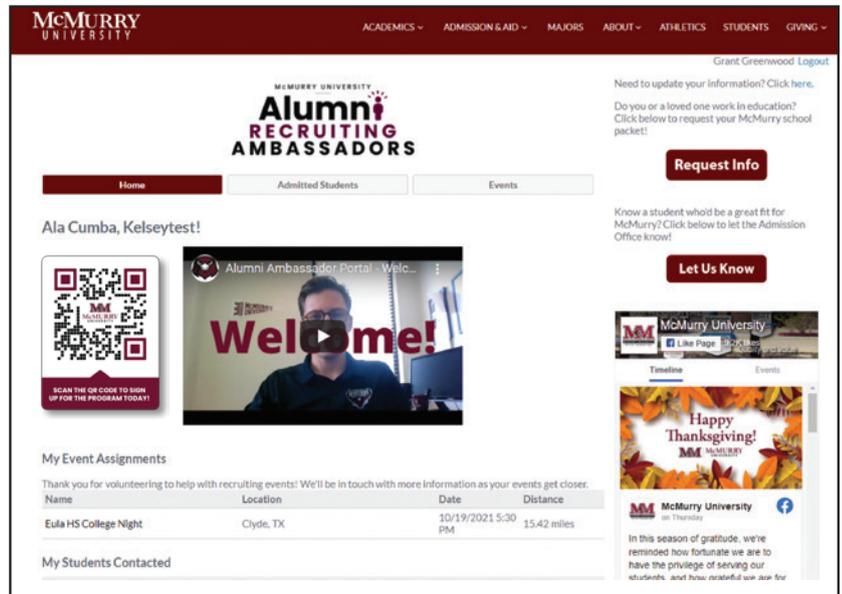
A collaboration between the advancement and enrollment management divisions launched in September. The new Alumni Recruiting Ambassadors Program will engage McMurry alumni while also helping admissions by multiplying the recruiting power for the team.

Alumni can support the effort by writing personal notes to a list of admitted students who live near them or share the same major, referring a student or family member, signing up to receive a classroom kit as an educator, or attending recruiting events in the area and meeting future War Hawks.

To join the program, scan the QR code below. The admission office will give access to a customized recruiting portal, along with directions and resources to support the recruiting efforts. The portal keeps alumni informed on enrollment and recruiting trends and relays information and requests. Alumni efforts and support through the Alumni Recruiting Ambassadors Program are meaningful and one way alumni can personally contribute to furthering the mission of this great institution.

These efforts have the potential to change a student's life trajectory. McMurry's campus community and recruiting outreach will strengthen when alumni get actively involved.

For more information, contact Grant Greenwood at greenwood.grant@mcm.edu or 325-793-4785.



JOIN TODAY!



Family tree

“The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago; the second-best time is now,” this proverb portends. It could also be said of McMurry University graduate Katelyn Coll Scott ‘97, who has returned some 20 years after her graduation to reinvigorate the university’s alumni program.

Katelyn Coll Scott, a McMurry University graduate, returns to the university as the new director of alumni engagement. She received a Bachelor of Arts in communications from McMurry, and was very involved in extracurricular and leadership activities and deeply rooted in the McMurry culture.

While she attended from 1993 to 1997, she participated in T.I.P.; Chanters; KIVA Sweetheart; Servant Leadership, including as a preceptor; and McMurry Student Government, on which she served as senator as a freshman, secretary as a sophomore, vice president as a junior and president as a senior.

“For the 18 years I lived in the Midwest, my connection to McMurry consisted of reading *The Messenger* and giving financially,” Scott explained. “I couldn’t easily come back to campus for homecoming or spring alumni weekend, and I was not aware of opportunities to volunteer from a distance – virtual opportunities didn’t exist at the time.”

The ties that bind

Scott has been working as director of alumni engagement since Sept. 2021, and she’s embarked on this role with the same passion that she had as an undergraduate.

She’s creating opportunities for alumni of all ages to engage with McMurry in meaningful ways – regardless of where they live – while giving students a connection with those who came before them.

Alumni activities in the works include planning reunions, helping students learn McMurry pride and traditions, assisting with admissions referrals, volunteering as a career mentor, hiring graduates, and donating to support the university mission.

