



# HALL<sup>of</sup> FAME

TENNESSEE INDEPENDENT COLLEGES  
AND UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION

*2020 Honorees*

# Hall of Fame

## *Honorees*

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## Welcome to the TICUA Hall of Fame!

Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association is excited and honored to present to you the inaugural class of the TICUA Hall of Fame. Inside you will see the diverse and incredibly impressive citizens that our institutions have helped to mold.

Tennessee's Independent Colleges and Universities have been home to some of our state's most distinguished and impressive residents— from Nobel laureates, Grammy-winning artists, and Pulitzer Prize winners to faith leaders, entrepreneurs, and government leaders.

The TICUA Hall of Fame recognizes these distinguished alumni, their indelible contributions to our state and country, and the institutions who helped shape them.

We hope you will enjoy learning about our member institutions' honorees as much as we have.

Warmest regards,



Claude Pressnell



Dr. Claude O. Pressnell, Jr.  
President, TICUA





*Honoree*  
**Congressman  
John Lewis**

1940-2020

**American Baptist College**

B.A., Theology | 1961

**Fisk University**

B.A., Religion and Philosophy | 1967

**Civil Rights Leader**

**Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient**

**17 term United States Congressman**

Congressman John Lewis embodied the values and mission of American Baptist College, a historically black college, with a liberal arts emphasis: to educate, graduate, and prepare diverse students for Christian leadership, service, and social justice in the world. His life's work speaks to these values.

**“ I was beaten, left bloody and unconscious. But I never became bitter or hostile, never gave up. I believe that somehow and some way, if it becomes necessary to use our bodies to help redeem the soul of a nation, then we must do it. Create a society at peace with itself, and lay down the burden of hate and division.**

John Lewis in a CBS Interview, June 2020

In 1964, John Lewis led the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) efforts to organize voter registration drives and community action programs during the Mississippi Freedom Summer. The following year, Lewis helped spearhead one of the most seminal moments of the Civil Rights Movement and led over 600 peaceful protesters across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965.

They intended to march from Selma to Montgomery to demonstrate the need for voting rights in the state. The marchers were attacked by Alabama state troopers in a brutal confrontation that became known as “Bloody Sunday.” News broadcasts and photographs revealing the senseless cruelty of the segregated South helped hasten the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Congressman Lewis’ contributions to the Civil Rights Movement of the 60’s helped to change the world. Under his leadership as Director of the Voter Education Project (VEP), the VEP transformed the nation’s political climate by adding nearly four million minorities to the voter rolls.

He was elected to Congress in November 1986 and served as U.S. Representative of Georgia’s Fifth Congressional District until his death where he continued to fight for equality for all people, often referred to by his colleagues as the ‘Conscious of Congress.’ President Barack Obama honored Congressman Lewis with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his incredible contributions in 2011.

Despite more than 40 arrests, physical attacks, and serious injuries, John Lewis remained a devoted advocate of the philosophy of nonviolence. One of his last messages on Twitter encouraged future generations to carry on his legacy.

“I know your pain, your rage, your sense of despair, and hopelessness. Justice has, indeed, been denied for far too long. Rioting, looting, and burning is not the way. Organize. Demonstrate. Sit-in. Stand-up. Vote. Be constructive, not destructive.”

*Selecting Institution*







*Honoree*  
**Rebekah  
Lemley**

**1983 - 2019**

**Aquinas College**  
A.S., Science | 2005

**Cumberland University**  
B.S.N., Nursing | 2012

**Dedicated Volunteer  
Compassionate Nurse  
Follower of Christ**

The legacy of Rebekah Lemley, a 2005 graduate of the Aquinas College Associate of Science in Nursing program, makes evident how a life well lived embraces the Dominican imperative of Aquinas College to preach the Gospel, serve others, and engage culture in truth and charity. As a nurse, she brought healing to others through her faith, hope, and charity which were evident in all that she did.

For Lemley, faith was not simply going to church on Sunday. It was something that she lived every day and every moment of her life. Lemley sought to share her Christian faith with others by teaching Sunday school for 15 years and serving on the church board. With this foundation, Lemley's life was structured by God, family, and community. She preached the Gospel by her very life. She did not need any words. She worked in such a way that the community would become part of her family.

Volunteering was Lemley's faith in action. Her life was characterized by service to others. She was a 4-H volunteer leader for 17 years, volunteer at the Robertson County Fair for 21 years, chaperone for several educational programs and trips, President of the Cross Plains Family and Consumer Education (FCE) club, and Secretary of the county-wide Family and Consumer Education clubs.

Lemley was a Registered Nurse at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and served as the Burn Program Manager. In this role she improved patient care by managing data and by providing educational outreach and professional development to hospital and prehospital personnel in Tennessee and Kentucky. Over the course of her career, Lemley educated thousands of utility and health care workers about the care and effects of burns, pediatric burn considerations, and safety prevention techniques.

While there are many examples of how Lemley engaged culture in truth and charity, her participation with Camp Hope is perhaps the work for which she was most passionate. Camp Hope is a nonprofit organization that offers a time away for children between the ages of 6 and 16 who have suffered burn injuries. The programs of Camp Hope develop life skills, encourage healthy living, and promote a positive self-image while participants enjoy some of their favorite activities with other children experiencing similar challenges. Recognizing the impact of Camp Hope and in order to make it accessible to all burn victims, Lemley helped to create community partnerships which fully funded each camp experience so that children could attend free of charge. Through the community partnerships not only were the children provided access to a supportive program, but other volunteers were encouraged to participate and become a part of this good work to make Camp Hope more sustainable.

Lemley passed away unexpectedly on May 5, 2019 from a pulmonary embolism. Her absence leaves a substantial hole in the Nashville medical community and in the organizations privileged by her support and participation. Lemley served as an exemplary ambassador of the mission of Aquinas College through preaching the Gospel and serving others in truth and charity. Lemley's success in engaging culture with this mission, and encouraging others to do the same, designates her as a distinguished alumnae of Aquinas College.

*Selecting Institution*





Selecting Institution



*Honoree*  
**Anita Vaughn**

**Baptist Health Sciences University**  
B.A., Nursing | 1973

**University of Memphis**  
B.A., Health Sociology  
M.P.A.

**Dedicated Nurse for 43 Years**  
**Former CEO of Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women**  
**Philanthropist**

Anita Vaughn's continued dedication, support, and vast knowledge of the healthcare profession embodies the values and supports the mission of the Baptist Health Sciences University.

The lifelong Memphian is a registered nurse who served Baptist Memorial Health Care for over 40 years. Vaughn has worked in most areas of the Baptist System from bedside patient care to CEO of Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women.

A true champion for women's health, Vaughn has worked diligently to make quality health care more accessible and convenient for women and their families. In 1998, she accepted the CEO position and led the planning and development team for Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women. The hospital opened in May of 2001 making it the first of its kind in Memphis and one of only about 15 in the country. She and her team lifted women's healthcare in Memphis to a national level.



**Anita Vaughn's exemplary leadership skills and exceptional communication with physicians and staff poised the hospital for future success.**

Jason Little, President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care on Vaughn's retirement

She also led the efforts in opening the Spence and Becky Wilson Baptist Children's Hospital in 2015. The opening of the Children's Hospital added to her many career achievements before retiring in 2016 following a 43-year career.

In addition to her work in health care, Vaughn has long term involvement with multiple organizations within the Memphis community such as the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis and the American Heart Association. Recognized for her many outstanding contributions to the community, Vaughn has received numerous awards throughout the years. Two most recently awarded to her include the Inaugural 40 Change Makers 2019 (Leadership Memphis) and The Legends Award 2018 (Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis).

