THE CLASS OF 2017

a special graduation edition of the Johnson Magazine
Each fall since 1893, students have arrived at Johnson University to prepare for service to God’s Kingdom. Whether in a physical classroom, residency location, or virtual classroom, one of the great joys of our “Johnson family” involves welcoming all the new smiling faces to class on the first day. Over the years, relationships are formed between students, staff, and faculty which will never be forgotten. Inevitably, however, there always comes a time to say goodbye. This is, of course, the goal of education—to train up and send out.

As we say goodbye to students leaving campus, we also welcome them into the Johnson University alumni family. This special edition of the Johnson Magazine is dedicated to the class of 2017—the work they have accomplished and the work they are yet to do. As the book of Hebrews says, we are indeed surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses.” Each commencement marks a sacred moment within the history of our beloved Johnson, as it is the moment when our “cloud of witnesses” grows a little larger. May God bless these graduating students, and may we join them in their passion to extend the Kingdom of God among all nations.
The reach of Johnson University extends much further than one location—we now have campuses and extension sites in five states, not to mention the global reach of our online campus. In an effort to keep us all connected and up to date, the Johnson Magazine now features coverage of all our campuses, sharing the exciting news of what God is doing through our alumni, students, friends, and staff. Rather than publish both the Johnson University FL SONLIFE magazine and the Johnson University TN magazine, we will now publish one unified Johnson Magazine. As you flip through the pages, you'll see features, news, and highlights from all of our campuses!
The 2016-2017 school year at Johnson University Tennessee has been an exciting one. With an abundance of events, a new freshman class, and a commitment to unity across the student body, this year has been a pleasure.

We’ve seen a variety of great events take place on campus, including a soup cook off (Harvesters), a panel discussion on Racial Reconciliation and the Church (Student Government Association), participation in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day march (Students Promoting Social Unity), Coffee House talent shows, and more. Our on-campus events serve to bring our student body closer together, and this year’s events certainly did just that. The freshman class has added a great deal of excitement on campus. From the moment they stepped on campus during Genesis Weekend, they have made a positive impact on our campus community. Our focus this year in the JUTN Student Government Association has been a commitment to unity across the student body. Johnson University students are unique, talented, and destined to do great things for the Kingdom. By working toward a greater sense of unity on campus, our students can share their gifts and talents with the student body and create a better and brighter campus community.

In addition, our students have continued to serve our surrounding area. The annual K-16 Service Day was a huge success. JUTN students served at over twenty locations across Knox and Sevier counties. Our student body also responded generously to the Gatlinburg wild fires and donated many clothes and necessities. Within forty-eight hours after the fire, JUTN students donated an entire truckload of supplies.

Overall, it’s been a great year on the Tennessee campus. As we close the 2016-2017 school year, we’re already looking forward to getting back for the 2017-2018 year. I know that our students will ensure that it will be a fantastic year, as well.
This past year at Johnson University Florida has been incredible! Our SGA has worked very hard to create a strong sense of community on campus. We started many new traditions and continued our old ones. Our favorite event, Fall Fling, was a total blast! Our primary mission this year has been to "promote the spiritual well-being of the student body," and that is something that has driven our team to do everything we have done.

We kicked off the year with Genesis Weekend, which was an incredible opportunity for our students to become acclimated to the Johnson community. Through a worship night, block party, and bonfire, our students made strong friendships they still carry to this present day. Through weekly worship and devotionals led by students, called "Coffee Shop," we were able to provide one hour each week, attended by one-third of our student body. This allowed the students to take a break from homework, enjoy coffee, fellowship, and worship with the rest of the student body. We were also able to do a different style of coffee shop to replace Thursday morning chapel time, allowing the campus commuters, staff, and faculty to experience something that students enjoy so much every Thursday night.