“I want to provide accessible, relevant and appealing engagement opportunities for alumni, no matter where they’re located,” Scott said. “This could include regional alumni events; virtual mentoring opportunities; community-based student recruitment; or online alumni career support, networking and continuing education courses.”

Understanding what matters most to alumni is an important first step, and Scott is actively listening to their wants and needs.

“Prospective students want to see successful alumni. Alumni want to reminisce about their time at McMurry, share their career stories and offer advice. The students who engage with



L to R: Jeff Scott, Katelyn Coll Scott, Jori Coll Sechrist and Tim Sechrist.

enthusiastic alumni benefit immensely from their knowledge, advice and mentorship and are more likely to become enthusiastic alumni who give back,” she said.

This connection with former, current and prospective students enriches the community of McMurry. While student activities and customs evolve over time, the values of camaraderie, service, leadership and professional success is enduring.

“When I’ve asked alumni what part of their McMurry experience was most meaningful, the answer is overwhelmingly the same across generations: personal relationships – with professors, classmates, roommates, teammates and clubs,” Scott said.

Family matters

Scott is among the alumni who values these relationships.

“The campus really does feel like family in the way we connect with one another and care about each other,” she said.

In Scott’s case, McMurry is literally a family affair. Her husband, Jeff, has been the director of the servant leadership program for a little over three years. Her sister, Jori Coll Sechrist, joined the McMurry faculty in 2016 and serves as associate professor of sociology and the director of institutional effectiveness, and her brother-in-law, Tim Sechrist, has worked in the financial aid office for seven years, becoming director four years ago. All are enthusiastic McMurry alumni.

Scott’s 17-year-old daughter, Lauren, graduates from Abilene High School this May and is in the process of looking at universities. McMurry is a contender. Scott’s hoping the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.

Recognizing excellence and achievements

The Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 1971 by the McMurry Alumni Association to recognize alumni who have made a significant contribution to their profession, society and McMurry University. Each year, the Alumni Association Leadership Council selects individuals who embody these values. A business leader, science educator, artist, religious leader, teacher, retired administrator, athletic director, retired district judge, community leader and philanthropist were recognized for exemplifying excellence at the annual Night of Distinction dinner on Oct. 15, 2021. This year's dinner was included as part of the 2021 homecoming festivities.

Distinguished Alumni Award – The Honorable Jorge A. Solis '73



The Honorable Jorge A. Solis was recognized posthumously as the 2021 Distinguished Alumnus. He served as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas in Dallas from Sept. 1991 to May 2016. He was nominated by President George H. W. Bush in

June 1991 and received his commission in September of that year. He presided over 250 trials, including patent, trade secrets, trademark, oil and gas, antitrust, and securities litigation. These included class-action suits and enforcement actions by the Securities and Exchange Commission, employment, environmental/CERCLA, and other complex commercial federal cases. More recently, he served as special counsel for the Katten law firm with a focus on trademark, oil and gas, and securities litigation and arbitration.

Young Alumni Achievement Award – Hunter Sims '07

Hunter Sims serves as the athletic director for Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, and continues to be involved with the Big Country Fellowship of Christian Athletes. At McMurry, he was a respected athlete and teammate, and he continues to serve as an example of leadership and sportsmanship for Howard Payne and the Brownwood community. He is one of the youngest athletic directors in the NCAA and is a notable ambassador for Division III sports.



Trustee Emeriti – Sara Hernandez Hudman Graham '63 and Orland Gilbert '57



Orland Gilbert, who was honored posthumously, and Sara Hernandez Hudman Graham join an elite group of McMurry leaders as the university's newest Trustee Emeriti. Gilbert served on the McMurry University Board of Trustees from 1998 to 2007; Graham served on the board from 1998 to 2007 and again from 2012 to 2019.

Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award in Business – Leslie Chalmers '99

Leslie Chalmers serves as executive director of the Jacksboro Economic Development Corporation and was named one of Parker County's Top 40 Under 40. She received the Jean Bryant Marketing Award in 2014 and is a recent graduate of Leadership Texas, an elite program dedicated to developing women leaders active in decision-making in political, economic and public life.



Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award in Religious and Spiritual Life – Zach Kersee '11

Zach Kersee is a minister in Sterling, Massachusetts. After attending Harvard Divinity School, he founded Simple Church, a Methodist dinner church, and began preaching and ministering at Worcester Fellowship, a church for people experiencing homelessness. He currently serves at the historic First Church in Sterling while continuing his homeless ministry. His innovative approach to ministry has been featured in *Faith and Leadership*, *The Christian Science Monitor* and *The New York Times*.



Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award in Fine Arts – Tom Turner '01

Tom Turner is an artist and educator based in Eagle River, Arkansas. He has taught at the Art Institute of San Antonio, Northwest Vista College in San Antonio, Saint Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas Tech University in Lubbock and the Creative Light Workshops in San Antonio. His artistic practice is focused on photographic landscape imagery, and he has exhibited locally, nationally and internationally. His work has appeared in *Wired Photo*, *International Photography Annual 4*, *Juxtapoz Art & Culture* and, most recently, *Fraction Magazine*.



Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award in Education – Rory Peacock '01

Rory Peacock is the deputy executive director for the Education Service Center Region 11 in White Settlement, Texas, which encompasses 77 school districts in North Texas and serves approximately 600,000 students. He successfully created the FIBER11 network and led a consortium of schools and partners in the region to build out a fiber-connected network. The FIBER11 project has been implemented in multiple regions, impacting over 2 million students in Texas.

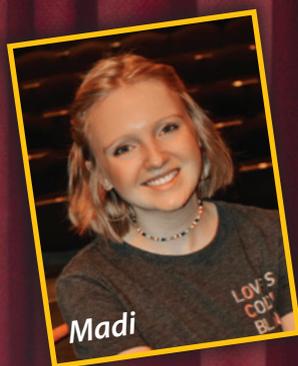


Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award in Math and Sciences – Aletha Williams '04

Aletha Williams has been a chemistry teacher for 14 years, and she is part of the Teaching and Learning Council created by Educate Texas. A TED-ED Innovative Educator, she has worked on a project to help teachers learn about literacy and project-based learning for English language learners. Williams is the founder of Change Agents of Katy ISD, a community effort to recruit teachers of color into the profession; a 2020–2021 Teach Plus Ready to Lead fellow; and currently completing a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction for science, technology, education and math (STEM) education.



Each year faculty, staff and fellow alumni nominate accomplished McMurry graduates to be considered for Distinguished Alumni honors. This year's awardees again demonstrate McMurry servant leadership at its very best. While the annual Night of Distinction dinner is by invitation only, the awards presentation is available online at alumni.mcm.edu.



Madi

The Marvelous Melbourne Sisters



Graci

McMurry Fund Fuels Theatre Creativity

If you have watched “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” you likely were captivated by the spirit and energy of Miriam, the lead character. But her spunk is no match for that of Madi and Graci Melbourne, whose sheer presence lights up the room, or in their case, the Little Ryan Theatre, where we recently interviewed the pair.

Theatre majors at McMurry, you will see both sisters around campus and in stage productions. Natives of Abilene, both agree that McMurry is the perfect fit for them.

What attracted you to McMurry?

Madi was enamored by McMurry’s modest size. “But when I arrived, the warm feeling and sense of community was so much more than the student-faculty ratio – they (faculty, staff and other students) notice you and are concerned for your welfare.” Graci and Madi are best friends and have done everything together since they were young, so naturally Graci felt she would follow in Madi’s footsteps. But upon arriving at McMurry, Graci knew that there were some things that appealed to her beyond having her sister as a college classmate.

What opportunities have you gained at McMurry?

Graci and Madi both work with the university’s marketing and communications office. Graci helps to engage students weekly with her vivid personality in “What’s Up War Hawk”. Madi was recently involved in video production for the university. Both sisters are building their resumes and are willing to get involved. They encourage other students to do the same, just say “Yes.”

What is unique about McMurry’s theatre program?

Graci acknowledges that McMurry’s theatre program is special. And the sisters agree that McMurry’s family environment fosters a sense of connection that creates a strong bond between students and faculty and to the university. Madi notes, “At McMurry, you are introduced to all aspects of theatre production – more than just acting. There are no specialist programs. You’re exposed to and involved in everything from lighting, acting, sound, and costume design to set development, construction, and breakdown...even box office management. This all-encompassing approach allows you to discover new subdisciplines that excite you and set you on a potential career path.”

What is meant by “innovation” in theatre?