Vaughn has been an inspiring corporate leader and has the passion for people - especially women and children. She continues to make a real difference in their lives.

*Honoree*  
**R. Milton  
Johnson**

**Belmont University**  
B.A., Accounting | 1979

**Former Chairman and CEO of HCA  
Healthcare**

**Philanthropist**  
**Nashville Native**

There are few people who embody Belmont's core values - Integrity, Inquiry, Collaboration, Service and Humility - more directly than R. Milton Johnson.

The former chairman and CEO of HCA Healthcare started with humble beginnings and worked his way to the top of the ladder at one of the nation's largest healthcare systems in the country.

Johnson attended Nashville's Stratford High School, working multiple jobs to help his single mom support their family and forgoing many of the typical extracurricular activities most teenagers enjoy. It was a habit he continued during his tenure at Nashville State Community College, balancing the weight of a full-time job with the stresses of completing college courses. He believed education could someday catapult him into a different situation.

Johnson's hard work paid off when he was offered an academic scholarship to what was then Belmont

College, paving the way to an accounting degree and rapid career advancement in Nashville's healthcare industry. A 37-year veteran of HCA Healthcare, Johnson served in various financial and senior management positions for the company.

In his role, Johnson led a company that now includes 184 hospitals and 2,000 sites of care located in 21 states and the United Kingdom.

He has remained a dedicated leader and supporter of the University's mission since his graduation. He currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee of Belmont's Board of Trust, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, and previously served as a member of the Development Committee.

He and his wife Denice are active in the lives of Belmont students. The couple created the R. Milton and Denice Johnson *Bridges to Belmont* Endowed Scholarship. In addition to their financial support, the Johnsons spend substantial time each year with the more than 120 students whose experience at Belmont is made possible by their gifts.



**“ I was blessed to have people in my life, like my mother, who believed in not only the value of education but also in my potential. Their encouragement, guidance, and belief in me gave me confidence that with hard work and a scholarship from Belmont, I could achieve greater success than I ever thought was possible.**

Milton Johnson







“ I know that many believe that the election of the first black president of the American Psychiatric Association means we achieved a major milestone, but let’s not get too comfortable. I would submit it is a great first step and visible sign of the ultimate goal for this organization in the area of diversity and inclusion.

Altha Stewart in her Presidential Address to the American Psychiatric Association in 2019

*Honoree*  
**Altha Stewart**

**Christian Brothers University**  
B.S., Biology | 1973

**Temple University Medical School**  
M.D.

**Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital**  
Chief Resident | 1981-1982

**First African American President of the American Psychiatric Association**  
**Psychiatrist, Professor, & Pioneer in Minority Mental Healthcare**  
**Children Focused Non-Profit Founder**

Christian Brothers University calls upon its students: “Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve.” Altha Stewart, MD has accepted this mission of service not only as her professional focus, but as her personal passion.

Dr. Stewart grew up in South Memphis and was among the first class of women admitted to what is now Christian Brothers University. She has dedicated her life to public medicine and in the process has become a nationally and internationally recognized expert in minority issues in mental health care and in the effects of trauma and violence on children.

Dr. Stewart is an associate professor of Psychiatry and chief of Social and Community Psychiatry at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She served as president of the American Psychiatric Association from 2018 to 2019, and was the first African American elected to lead the 38,000-member organization since its start in 1844. She has also served as president of the Association of Women Psychiatrists and the Black Psychiatrists of America.

Dr. Stewart served as executive director of the Just Care Family Network, a federally funded program in Memphis for children with serious emotional disorders and their families. Additionally, she has served as director of Systems of Care for the Shelby County Office of the Public Defender and executive director of the National Leadership Council on African-American Behavioral Health.

She is also the founder and director of the Center for Health in Justice Involved Youth, which aims to reduce the number of young people in the juvenile justice system by addressing the trauma and exposure to violence that contribute to the mental health and behavioral issues that land them there. In her efforts to bring together education, health, family, and legal agencies to create a community-wide resource for families with children impacted by violence, she has found creative solutions to bring hope to young people, their families, and our entire community.

*Selecting Institution*





*Honoree*  
**Cordell  
Hull**

1871-1955

**Cumberland University**  
Law | 1891

**U.S. Representative, Senator, &  
Secretary of State**

**Nobel Peace Prize Recipient**

**“The Father of the United Nations”**

Cordell Hull’s contributions to the world exemplify the values and mission of Cumberland University: to not simply have a successful career, but to lead an impactful life.

Hull served in the military, as a judge, Tennessee state representative, U.S. representative, senator, Secretary of State, championed the creation of the United Nations, and was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1945.

Born in a log cabin in Pickett County, Tennessee, he was one of five sons - the only one that sought out an education. He received his elementary education in a one-room school that his father built. After attending Cumberland University and beginning his law practice, he felt called to serve his community. That calling would lead him to an incredibly successful and productive career that we still feel the impact of today.

While Hull was serving as Tennessee’s senator, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him as the Secretary of State on March 4, 1933. He was sixty-two years old. He served as the nation’s chief diplomat for almost twelve years, the longest tenure of a Secretary of State in American history.

During his time as Secretary of State, in the middle of World War II, he prepared the blueprint for an international organization dedicated to the maintenance of peace that ultimately became the United Nations. In 1945, the Nobel Committee awarded the Peace Prize to Hull, who is now known as the “father of the United Nations.”



**I am certain that, however great the hardships and the trials which loom ahead, our America will endure and the cause of human freedom will triumph.**

Secretary of State Cordell Hull in a speech at Harvard University, 1940



*Selecting Institution*  
**Cumberland  
UNIVERSITY**





Hongree  
**David  
Levering Lewis**

**Fisk University**  
B.A. History and Philosophy | 1956

**Columbia University**  
M.A., U.S. History | 1959

**London School of Economics**  
Ph.D., Modern European History | 1962

**Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner**  
**Historian, biographer, and author of 8 books**  
**Acclaimed Professor of History at New York University**

David Levering Lewis exemplifies Fisk University graduates who have immersed themselves in their professions and set high standards with their accomplishments. He is a scholar that serves as a shining example of the accomplishments made possible through a strong liberal arts education that focuses on discovery and advancement of knowledge through research in the natural and social sciences, business, and the humanities.

Lewis is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and is the author of a two-volume life-and-times of W.E.B. DuBois, *W.E.B. Du Bois: Biography of a Race, 1868-1919* (1993), which won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography, the Bancroft Prize, and the Francis Parkman Prize; and *W.E.B. Du Bois: The Fight for Equality and the American Century, 1919-1963* (2000), which also won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography. He is the first author to win two Pulitzer Prizes for biography for back-to-back volumes.

Lewis has received fellowships from the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the American Academy in Berlin. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and of the American Philosophical Society. He is a former trustee of the National Humanities Center, a former commissioner of the National Portrait Gallery, a former senator of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and was president of the Society of American Historians, 2002-2003.

He is the author of eight books and editor of two more. Lewis concentrates on comparative history with special focus on twentieth-century United States social history and civil rights. His interests include nineteenth-century Africa, twentieth-century France, and Islamic Spain.



**I have made it my practice to let  
the facts find the theory.**

David Levering Lewis on theorizing about the art of biography

Selecting Institution



**FREED-HARDEMAN**  
UNIVERSITY

# Honorees John & Rosemary Brown

## John Brown

**Freed-Hardeman University**  
Associates of Science | 1955

**Auburn University**  
B.S., Engineering | 1957

## Rosemary Brown

**Freed-Hardeman University**  
Associates of Science | 1955

**Auburn University**  
B.S., Chemistry | 1957

### Passionate education advocates & philanthropists

John and Rosemary Brown have lived out the motto of Freed-Hardeman throughout their lives: “Teaching How to Live and How to Make a Living.”