We also introduced our first annual "Fall Harvest" event which saw dozens of our students coming to enjoy games, pumpkin carving, and costumes. Each of our set of class officers put on events for the student body, and each was hugely successful. We had awesome events like the JUFL Olympics, game nights, Spring Banquet, Christmas Banquet, etc. At our first annual Unity In Diversity Dinner, we challenged our students to seek unity through our many racial and cultural differences. This year has been an encouraging step in a new and exciting direction. Ultimately, SGA exists to serve and encourage the body of Christ at JUFL to serve and love Him. The traditions we started and the ones we continued will make an impact on the community at Johnson University Florida in the years to come. We look forward to many more wonderful years with our student body at JUFL!
ENROLLMENT BY STATE

TENNESSEE 381
OTHER 296
FLORIDA 197
INDIANA 180
OHIO 63
KENTUCKY 51
ILLINOIS 47
GEORGIA 46
VIRGINIA 39
TEXAS 35

ENROLLMENT BY CAMPUS

TOTAL 1335
TENNESSEE 778
FLORIDA 186
ONLINE 325
EXTENDED 46
CLASS OF 2017

297 GRADUATES

BACHELOR'S 71%

MASTER'S 74%

ASSOCIATE 3%

PH.D. 2%

DEGREE TYPE

185 Tennessee

40 Florida

32 Online

40 ExtendEd
Jessica Hammock
JOHNSON UNIVERSITY FLORIDA

PROGRAM
Humanities

WHAT DO YOU APPRECIATE ABOUT JOHNSON?
I appreciate the positive student-teacher relationship at Johnson. Coming in to Johnson as a transfer student from a huge community college, I really appreciate how many times I’ve been invited to a professor’s house to either have dinner, celebrate a class party, or to watch hockey. I feel as if the whole staff truly cares, not just about how my classes are going, but also how I’m balancing work, my social life, and family back home.

Kenny White
JOHNSON UNIVERSITY TENNESSEE

PROGRAM
Business Administration

WHAT DO YOU APPRECIATE ABOUT JOHNSON?
I love how communal Johnson is, and I love how much both professors and higher administration care about the spiritual and academic growth of the students. Johnson is a place where people are welcomed and leave knowing how much they are cared for while they are here.
Jaimi Henline
JOHNSON UNIVERSITY EXTENDED

PROGRAM
Master of Strategic Ministry

WHAT DO YOU APPRECIATE ABOUT JOHNSON?
Choosing the residency at Christ’s Church of the Valley (CCV) has been the absolute best decision I have made, aside from accepting Jesus of course! The amount of confidence I have gained in my ministry skills, the connections I have made, and the experiences I have been a part of have been life changing. I believe that each student who is going into full-time ministry should consider a residency program. I feel equipped doing practical ministry, beyond the classroom. I just accepted a job at Compass Christian Church in Chandler, Arizona, as the director of guest services! I love connecting unchurched people to the local body of Christ. I am so thankful to Johnson and to CCV for how they have been investing into my life so that I can go forth and extend the Kingdom of God!

Spencer Stevenson
JOHNSON UNIVERSITY ONLINE

PROGRAM
Certificate of Christian Ministries

WHAT DO YOU APPRECIATE ABOUT JOHNSON?
I graciously and humbly praise God for the road signs in life, the construction workers along the way, and the illuminating headlights that guided me to Johnson University. The faith and walk of the Johnson community family is truly of God. Students and administrators are always supportive, helpful, conscientious, and caring. From admissions counselors to advisors and pastors to professors, I see the Word of God proclaimed; the life within His Kingdom lives in the loving lives right here and now, on and off the campus of Johnson University. It is a Christian love that will forever grow in the hearts of student and educator, man and woman.
From March 22 to April 3, a team of students, professors, and alumni from Johnson University Florida took an awareness trip to Cambodia. Our team went in partnership with Rapha House, a non-profit founded in the early 2000’s with one goal in mind: end sex slavery. Rapha House has four safe houses: two in Cambodia, one in Thailand, and another in Haiti. Rapha House exists to love, rescue, and heal young girls who have been victims of sex trafficking. Our team travelled with Stephanie Freed, the founder of Rapha House, and we were able to experience Rapha House’s work in person.

During our time there, we were able to see the horrors of the genocide that occurred in the mid to late 70’s. A brutal regime of militants directly murdered one fourth of the population, and, ultimately, eliminated half of the population. This has led to an incredible level of economic, spiritual, and moral bankruptcy. This genocide led to a culture of fear, poverty, and shame. A direct by-product of this tragedy is the sex trafficking industry, which is alive and well in Cambodia. We spent time at genocide museums, understanding this tragedy, which led directly to our understanding of Rapha House’s work. We were able to visit both of the safe houses that currently are operating in Cambodia where we shared deep fellowship with the staff, workers, and girls there.