McMurry addressed innovation in the theatre program was apparent when McMurry took their summer theater production outdoors in summer 2020. Madi was grateful that COVID didn’t stop the show from going on. The department looked at a longtime tradition breathe life into it. It is as simple as thinking about how to take something well-established and make it new and appealing. Madi adds that the department is doing that now with the upcoming production of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. It was written forever ago – the challenge is how do we make those words, that same story, interesting and engaging to people now?

How important are contributions to the McMurry Fund?

Endowed scholarships are the reason that Madi and Graci are at McMurry today. They wouldn’t be able to do what they are doing – and are amazed by and appreciative of those who so generously give the gift of a promising future to an undergrad.

Graci made the point that donors may not realize the magnitude of their gifts. She said, “What they are doing is investing in the life of a person; they are investing in our present and our future. Our whole life path is being defined by the things that they’re selflessly giving. If you think about it for a minute, that is incredible and awesome.” Madi added that beyond scholarships, donations to departments and groups on campus, like theatre, allow for old to be replaced by new. Modern technology is essential to preparing students for future jobs.

What’s next for Madi and Graci?

Both graduate from McMurry in May 2023. With the revitalization of downtown Abilene, Madi wants to contribute to live theatre with her dream of opening a children’s theatre. Graci loves writing and wants to continue to develop her skills as a playwright. Who knows? We may see Graci’s plays produced by Madi right here in Abilene’s newest theatre, Melbourne Children’s Theatre – as always, the marvelous Melbourne sisters stand ready to light up the stage and give back to the community, together.

To support the Melbourne sisters and others like them, consider a gift to the McMurry Fund at join.mcm.edu/mcmfund.

1970-1979

Cathy Pinson Raybold '74 retired from teaching after 38 years. Raybold, her husband and their three dogs live above the Brazos River outside Waco. She fills her days reading, sewing, gardening and being a dog mom. "When it's safe, we plan to start traveling again," she said.

Francisco "Harvey" Oaxaca '77



was elected to the McKinney ISD School Board in May 2021. Oaxaca has spent 20-plus years of his 40-year career in education, serving as a campus and central office administrator in McKinney ISD.

1980-1989

Cynthia Larson Wadley '88

will graduate with her doctorate in educational administration from Texas A&M Commerce in May. She currently works as an educational sales consultant in West Texas and the Panhandle area.

2000-2009



David Bailey '04

was promoted to executive vice president for commercial banking at First Financial Bank, N.A. in Nov. 2021. Bailey has been with the

bank for 18 years, starting his career as a teller while attending McMurry. Following graduation, he joined the bank's credit analyst program, advanced to several officer roles and served as CEO of First Financial's Eastland Division before being named a senior lender for the Abilene Region, his most recent position. He is a graduate of the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University and a member of the McMurry Board of Trustees.

Kathleen Dindot Gamble '08 sews children's clothes for charity and donates them to organizations around the U.S. Her charity, Too Kute to Sleep In, was showcased in *Woman's World* magazine.



Joshua Poorman '09 recently accepted a position as executive director of development at McMurry and started in Jan. 2022.



2010-2019

Blake Fuller '11 steps into the interim principal role at Mann Middle School in Jan. 2022. An Abilene ISD and McMurry alum, Fuller previously taught biology for eight years at Abilene High School and spent a year teaching eighth-grade science at Mann before taking on an instruction specialist role at the school.

Hailee Reeder '17 earned her teaching certificate in EC-12 Art in Texas and continues to teach in Pasadena ISD outside of Houston.

Alexa Ledesma Bear '18 is leading a physical education and soccer program at Yantai American School in Shandong, China. Bear has enjoyed traveling extensively around Asia. She met the love of her life whom she married last year. "I never knew how far P.E. could take you," Bear said. "I'm forever grateful for my McMurry professors for believing in me."

Dora Medina Caffey '19 was motivated to be more involved with her heritage when McMurry became a Hispanic Serving Institution. She has completed one year of dancing with Ballet Folklórico del Big Country – something she truly loves. Caffey's two sons and husband support her newfound passion. "The best part of Ballet Folklórico is each dance and song represent different regions of Mexico," Coffey said. "It is fun learning and dancing every week."



2021 Athletic Hall of Honor Inductees



Members of the **2002 McMurry Swimming Team** took center stage as the first team induction for the program. This group, led by legendary head coach Bev Ball, won the New South Intercollegiate Conference championship on both the men's and women's side in just its third year as a program.