The Browns have been incredibly successful but have never forgotten where they came from. Their extraordinary success in business and life has allowed them to give back to the people and organizations that impacted them along the way.

## John Brown

Mr. Brown grew up on a farm in Paris, Tennessee and learned the value of hard work. He credits his education in helping him transform a small, family-owned business into one of the world’s premier medical equipment companies with annual revenue of more than \$9 billion.

After being hired by Stryker Corporation in 1976, Mr. Brown charted an ambitious course. He wanted to take the company public, diversify its product line, and consistently achieve 20 percent net income growth each year. After filing for its initial public offering in 1979, the company’s performance kept pace with his vision. Stryker doubled its sales and tripled its profits within five years.

When Mr. Brown joined Stryker, the company had 400 employees and annual sales of \$17 million. When he retired as chairman of the board in 2009, Stryker’s sales topped \$6.7 billion and its workforce included more than 17,000 employees worldwide.

He gained notoriety as one of the top CEOs in America being recognized for his unprecedented success.

Mr. Brown became chairman emeritus in January 2010. Brown’s incredible success is chronicled in the best seller by Jim Collins, *Great By Choice*.

## Rosemary Brown

Rosemary Kopel Brown spent 30 years teaching mathematics and advanced-placement calculus at a variety of schools in Kalamazoo, Michigan before retirement. She served on the original advisory committee of the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center, a regional enrichment center serving both public and private school districts in the counties of Kalamazoo and St. Joseph in Michigan. Mrs. Brown worked at the center from 1988-2000. She has served on many community boards. Kalamazoo College annually awards an endowed professorship named the Rosemary Kopel Brown Endowed Eminent Scholar Chair in Mathematics.

The Browns raised two very successful daughters and have always been heavily involved in church and regard their faith as the highest priority. The Browns have contributed extensively to the organizations for which they have worked, the communities where they have lived, and the educational institutions which they attended.

Their unmatched contributions to FHU impact every student on campus by providing state of the art facilities, new academic programs, multiple scholarships, funding professors chairs, and more. This transformative couple has partnered with FHU for almost 40 years allowing the bar of excellence to be continually raised. Their willingness to let students into their lives to see their faith, character, and business acumen deeply impacts students with once in a lifetime experiences.



**As an educator, I experienced no better feeling than seeing the light bulb turn on in a student’s mind.**

Rosemary Brown on giving back to educational institutions



*Honoree*

# Fred Craddock

1928-2015

**Johnson University**

B.A., Bible/Ministry | 1950

**Phillips University**

B.D. | 1953

**Vanderbilt University**

Ph.D., New Testament | 1964

**Named One of the Most  
Effective Preachers in the  
English-Speaking World**

**Served as Pastor of  
Churches in 3 States**

**Distinguished Professor**

Johnson University's mission is to educate students for Christian ministries and other strategic vocations framed by the Great Commission in order to extend the kingdom of God among all nations. Although the University now offers dozens of degree programs that fulfill this mission, the school began as "The School of the Evangelists" and for many years existed to train young men for preaching and ministry. One of Johnson University's most renowned and respected alumni is Fred B. Craddock.

Craddock was one of the most influential voices in homiletics over the last fifty years. A Baylor University research study, published by *Newsweek*, named Craddock as one of the twelve most effective preachers in the English-speaking world. His scholarly approach to the biblical text and his folksy storytelling ability combined to make Craddock an exceptional model of creative, effective communication.

Craddock served churches in Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Georgia, and taught at Johnson University, Phillips University, and Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He held the title of Bandy Distinguished Professor of Preaching and New Testament, Emeritus, at Candler, and the Minister Emeritus of Cherry Log Christian Church. He wrote extensively in the fields of preaching and New Testament and spoke at prestigious lectureships around the world.

Each year since 1995, Johnson University has held the Fred B. Craddock Lectures on Preaching on the campus.



“

**If in reading the Bible you find justification for abusing, humiliating, disgracing, harming, or hurting, especially when it makes you feel better about yourself, you are absolutely wrong.**

Fred B. Craddock, *The Collected Sermons of Fred B. Craddock*

*Selecting Institution*  
**Johnson**  
UNIVERSITY

“

**It is not enough to simply teach children to read; we have to give them something worth reading.**

Katherine Paterson



*Honoree*  
**Katherine Paterson**

**King University**  
 B.A., English | 1954  
 Honorary Doctorate of Letters | 1978

**Two-time winner of the Newbery Medal for *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jacob Have I Loved***

**Author of more than 30 books**

**Library of Congress pronounced her a Living Legend**

After graduating from King University in 1954, Katherine Paterson began a lifetime of journeys and moves, and in each place she has served as an articulate and enthusiastic ambassador for her alma mater. Although she has never lived nearby, she has returned to campus repeatedly as a graduation speaker, honorary degree recipient, or reunion attendee. She has voiced her indebtedness to the university for her development as a writer, praising in particular Pat Winship, longtime professor of English.

Beyond expressing her appreciation for King in words, Paterson has modeled the institution’s values in her life and vocation. King seeks to produce graduates who have a “passion for serving God, the Church, and the world,” and Paterson has exemplified service in her many roles. Whether as a mother, a missionary, a teacher, sharing in the pastoral work of her late husband, or as an advocate for children’s literacy and libraries around the world, Paterson’s desire to serve others shows through.

Humble, generous, and gifted, she models the “thoughtful, resourceful, and responsible citizen” that King’s mission statement describes. But nowhere does Paterson bear King’s standard better than in her writing.

Paterson herself describes this best: “The challenge for those of us who care about our faith and about a hurting world is to tell stories which will carry the words of grace and hope in their bones and sinews and not wear them like a fancy dress.” She has called on generations of King alumni to serve God and others with similar care and passion.

Paterson’s work can perhaps best be summed up by the Library of Congress, which at its bicentennial in 2000 pronounced her a “Living Legend.” She is the author of more than 30 books, including novels for children and young people, picture books, Christmas stories, and non-fiction. She has twice won the Newbery Medal, for *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Jacob Have I Loved*; she has also twice won the National Book Award, for *The Master Puppeteer* and *The Great Gilly Hopkins* (also a Newbery Honor Book). Seven film or television adaptations of her stories have been made. A documentary about her life and work, *Katherine Paterson: Written Together* was released in 2020.







*Honoree*  
**Thornton  
Meacham**

1917-2009

Lane College  
B.A. | 1939

Fordham University  
J.D. | 1942

**Trailblazer for African American lawyers**

**First African American to graduate from  
Fordham University Law School**

**Dedicated his life to helping  
aspiring jurists succeed**

Attorney Thornton Meacham represents Lane College's mission of transforming lives, liberating minds and souls, and celebrating excellence in Christ. Meacham combined academic excellence and service to mankind with a commitment to life-long learning.

Meacham attended public school in Jackson, Tennessee before enrolling and graduating from Lane College. He went on to become the first African American to graduate from Fordham University Law School in 1942.

His professional competencies led to unusual success in his field. Meacham was the first black attorney to join the legal staff of the office of Price Stabilization on Broadway in New York; first to argue a case before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; first African American to be featured on the cover of the New York Law Journal; first to try both criminal and civil cases in the Bronx and Queens County Courts; and the first to open a law practice in Harlem.

Meacham achieved several additional law-related feats in New York. He is credited for the admission of Blacks to the New York Bar. During segregation, he tried and won cases in Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, and New Jersey. Among Attorney Meacham's many distinguished clients were jazz music legends Louis Armstrong and Miles Davis, Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., the NAACP, and legendary actress Dorothy Dandridge.

Meacham, along with some of Harlem's elite class of attorneys, co-founded the Harlem Lawyers Association which later merged into the Metropolitan Black Bar Association. He was inducted into the National Black Association Hall of Fame which recognized lawyers who have practiced for over 40 years and have made significant contributions to the cause of justice.

Meacham led a life of unselfish service to others and became a knowledgeable citizen of the world. He dedicated his life to helping young aspiring jurists succeed. Meacham's accomplishments brought honor to himself and continues to bring honor to Lane College.



**“ Thornton Meacham will long be remembered for his extraordinary commitment, humor, liveliness, energy, wisdom, discipline, principle, and clear purpose which won the admiration of all who were privileged to come to know and work with him during his distinguished career.**

Honorable Charles B. Rangel of New York in the House of Representatives in 2009 on the passing of Meacham





*Honoree*  
**Paul Conn**

**Lee University**  
B.A. | 1967

**Emory University**  
M.A., Ph.D. | 1971

**Former Lee University President**  
**Authored or co-authored 20 books**  
**Longest-serving CEO of a college or university in Tennessee**

Dr. Paul Conn epitomizes the mission and values of Lee University through his nearly fifty years of full-time service on campus.

After graduating from Lee College in 1967, Conn earned a Ph.D. at Emory University and returned to Lee as a psychology instructor in 1971. Within the next 15 years, Conn received the school's top award for "Excellence in Teaching," served two post-doctoral appointments at Harvard University, chaired the Department of Behavioral Sciences, served as Vice President of Institutional Advancement, and authored or co-authored more than 20 books about various public, business, and ministry leaders. Four of these books reached *The New York Times* bestseller list, and three were adapted for television.

In 1986, Dr. Conn was appointed President of Lee University, a role in which he served for 34 years. At the point of his transition to Chancellor, Conn was the longest-serving university president in Tennessee, and his length of service is among the 70 longest tenures by a college president in U.S. history. During his tenure as President, he personally conferred 21,420 degrees to graduates of Lee's myriad of programs.

Dr. Conn's presidency at Lee was characterized by revolutionary expansion alongside a determination to remain true to its original core values. He oversaw explosive growth in size, quality, reputation, and reach with enrollment and physical campus size increasing fivefold, 30 building projects, a tenfold increase in operating budget, and status as one of Cleveland, Tennessee's largest employers. He now serves as Chancellor of the University.

“ **Cleveland is my home, and Lee is my life. My title will change, but not my heart.** ”

Dr. Paul Conn on stepping down as Lee University President





*Honoree*  
**James Bishop**

**LeMoyne-Owen College**  
B.A., Natural Science | 1958  
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters  
**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
Ph.D., Inorganic Chemistry | 1969

**Dedicated Education Advocate**  
**Founder of a program to increase the number of underrepresented youth at The Ohio State University that continues today**  
**Interim President of LeMoyne-Owen College**

Dr. James J. Bishop's lifelong commitment to education personifies LeMoyne-Owen College's mission of providing a transformative educational experience and leadership. Although a scientist by academic achievements, his professional career has reflected his commitment and understanding of the significant role education fulfills in helping society and individuals. Bishop has manifested his commitment with the significant leadership positions he has held at several colleges and universities including serving as Interim President at LeMoyne-Owen College.

After completing his undergraduate work at LeMoyne-Owen College, with the highest honors and distinction, Bishop completed his Doctorate in Inorganic Chemistry at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1969. In 1977, he attended Harvard's Institute of Educational Management.

He was the first Director of MIT's Project Interphase, which began in 1969 as an intensive academic summer program for some entering African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, and other under-represented freshmen. For several years, he was a member of MIT's Task Force on Equal Educational Opportunity, which planned and coordinated many of the Institute's academic affirmative action programs.

For two years, Dr. Bishop worked in the Massachusetts Governor's Office as Secretary of



Intergroup Relations. In this role he participated in the passage of the nation's first state law against racial imbalance in public schools. This position developed from his activities in the Boston Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

Dr. Bishop has worked in higher education most of his life. He is the former Vice Provost for University Life at the University of Pennsylvania, and also served as Dean of Students at Amherst College, Associate Dean for Student Affairs at MIT, and Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Atlanta University. Dr. Bishop served as Interim President of LeMoyne-Owen College for July and August 2002.

But perhaps one of his lasting legacies will be his impact on Ohio's underserved youth. He was instrumental in founding an innovative program at The Ohio State University in 1988 to increase the number of Black, Hispanic, and other underrepresented minority youth from low-income families who wanted to prepare to attend four year colleges and universities. The Young Scholars program continues to provide year-round academic, personal, and skill development opportunities for thousands of Ohio students each year. He retired in July 2002 from The Ohio State University, where he had served in several positions including Special Assistant to the Provost.

Dr. Bishop continues to be very active with his undergraduate alma mater and in the community in numerous roles.





*Honoree*  
**Clayton Hess**

**Lincoln Memorial University**  
B.A., History and Education | 1981  
M.Ed., Counseling and Guidance | 1987  
M.Ed., Curriculum and Instruction | 2006

**Walden University**  
Ph.D., Counseling | 1998

**President of Lincoln Memorial University**  
**Longest Tenured Staff Member**

It is a great honor when an institution chooses one of its own as its president. Dr. Clayton Hess came to Lincoln Memorial University from a small town in southwest Virginia, in the heart of the University's service area. He worked in the Admissions Office as an undergraduate student, and was offered a full-time job as a recruiter following his graduation in 1981. Since that time, he has held several positions, obtained two additional LMU degrees, and devoted his life to the institution he now serves as president.

Dr. Clayton Hess

**“ More than anything, what is more rewarding than encouraging people to learn from one another? When students and institutions share their experiences with one another, they increase access to learning for others. Through learning, we can all create opportunities to develop our own potential.**

*Selecting Institution*

**LMU**

Lincoln Memorial University

Dr. Hess lives the LMU mission statement everyday by striving to give students a foundation for a more productive life by upholding the principles of Abraham Lincoln's life: a dedication to individual liberty, responsibility, and improvement; a respect for citizenship; recognition of the intrinsic value of high moral and ethical standards; and a belief in a personal God.

Dr. Hess has the third longest continuous tenures at LMU. Because of his longevity, his knowledge of alumni and friends spans many decades, and these individuals place great trust in his leadership.

In addition to recruiting and retaining students, it was in the Office of Institutional Research, Effectiveness and Accreditation that Dr. Hess made his mark. Because of his vast working knowledge of Lincoln Memorial University, he was able to guide the University through the accreditation process in new program development. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) relies on his vast knowledge of accreditation principles and standards and calls on him often to serve on committees around the world. He currently serves as the Tennessee Representative to the Principles of Accreditation Review Committee, charged with reviewing and recommending changes to the SACSCOC accreditation. In 2018, he was one of five recipients of the SACSCOC Carol Luthman Meritorious Service Awards, named for a former staff member who served the Commission for more than 30 years and who was also staff liaison to the SACSCOC Board. The awards are presented to individuals whose volunteerism and commitment to the best principles of the academy and of accreditation personify the ideals of the Commission.

The Board of Trustees of Lincoln Memorial University has the utmost confidence and respect in Dr. Hess and expect that he will continue to lead LMU for many years.



*Honoree*  
**Michael Adams**

Through his life's work and faith, Dr. Michael F. Adams encapsulates the mission of Lipscomb University: to transform lives through education as it integrates Christian faith and practice with academic excellence. Dr. Adams has devoted his career to higher education and through his work, leadership, and character he has helped shape the lives of countless students around the world.