Albert Carrizales '06 earned his spot in the Hall of Honor as a four-time all-conference selection at shortstop for the baseball program, a 2005 All-American and the 2003 American Southwest Conference Freshman of the Year. Carrizales owns multiple school records and is one of three players to hit for the cycle in program history.



Carla Lewis Frazier '10 became the first-ever scholar-athlete from the cross-country program to receive induction this year. She is currently the only two-time individual medalist in program history and is also the only McMurry women's runner to compete at the NCAA Division III national meet.



Talitha Belcher Alexander '02 has four records that still stand in the track and field program. She was a four-time All-American and is the only McMurry women's track and field athlete to win the American Southwest Conference Fred Jacoby Sportsmanship Award.



Though she was unable to accept in person, **Terah Brown Geter '11** entered the Hall of Honor after a Hall of Honor-worthy career with the volleyball program. Geter, who assisted the program as a coach this fall, will accept her official induction with the 2022 class.



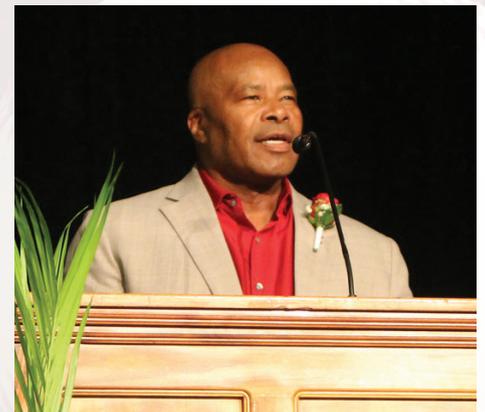
This year's Bob and Clara Brown Award recipients were **Kathi and Murray Edwards**. This couple impacted McMurry with their incredible generosity, which enabled the athletic department to build a state-of-the-art softball field on campus – the first of its kind.



Hann Ollison '10 is arguably the most accomplished athlete in NCAA Division III track and field, winning six national championships, 17 All-American honors and 16 individual conference championships. In 2008, he helped McMurry win its first-ever NCAA team national championship and was the High Point Athlete for the NCAA meet.



Josh Lee '05 had one of the most successful baseball careers in American Southwest Conference history, winning Freshman of the Year in 2001 and back-to-back MVP awards in 2003 and 2004. Lee also helped the team win two conference titles and became just the third draft pick in program history in 2005 with the Detroit Tigers.



Doc Shelby lettered four seasons at McMurry from 1974 – 1978 and holds the football school record for single-game rushing yards with 261 and the longest run from scrimmage at 99 yards. The now-successful salesman and congressional district candidate remains seventh on the all-time rushing list at McMurry.



Cody Brotherton '05 enters the Hall of Honor after winning five national championships with the track and field program. Brotherton remains at McMurry as the Assistant Track and Field Coach.



The arrival of a program – McMurry Women's Soccer

On Oct. 29, 2021, McMurry University did something that no women's soccer team has been able to do in the last six seasons: beat Hardin-Simmons University in a conference game.

The program across town has won 19 consecutive American Southwest Conference championships, joining McMurry's track and field program and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor's football program as perhaps the three most successful teams in the conference since its inception in 1996.

Since 2016, Hardin-Simmons' Cowgirls had a 98-8-7 record entering that memorable night on Oct. 9 – not to mention their stranglehold on the Southwest Conference with a 58-0-2 record in conference games.

But their closest and perhaps most bitter rival – McMurry – found a way to end that streak.

McMurry War Hawks haven't always been successful since starting the program in 2001. In fact, Hardin-Simmons had beaten McMurry 21 straight times heading into this year's regular season finale. And most of those losses weren't pretty – including 19 shutouts.

Enter Charles Nobles

The fifth-year head coach started with McMurry as an assistant and had a perfect model across town to build his program after. Finally, things began to come together in 2019 when McMurry broke a school record with 12 wins and took Hardin-Simmons to the wire in conference semifinals – falling 2-1 in the final seconds.

That heartbreaking loss was a sign of great things to come.



Fast forward to 2021, when freshman Emily Holland wiggled through defenders and launched one into the net for the 1-0 lead. Things only got tougher for the defense, but goalkeeper Cortlynn Boone and the defense put the clamps down and kept the powerhouse Cowgirls off the board.