Dr. Adams is a nationally recognized and award winning educator who, most notably, served as the president of the University of Georgia (UGA) from 1997 to 2013. Under his leadership, UGA was recognized as one of the nation's top 20 public research universities for eight out of 10 years by U.S. News & World Report. During his tenure, the university also attained its highest rankings ever, became the most selective in its history, and grew from an estimated 29,000 students to almost 35,000 students today. Upon his retirement from UGA, Dr. Adams held the title of president emeritus and regents' professor until August 2015.

**Lipscomb University**  
B.A., Speech and History | 1970

**The Ohio State University**  
M.A., Communication Research Methodologies | 1971  
Ph.D., Political Communications | 1973

**Former President of the  
University of Georgia and Centre College  
Former Chancellor of Pepperdine  
University**

Prior to his term at UGA, Dr. Adams served as president of Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, one of America's top 40 liberal arts colleges. Dr. Adams has also served in Christian higher education as vice president for university affairs at Pepperdine University. He returned to Pepperdine in August 2015 where he served as chancellor until 2018.

Prior to his work in higher education, he served as chief of staff for former U.S. Senator Howard Baker for five years. After a run for Congress in 1980, Dr. Adams went to work as deputy commissioner of economic and community development for former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander.

Throughout his career, Dr. Adams has worked tirelessly for the betterment of humanity. Dr. Adams has been elected by his peers to lead a number of national organizations, including the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, the American Council on Education (ACE), and the

National Collegiate Athletic Association's Executive Committee. He has received more than 50 awards in higher education, including the Knight Foundation Award for Presidential Leadership, the Pioneer Award for Leadership in Civil Rights, and the James T. Rogers Award. He is also the recipient of the Georgia Governor's Award in the Humanities.

In 2011, Dr. Adams was named Lipscomb University's Alumnus of the Year. He is also a member of the Lipscomb University Board of Trustees.

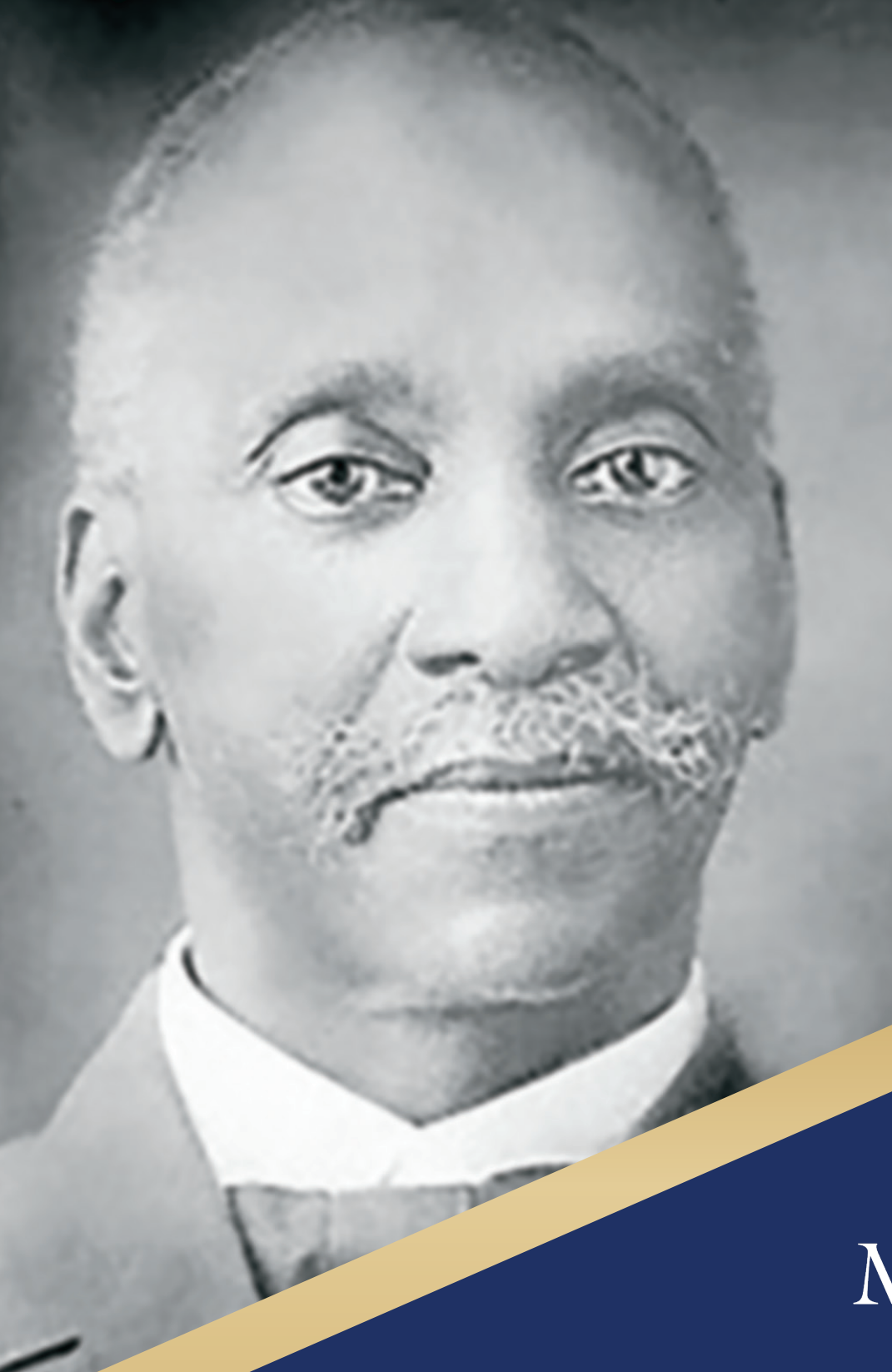


“**Mike is one of these guys who has all the ingredients for success. He's politically savvy. He's indefatigable. He's willing to take on the tough problems, and he does it with skill but also with determination.**”

Molly Broad, president of the American Council on Education and a former president at the University of North Carolina, about Michael Adams







*Honoree*  
**William  
Henderson  
Franklin**

1871-1955



**“ William Henderson Franklin began at the very bottom and had no other capital save intellectual ability, school-training, strong purpose, perseverance, and unswerving faith in God and the righteousness of his cause.**

From *Among Colored People* on starting a school for African American youth

**Maryville College**

B.S., Oration and Writing | 1880

Honorary Master of Arts | 1891

Honorary Doctorate | 1901

**Lane Theological Seminary**

Divinity | 1883

**The first African American graduate of Maryville College**

**Writer, educator, and preacher**

**Founder of Swift Memorial College**

For more than 200 years, Maryville College has been guided by the motto of its founder, the Rev. Isaac Anderson: “Do good on the largest possible scale.” Few better personify Maryville College’s statement of purpose than William Henderson Franklin. He dedicated his life to educating African-American children who otherwise had no access to education.

Franklin was the first African-American to graduate from Maryville College and was one of the top students in the 1880 class, distinguishing himself in writing and oration. Following graduation, the Knoxville native set out for Lane Theological Seminary. Completing a divinity degree in 1883, he returned to Tennessee and was ordained by the Union Presbytery, Synod of Tennessee. He began his ministry in Rogersville, Tennessee, where he established a Presbyterian church and founded Swift Memorial Institute. According to an early 20th-century book *Among Colored People*, Franklin began the school “under the most unfavorable circumstances.”

For the first 10 years of the school’s existence, Franklin operated Swift Memorial Institute out of a church building. Named for the Rev. Elijah E. Swift, president of the Board of Missions for Freedmen and pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, the school offered a high-school curriculum. Swift developed a reputation for offering a quality Christian education and spaces filled quickly. In 1893, a substantial brick building

was erected with funds from the Freedmen’s Board, friends of Swift, and church women in Pennsylvania and Illinois.

While Franklin was principal and president of the institution (1883-1926), the school added other buildings to its campus and expanded its curriculum. Part of this growth can be attributed to Maryville College. Franklin served on the College’s Board of Directors from 1893 until 1901 and was awarded an honorary degree by the College just before the 1901 Murphy Law took effect. The law made it illegal for people of different races to learn in the same classroom. As a prominent alumnus and persuasive writer, Franklin and other African-American graduates urged the College to challenge the Murphy Law in court. The College ultimately chose to comply with the rulings of the Tennessee Supreme Court, but in 1903, directors voted to transfer one-tenth of its endowment to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church “for the education of Negro youth.” For the next 50 years, this fund served the students of Swift. At the time of its closure in 1955, Swift was accredited as a junior college.



*Honorees*  
**John M. Edwards III  
& Stace D. Dollar**

**John M. Edwards III**

**Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia**  
Master of Science | 2002  
Acute Surgical Pain Management Fellowship | 2018

**Stace D. Dollar**

**Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia**  
Master of Science | 2003  
Acute Surgical Pain Management Fellowship | 2019

**Nurse Anesthetists Dedicated to Combating Opioid Abuse**

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) Stace Dollar and John Edwards III represent the values and mission of Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia (MTSA) which exists to provide a Christian, Seventh-day Adventist learning environment that fosters the pursuit of truth, excellence in and access to graduate nurse anesthesia education, and a life of service. Their commitment to patient safety, education, and research reflects these values.

Dollar and Edwards have joined together in groundbreaking efforts to combat persistent opioid use among surgical patients. Their work has contributed to positive results by helping to reduce the number of patients who develop opioid-use disorders after surgical procedures.

Edwards and Dollar have integrated evidence-based principles of acute surgical pain management into their Acute Pain Service at Baptist Health Lexington in Kentucky, which allowed them to perform more than 5,000 nerve blocks annually, over half of which include the use of catheters to prolong the pain management beyond discharge from the hospital.

These pain management strategies for patients – both in the operating room and at home – result in fewer opioid medications being used, reducing the chances that patients will become addicted.

In addition, the pair have been instrumental in a project at Baptist Health Lexington to provide each surgical patient discharged from the facility with an educational brochure about the safe use of opioids and an at-home disposal kit to safely dispose of any unused opioids. The program was implemented collaboratively with not only health care providers and hospital administrators but the business community to help prevent, protect, and educate others about the dangers of new persistent opioid use.

Edwards and Dollar have also conducted important research in anesthesia. They worked on a study that utilized an enhanced recovery-after-surgery protocol that improved pain control and reduced opioid consumption for women undergoing mastectomy with immediate reconstruction. The research was presented at the American Society of Breast Surgeons Annual Meeting.

Even with the many challenges in healthcare – especially in acute surgical pain management as it relates to the opioid epidemic – the efforts of Dollar and Edwards have had a dramatic effect. They bring passion and determination to their work and it continues to make an impact.



John M. Edwards II & Stace D. Dollar

*Selecting Institution*







*Honoree*  
**Del Harris**

**Milligan University**  
B.A., Religion | 1959

**Indiana University**  
M.A., History | 1965

**NBA Coach**  
**Basketball Hall of Fame Honoree**  
**Ordained Minister**

Del Harris lives out the mission of Milligan University to honor God through servant leadership. Whether it be coaching professional athletes on the basketball court, giving motivational lectures, or authoring books on how to be an effective member of any team, Harris has dedicated his life to leadership through service.

Before Harris became an NBA head coach, he was a standout student athlete at Milligan in the late 1950s. He racked up 36 points a game before the existence of the 3-point line.

Harris has been associated with seven NBA teams over a 37-year period including earning the title of head coach of the Houston Rockets, Milwaukee Bucks, and the Los Angeles Lakers. He is also a recipient of the prestigious 2017 National Association of Basketball Coaches International Lifetime Achievement Award, the 13th recipient and 8th from the U.S.

With the Houston Rockets, Harris coached the team to the NBA Championship finals in 1981, making him the winningest coach in Rockets history. He was named ESPN Coach of the Year in 1981 and received the Houston Award for Community Service in Houston, Texas. In addition, New Mexico made him an honorary governor, and San Antonio, Texas, appointed him honorary mayor. With the

Lakers, Harris became the 19th NBA coach to earn 500 wins and was named the NBA Coach of the Year in 1995.

Harris received the 2019 John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. This most prestigious award presented by the Basketball Hall of Fame honors an international or national figure who has contributed greatly to the game of basketball.

But Harris' accomplishments go beyond the game. He is an ordained minister in the Christian Church, a member of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, and had success in real estate and the oil and gas industry. He also authored three books on basketball coaching theory. In addition, he has lectured on sports and motivational topics to hundreds of groups.

In 1993, Harris endowed a basketball scholarship at Milligan in honor of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Harris of Plainfield, Indiana. Harris remembers his years at Milligan with fondness.

“When I think of Milligan,” he says, “I remember the warmth of friends and faculty.”

“I’m no doubt the only human being who ever coached junior high boys, junior high girls, high school, small college, major college, ABA, NBA, FIBA, and NBA Development League.”

Del Harris on receiving the John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award





*Honoree*  
**Jon Meacham**

**Sewanee**  
B.A., English | 1991  
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters | 2010

**Pulitzer Prize Winning Biographer**  
**Contributor to the *The New York Times* & the**  
**Youngest Editor-in-Chief of *Newsweek***  
**Historian and Professor**

Biographer, professor, and journalist Jon Meacham embodies Sewanee virtues in his life's work. He described what those values mean to him upon accepting the Distinguished Young Alumni Award from Sewanee in 2013.

“So much comes and goes- chronicling the ebb and flow of the present is how I make my living... but Sewanee virtues are larger and harder: Grace, courage and good cheer are the lights which guide us all forward, and Sewanee gives us the capacity to draw on the lessons of the past in order to understand the present and shape the future.”

Born in Chattanooga in 1969, Meacham was educated at St. Nicholas School, the McCallie School, and he graduated from The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, with a degree *summa cum laude* in English. He was salutatorian and elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Today, he is a contributing writer to *The New York Times Book Review*, contributing editor at *Time*, and he holds the Carolyn T. and Robert M. Rogers Chair in the American Presidency at Vanderbilt University, where he is also a distinguished visiting professor. Meacham is a contributor to NBC News and MSNBC and lectures widely in the United States on history, politics, and religious faith.