The War Hawks had hundreds of fans in the stands, but none of them were sitting. In fact, most of them were on the field celebrating with the team after the historic win.

Despite falling to Hardin-Simmons in the Southwest Conference semifinal later that week, McMurry proved its worth as a viable threat for years to come.



This year's Grant Teaff "Beyond the Game" award went to posthumous recipient **William "Doc" Hadley**, who served over two decades as head athletic trainer until his passing in 2004. His son and fellow athletic trainer, Trevor Hadley '02, accepted the award on behalf of Doc and his family.



Former baseball coach and 2010 inductee **Lee Driggers** returned to campus, along with members of the 2008 baseball team, to celebrate their induction. This team included a National Player of the Year honor for Derek David, multiple school records and a conference championship with a 29-17 overall record.

Friends We'll Miss

David Adamson '89

Lubbock, TX, died 12/19/2019

Jane Hinkle Alexander

Plainview, TX, died 8/5/2021

Jessie "Spud" Aldridge '56

Abilene, TX, died 7/26/2021

Howard Allen

Austin, TX, died 10/19/2020

Charles Atkinson '55

Fort Worth, TX, died 4/2/2021

James "Allen" Baird

Fort Worth, TX, died 11/10/2020

Robert Baker '58

Idalou, TX, died 11/12/2020

Charles Barrett

Fort Worth, TX, died 1/13/2021

Betty Moore Beyer '66

Brownwood, TX, died 6/21/2021

Ben "Bennie" Bilbrey

Abilene, TX, died 9/4/2021

Robert Bolding

Robert Lee, TX, died 7/6/2021

Coyita Griffin Bowker '52

Santa Anna, TX, died 5/13/2021

Patricia "Pat" Brittain '49

Arden, NC, died 6/1/2021

George Brown

Haskell, KY, died 12/29/2020

Billie Huff Bruner

Levelland, TX, died 12/4/2020

Barbara White Brunner

Tucson, AZ, died 9/28/2021

Kathren Bennett Buntin '82

Oakland, MS, died 3/18/2021

Clement Butt '61

Los Altos Hills, CA, died 5/8/2021

Alpha "Dwain" Carlisle

Abilene, TX, died 8/6/2021

Weldon Carter '49

Snyder, TX, died 11/17/2019

Mary Hamilton Carter

Pampa, TX, died 1/24/2021

Juanita Farrell Carter

Dallas, TX, died 7/16/2020

Louise Carvey

Fort Worth, TX, died 1/31/2021

Bervin "Leonard" Caswell '68

Carlsbad, NM, died 6/25/2021

Walter Chalcraft '49

Abilene, TX, died 3/13/2021

Charles "Conrad" Cherry '58

Estero, FL, died 1/29/2021

Robert "Dane" Clark '58

Albuquerque, NM, died 11/30/2020

William "Bill" Clifton '69

Garland, TX, died 1/16/2021

William "Larry" Coe '70

Abilene, TX, died 6/19/2021

Carroll Stephens Coleman

Houston, TX, died 9/4/2021

Joe Craft '53

Denver, CO, died 10/23/2020

Joyce Wallis Crooke '14

Corsicana, TX, died 4/25/2021

Ray Crumpler

Conroe, TX, died 4/26/2021

Ira Cullins

Brownwood, TX, died 10/28/2020

Chance Cypert '03

Carrollton, TX, died 2/23/2021

Minta Thompson Cypert '44

Throckmorton, TX, died 11/5/2020

Frances "Weeze" Cooper Daniel '38

Abilene, TX, died 5/2/2021

Patricia May Davis '87

Abilene, TX, died 1/25/2021

Dannie Price Davis '61

Weatherford, TX, died 9/12/2021

Richard Deats '53

Nyack, NY, died 4/7/2021

Dorothy Deavenport

Austin, TX, died 11/16/2020

Jackie Knight Decker

Hondo, TX, died 11/20/2020

James "J.B." Denson

Abilene, TX, died 9/1/2021

James Manley Denton '64

Cabot, AR, died 5/21/2021

Sharon Crawford Doshier '83

Prewitt, NM, died 5/9/2021

Chester Dougherty '69

Abilene, TX, died 2/18/2021

Robert Duff '66

Chavies, KY, died 12/7/2020

Elizabeth Henning Dulin

Abilene, TX, died 9/17/2021

Harry "H.E." Dunlap '66

Abilene, TX, died 3/1/2021

Ross Dunn '58

New Braunfels, TX, died 2/25/2021