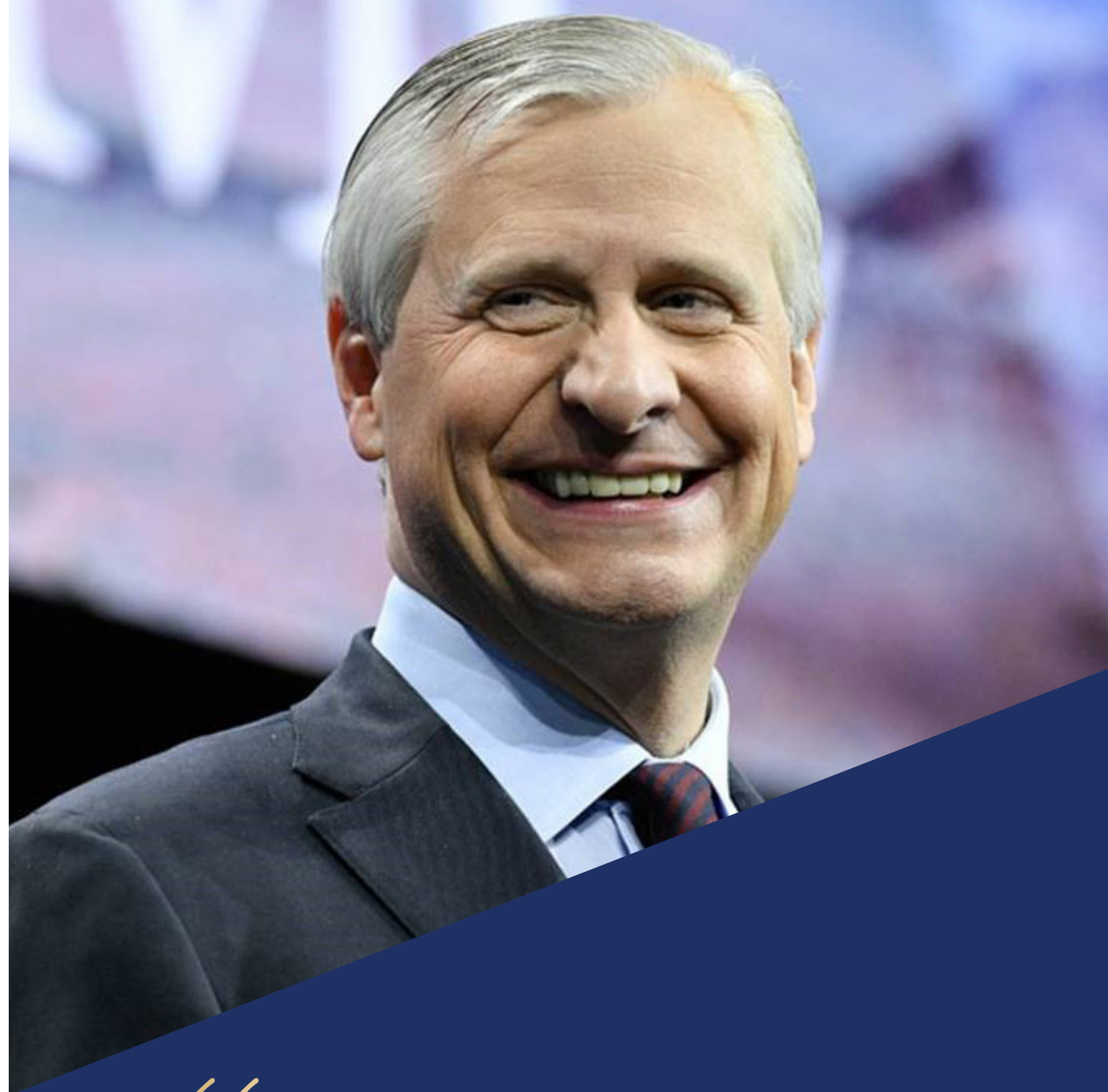
He is the author of numerous *New York Times* bestsellers, including *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*; *Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship*; and *Voices In Our Blood: America's Best on the Civil Rights Movement*.

*American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 2009.

A member of the Council on Foreign Relations and of the Society of American Historians, Meacham has written for *The New York Times* op-ed page, *The Washington Post*, *Vanity Fair*, and *Garden & Gun*.

Meacham is also a former executive editor at Random House and editor of *Newsweek* from 2006 to 2010. He is a former editor of *The Washington Monthly* and began his career at *The Chattanooga Times*.

He lives in Nashville with his wife and three children.



**We often talk too much and listen too little. The surer route to winning a friend isn't to convince them that you're right, but that you care what they think.**

Jon Meacham





*Honoree*  
**Senator  
John Boozman**

**Southern College of Optometry**  
O.D. | 1977  
Honorary Doctor of Ocular Science

**Two-term United States Senator**  
**Former U.S. Representative**  
**Advocate for low-income families**

United States Senator John Boozman (R-AR) is the only optometrist to have ever been elected to the United States Senate. After attending the University of Arkansas and playing football for the Arkansas Razorbacks, it was Tennessee where the future Senator chose to obtain his professional degree. Boozman was accepted to Southern College of Optometry in 1973 and spent four years living in Memphis as he trained to become a Doctor of Optometry.

After his graduation in 1977, Dr. Boozman entered private practice that same year co-founding a family business with his brother that would ultimately become a major provider of eye care to Northwest Arkansas. During his years of private practice, Dr. Boozman established the low vision program at the Arkansas School for the Blind in Little Rock and worked as a volunteer optometrist at an area clinic that provides medical services to low-income families. He was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 2001 and served for a decade before his election and subsequent re-election to the United States Senate.

In addition to his years of private practice optometry and work with agriculture in his home state of Arkansas, Dr. Boozman has contributed a distinguished record of public service. Senator Boozman serves on four committees in the 116th Congress: Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Appropriations, Environment and Public Works, and Veterans' Affairs.

He also serves on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, commonly referred to as the Helsinki Commission. He serves on the Congressional Study Group on Europe, a bipartisan organization dedicated to frank and candid dialogue between American lawmakers and their peers in European capitals and has been appointed the Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group during the 116th Congress. In addition, the Senator also serves as one of six Congressional Regents on the Smithsonian Institute's Board of Regents which governs and administers the organization.



“**My dad was a veteran, so helping veterans and their families has always been personal for me. This recognition furthers my drive to ensure America delivers on the promises we made to the men and women who serve in uniform, risking life and limb to keep our country safe and free.**”

Senator Boozman on Disabled American Veterans naming him the 2019 Outstanding Senate Legislator of the Year





We should develop a determination to **learn** as much as possible; have the commitment to **earn** a living that supports our families and communities; and understand that it is our responsibility to **return** in greater measure than has been given to us.

Scott Niswonger in the *Niswonger Foundation Annual Report*



*Honoree*  
**Scott Niswonger**

**Purdue University**

B.A., Aviation Technology | 1968  
 Doctor of Technology | 2004

**Tusculum University**

B.S., Business Administration | 1986  
 Doctor of Humane Letters | 2006

**East Tennessee State University**

Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters | 2016

**University of Tennessee**

Doctorate of Humane Letters | 2018

**Aviator**

**Business Leader**

**Philanthropist**

Scott Niswonger is one of the most accomplished businessmen and philanthropists in Tennessee. He also exemplifies Tusculum University's commitment to civic engagement and equipping students to be career-ready professionals.

Niswonger combined his skills and dedication to aviation and logistics to create several companies that have successfully contributed to workforce development, community growth, educational attainment and quality of life. He moved to Greeneville as the corporate pilot for the president of the Magnavox Co. in 1973. Niswonger started a cargo airline, General Aviation, Inc. After selling this company, he became vice president of North American operations for Flying Tiger Lines. He then co-founded Landair Services and Forward Air Corp. with an initial investment of \$2,000. Those companies today have annual sales of over \$2 billion.

Niswonger is a champion for educational opportunities. He has served on Tusculum's Board of Trustees for the past 30 years. His financial support for Tusculum exceeds \$60 million. He also serves as the initial chairman for the East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees. At Purdue University, he is a member of the

President's Executive Council, the Dean's Council for Purdue University Polytechnic Institute, a board member on the Purdue Research Foundation and chairman of Purdue Aviation.

In 2001, he established the Niswonger Foundation with a mission to "create opportunities for individual and community growth through education and other sustainable projects," guided by his well-known philosophy of "Learn – Earn – Return." This operating foundation focuses on Pre-K through 12th grade school partnerships to ensure rigorous, cost-effective and sustainable educational opportunities with a focus on the needs of rural public schools. The foundation receives more than \$40 million in federal, state and private grants, providing services to 29 school districts. The foundation's Scholarship and Leadership program is developing the next generation of leaders to serve Northeast Tennessee. There are currently 20 scholars in universities across America and 81 alumni.

Further demonstrating his ability to enhance lives, Niswonger was the stimulus for and the major benefactor of Niswonger Children's Hospital. This hospital, in Johnson City, is home to one of only eight St. Jude Affiliate Clinics in the world. He serves on the board of directors of Ballad Health, a 21-hospital, 15,000 employee health care enterprise.

He believes exposure to the arts is essential for quality of life. This led to his advocacy and financial support for the building of the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Greeneville and his hometown of Van Wert, Ohio.

His passion for economic development, education and quality of life impacts countless individuals and has set an example for others to follow.







Selecting Institution

*Honoree*  
**Bob Agee**

**Union University**  
B.A., History and Religion | 1960

**Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**  
Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry

**Vanderbilt University**  
Ph.D., Education

**Thirteenth President of Oklahoma Baptist University**  
**Served as the Executive Director for the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities**  
**Sports Hall of Famer**

A family man, a man of faith, a servant leader, and a dedicated educator – Dr. Agee has given more than five decades of exemplary leadership embedded with intelligence, competence, and moral character to Christian higher education. He lives out the mission of Union University every day – to provide a Christ-centered education that promotes excellence and character development in service to Church and society. Dr. Agee has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and has contributed to Christian higher education through scholarship, writing, and public influence, and his contributions will inspire Christian higher education for many years to come.

After earning his Ph.D. in 1975, Dr. Agee returned to Union University and served in many roles, including vice president for religious affairs, professor of practical studies in the religion department, and special assistant to the president for institutional planning.

In 1982, Dr. Agee became the 13th president of Oklahoma Baptist University. During his presidency, Oklahoma Baptist University experienced significant growth and attracted national recognition for the quality of its faculty, students, and programs. The university also became known among church-related colleges and universities for its involvement in missionary outreach and international activity. Following his retirement as president in 1998, Brotherhood Dormitory was renamed Agee Residence Center to honor him and his wife, Nelle. In 1999, he was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame.

Throughout his career, Dr. Agee has been actively involved in numerous national educational and denominational activities, serving in leadership roles for various national organizations. Following his retirement from OBU, he became executive director of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools. The organization, which became the

International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities in 2006, includes 51 Baptist-affiliated schools across the nation. He served as executive director at the IABCU for nine years. He was a co-founder and served as the executive director of the Consortium for Global Education from 1998 to 2002. He has served on the Boards of Directors of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, among many others.

He is the founder and senior consultant of Agee, Stewart and Allen Development, a company that specializes in long-range strategic planning, board training, leadership development, fund-raising program design and development, and executive coaching. He has been a pastor of many Baptist churches in Tennessee and Kentucky. He has also been listed in “Who’s Who in American Education” since 1990. Agee has many published works, including, *Faithful Learning and the Christian Scholarly Vocation*, *The Reason for the Season*, and *An Unlikely Story: Memories and Reflections on Life’s Journey*, while also authoring chapters in many other books.

Dr. Agee is a devoted and loving family man. He and his wife Nelle had a strong marriage that lasted 62 years. They have two daughters, four granddaughters, and five great-grandchildren.





*Selecting Institution*



*Honoree*  
**Carlisle  
Hanna**

**Welch College**  
B.A., Bible | 1952

**Humanitarian & Missionary in  
India for nearly 70 years**

The Welch College mission is to educate leaders to serve Christ, His church, and His world through biblical thought and life. Carlisle Hanna has exceedingly accomplished this goal with his sixty-seven years of service to the people of India.

A native of South Carolina, Hanna graduated from Welch College in 1952 and moved with his wife Marie to India in 1953, where he remains. Hanna has three living children. He and Marie lost their first child just a few months after their arrival in India. Marie died in India in 1998.

Along with missionary work, Carlisle Hanna has served in humanitarian efforts among the people of India for nearly seventy years, demonstrating compassion for the poor and fostering unity across the lines of ethnicity and caste. His efforts have brought new breeds of cattle and chickens into the region, introduced wheat to the northern parts of India, provided hospice care, maintained Christian hostels involving educational work, and engaged in numerous other development projects. Hanna's unbiased compassion and selfless acts of kindness have touched the lives of the Indian people for nearly seven decades.

An NGO established for global humanitarian aid, the Hanna Project, was named for him and his wife Marie in 2004. His life and service to humanity continues to serve as an inspiration and example to those serving around the world. In November 2000, South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges bestowed South Carolina's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Palmetto, upon veteran missionary Carlisle Hanna.



“

**When I went to India, then I could sing ‘Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!’ Never have I heard a name that thrills my soul like thine.**

Carlisle Hanna in August 2016 at the National Association of Free Will Baptists convention



# TICUA *Member Institutions*



**American Baptist College\***

Nashville • [www.abcnash.edu](http://www.abcnash.edu)

**Aquinas College**

Nashville • [www.aquinascollege.edu](http://www.aquinascollege.edu)

**Baptist Health Sciences University**

Memphis • [www.baptistu.edu](http://www.baptistu.edu)

**Belmont University**

Nashville • [www.belmont.edu](http://www.belmont.edu)

**Bethel University**

McKenzie • [www.bethelu.edu](http://www.bethelu.edu)

**Bryan College**

Dayton • [www.bryan.edu](http://www.bryan.edu)

**Carson-Newman University**

Jefferson City • [www.cn.edu](http://www.cn.edu)

**Christian Brothers University**

Memphis • [www.cbu.edu](http://www.cbu.edu)

**Cumberland University**

Lebanon • [www.cumberland.edu](http://www.cumberland.edu)

**Fisk University**

Nashville • [www.fisk.edu](http://www.fisk.edu)

**Freed-Hardeman University**

Henderson • [www.fhu.edu](http://www.fhu.edu)

**Johnson University**

Knoxville • [www.johnsonu.edu](http://www.johnsonu.edu)

**King University**

Bristol • [www.king.edu](http://www.king.edu)

**Lane College**

Jackson • [www.lanecollege.edu](http://www.lanecollege.edu)

**Lee University**

Cleveland • [www.leeuniversity.edu](http://www.leeuniversity.edu)

**LeMoyne-Owen College**

Memphis • [www.loc.edu](http://www.loc.edu)

**Lincoln Memorial University**

Harrogate • [www.lmunet.edu](http://www.lmunet.edu)

**Lipscomb University**

Nashville • [www.lipscomb.edu](http://www.lipscomb.edu)

**Martin Methodist College**

Pulaski • [www.martinmethodist.edu](http://www.martinmethodist.edu)

**Maryville College**

Maryville • [www.maryvillecollege.edu](http://www.maryvillecollege.edu)

**Meharry Medical College**

Nashville • [www.mmc.edu](http://www.mmc.edu)

**Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia**

Madison • [www.mtsa.edu](http://www.mtsa.edu)

**Milligan University**

Milligan College • [www.milligan.edu](http://www.milligan.edu)

**Rhodes College**

Memphis • [www.rhodes.edu](http://www.rhodes.edu)

**Sewanee: The University of the South**

Sewanee • [www.sewanee.edu](http://www.sewanee.edu)

**Southern Adventist University**

Collegedale • [www.southern.edu](http://www.southern.edu)

**Southern College of Optometry**

Memphis • [www.sco.edu](http://www.sco.edu)

**Tennessee Wesleyan University**

Athens • [www.tnwesleyan.edu](http://www.tnwesleyan.edu)

**Trevecca Nazarene University**

Nashville • [www.trevecca.edu](http://www.trevecca.edu)

**Tusculum University**

Greeneville • [www.tusculum.edu](http://www.tusculum.edu)

**Union University**

Jackson • [www.uu.edu](http://www.uu.edu)

**Vanderbilt University**

Nashville • [www.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.vanderbilt.edu)

**Welch College**

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