Charles Durham '82

Rowlett, TX, died 2021

Margie Eaton '49

Abilene, TX, died 6/14/2021

Lila Winters Estes '70

Mesquite, TX, died 8/31/2021

Ray Findley '69

Ray Findley '69

Bruce "Kent" Finley

Coleman, TX, died 1/24/2021

Norris Fleming '81

Irving, TX, died 5/6/2021

Betty Payne Forrest '60

Abilene, TX, died 12/24/2020

Howard "Wayne" Garner '64

Hewitt, TX, died 10/16/2021

Joe Giddens

Bearden, AR, died 12/23/2020

Marvin "Orland" Gilbert '57

Lubbock, TX, died 6/17/2021

Vade Giles

Abilene, TX, died 2/17/2021

Olen "Van" Grady '71

Odessa, TX, died 10/25/2020

Leon Greenlee '67

Albuquerque, NM, died 3/7/2021

Donna Day Hair '78

Brownwood, TX, died 10/31/2020

Alice "Von" LeFevre Hale '89

Weatherford, TX, died 7/24/2021

Lyle Hamilton '64

The Villages, FL, died 8/25/2021

Gene Hargrove '60

Azle, TX, died 8/23/2021

Edena Bray Harris '51

Burnet, TX, died 1/2/2021

Verl Hart '75

Graham, TX, died 1/27/2021

Charles Hastings '56

Lubbock, TX, died 6/11/2021

Lewis Henry

Abilene, TX, died 11/21/2020

Marilyn Gilliland Higgins '59

Midland, TX, died 12/21/2020

Lucille McDaniel Hodges '67

Dallas, TX, died 7/22/2021

Betty Blackwell Hoffman '64

Broomfield, TX, died 10/6/2021

Tommy Hollowell

Abilene, TX, died 1/24/2021

Jeanne Rodolph Howarth '69

Gum Spring, VA, died 9/16/2020

Connie "C.J." Jackson '05

Abilene, TX, died 10/29/2021

James "Jim" Jackson '60

Palestine, TX, died 10/18/2020

Floyd Jennings '61

Houston, TX, died 4/21/2021

James "Jim" Jinkins

Norman, OK, died 2/15/2021

Elizabeth "Betty" Johnson

Abilene, TX, died 4/27/2021

Jerry Jones '61

Arlington, TX, died 4/5/2021

Marlene Joy

Henderson, NV, died 8/3/2021

Christanna "Christy" Kahl Wachter '91

Georgetown, TX, died 10/28/2020

Kenneth Koon '68

Plano, TX, died 2/6/2021

Patsy Lacy

Abilene, TX, died 2/12/2021

Dennis Laster '92

Abilene, TX, died 11/7/2021

Julio Lopez '92

Abilene, TX, died 4/15/2021

Gerald "Jerry" Machgan '60

Aberdeen, NC, died 7/15/2021

Carlos Mainord '68

Lubbock, TX, died 11/8/2021

Kent Marrs '65

Weatherford, TX, died 2/11/2021

Estella "Stella" Campa Martinez

San Antonio, TX, died 2021

Olivia Fudge Masters '84

Brownwood, TX, died 11/14/2020

Nancy Holzmann McKelvain

Azle, TX, died 1/23/2021

William "Bill" McKinnon '73

Lubbock, TX, died 6/20/2021

Kurt McMillan '07

Abilene, TX, died 11/25/2020

Virginia Rogers McNeely '52

Plano, TX, died 10/20/2021

Pat McShan

Montgomery, TX, died 2/11/2021

Betsy Grafft Miller

Abilene, TX, died 11/4/2020

Deana Wood Miller '61

Lubbock, TX, died 11/13/2020

Kenneth Mills '59

Abilene, TX, died 4/18/2021

Stephen Mittelstet '67

Lewisville, TX, died 10/6/2021

Jacob "Jake" Moberly

Clovis, NM, died 10/22/2020

Teresa Moring '73

Portland, TX, died 11/29/2020

Doyle Nash

Abilene, TX, died 10/9/2020

David Neel '58

San Angelo, TX, died 6/13/2021

Robert Neelley

Abilene, TX, died 12/30/2020

Allen "Durwood" Neie '55

Amarillo, TX, died 10/29/2020

Carolyn Baggett O'Brien

Justin, TX, died 9/24/2021

Wendell "Vernon" O'Kelly '55

Amarillo, TX, died 12/10/2020

Zilla "Rose" Best Partee

Abilene, TX, died 6/13/2021

William Pierce

Georgetown, TX, died 8/13/2021

John Plunk '67

Dalhart, TX, died 8/17/2021

Janie Norman Popnoe

Abilene, TX, died 9/29/2021

Eleanor "Vicki" Hopkins Post '58

Warrendale, PA, died 5/19/2021

Johnny Price '62

Granbury, TX, died 10/25/2021

Cadmus Pursley '50

Andrews, TX, died 12/21/2020

Stephen "Steve" Radway '68

Paris, TX, died 4/19/2021

Eldon Renfro

Abilene, TX, died 4/27/2021

Charlene Black Richardson '73

Abilene, TX, died 12/23/2020

Charles "Glen" Richardson '89

Abilene, TX, died 12/11/2020

James "Rip" Ripley

Abilene, TX, died 10/18/2020

Raymond Roberson

Abilene, TX, died 5/4/2021

Kaitlin Hix Rodriguez

Sweetwater, TX, died 3/10/2021

Jimmy Saunders

Abilene, TX, died 6/18/2021

Marilyn Mason Schwamkrug '62

Midland, TX, died 2/6/2021

Diane Scott '66

Haleyville, AL, died 11/2/2020

Stanley Seaton '51

Austin, TX, died 3/12/2021

Marion Shelton '59

Tuscola, TX, died 12/27/2020

Bill Smith '64

Dallas, TX, died 2/9/2021

Alma Lee Smith '45

Colorado City, TX, died 11/6/2020

Jorge Solis '73

Dallas, TX, died 10/8/2021

Sara Edwards Spencer '62

Abilene, TX, died 10/7/2020

Roger Stansbury '69

Pittsburg, TX, died 4/7/2021

Neville "Frank" Stephenson '66

Murfreesboro, TN, died 6/27/2021

Billie Wilson Stovall '73

Abilene, TX, died 4/16/2021



Alumna Sara Hernandez Hudman Graham's lead gift establishes the Patricia LaPoint Fellowship Endowment

McMurry University Trustee Emeritus and alumna Sara Hernandez Hudman Graham '63 is again supporting her alma mater by advancing education through opportunity. In December, during this season of giving, Sara made two significant gifts to the Walter F. and Virginia Johnson School of Business at McMurry University (Johnson School of Business).

Sara's first gift was designated for the study-abroad fellowship fund introduced in 2018. Her gift will expand the program to allow additional students to study and experience the business cultures in other countries. McMurry students have benefited from studies in China, Argentina, and France, so far. Plans are now underway for students to study in Denmark. There are also opportunities available in a dozen other countries. "Thanks to Sara's gift, as well as the generosity of Chris and Cindy Johnson and Rev. Bill Libby, retired McMurry adjunct professor of religion and history, the endowment is now sufficiently funded to support seven scholarships," said Dr. Paul Mason, dean of the Johnson School of Business.

Sara's second gift established the Patricia LaPoint Fellowship Endowment. Inspired by the E.E. Hall Memorial Fellowship, which provides research funding in support of McMurry's arts, science, and social science faculty, the new endowment recognizes Johnson School of Business faculty who have made major contributions through scholarly achievement.

The endowment honors Patricia A. LaPoint, Ph.D., one of the longest-serving faculty members, male or female, in the Johnson School of Business. Dr. LaPoint joined McMurry in 1985 and has served as a full-time professor since 1988. "Several other donors began building the funding for the awards earlier this year, but with Sara's gift, the fellowship is now underwritten for the future as an endowment. We are extremely grateful," said Dr. Mason. "We may award research dollars to a business school faculty member as early as next year, or the year after. Who knows? Pat may be the first recipient!"

"Sara's ongoing philanthropic leadership inextricably links her to the McMurry faculty and students she cares so deeply about," said Michael V. Hutchison '87, vice president for institutional advancement. "Her continued presence on our campus is an inspiration to students, alumni, faculty, and friends alike. We are indebted to her service and generosity."



1 McMurry University #938
Abilene, Texas 79697

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Lubbock, TX
Permit No.49

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