Rapha House not only heals and rehabilitates girls of all ages (sometimes as young as four), but they also reintegrate them into the community when possible. We were able to witness and take part in a reintegration ceremony for a young girl.
who was returning to her home with a steady job and a local church to attend. Seeing the love and joy the staff of Rapha House gave to this young girl was truly beautiful. We were also blessed to see many businesses and vocations that the Rapha House girls are able to join once they leave the safe houses. They are taught trade skills that allow them to earn a steady income without selling themselves to afford daily expenses.

Our team learned a great deal about Cambodia, human trafficking, and ultimately, God’s character and His restoring work that is carried out across the globe. Sometimes mission work is less about projects and tasks and more about being present with eyes wide open to learn. Sometimes mission work is holding a young girl who was found in a dumpster and adopted by a Christian family. Sometimes mission work is unashamedly dancing in order to give kids living in poverty something to laugh about. Sometimes mission work is letting a girl who was once trafficked paint your toenails because it is worth your embarrassment to see her giggle and smile. Sometimes mission work is staring at a girl who has been through unimaginable circumstances and reminding her that she is unimaginably loved in the way only our Creator can love. Sometimes mission work is refusing to stay silent for the millions caught in slavery across the world and giving them a voice when no one else will. By taking the time to learn and understand the issue of sex trafficking in Cambodia, and in your own country, you can be a voice for change and make a difference.
**An Interview**

A few years ago, some undergraduate students from Johnson University Tennessee felt convicted from the Lord to help with the poverty they saw in downtown Knoxville. In an effort to make a difference, they began making regular trips to minister to people who had very few resources and were living on the streets. They began building relationships with them, creating friendships, and helping to provide food, clothing, and other resources throughout the year. As their work downtown grew, this group of students became known as Houseless Ministries. On Fridays, they take sandwiches, water, and other resources downtown to hand out while they talk and pray with individuals.

The members of Houseless Ministries recently sat down to talk about their background and current work.

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**Where did the name “Houseless Ministries” come from?**

Nathan Thompson: We didn’t know we were going to become a ministry for a while, but we were downtown one week, and there was a man whose name is Cheesy. He is one of our favorite people. He was walking with us, and he asked, “Hey, can I pray for you guys?” Then he prayed for us, and he walked with us and prayed for other people. But there was this one prayer that he said that really tore us up. He started off his prayer the same every time, “Lord, this is your prodigal son, Cheesy, comin’ at you again.”

He said, “We are not homeless, we are houseless. We are fallen angels trying to find our way back home to you, Lord.” And that cut us deep. Ever since then, we have thoroughly believed that they are not homeless. They really are houseless, and they have a home in Christ, and they have a home in heaven. Our goal is to show them enough love to remind them of that.

**How did your work downtown begin?**

Shae Frazier: It all started coming out of the Cereal Bar (in downtown Knoxville). We were standing outside getting some fresh air for a bit, and a guy came up to me and said, “Do you have any money, even if it’s just a quarter? I could use any sort of money.” One of us opened his wallet, and all he had was a quarter. It was a God thing because he said, “Even if it’s just a quarter, I’ll take it!”

That night we all got together and talked. We said that we had to do something about the homeless community downtown. We thought at first it was going to be very small, just talking to them. So we went downtown with just four guys, 59 sandwiches, and some water. The first three months were very difficult. We couldn’t build relationships with anyone, and no one trusted us. Plenty of nights we were cussed at, threatened, and spit on. We didn’t know if we were going to be able to continue. We didn’t know if we were making an impact, but it took off from there.

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**About 1,500 houseless people live in the Knoxville area at any given time, close to 50% of the houseless are part of family units, and currently 75% of the houseless population is male.**

**What have you seen about the houseless community in Knoxville?**

Brandon Church: Rarely is someone alone in the houseless community. Most of the time they’re found in family groups. The majority are male from what we’ve seen. A lot will have their significant others, and we see that there is a lot of sex trafficking and prostitution in the lives of most of the women who are down there.

**What have been some of your reflections on ministry to the houseless?**

Skyler Gibbons: You don’t really understand how being with people at their lowest point can affect you. It’s made me realize that my problems are not quite as big as I’d like to think. The graphic imagery that we’ve been
given by people describing their day can really put things in perspective. I see the houseless very clearly, and I need to be with them because I feel Jesus with them.

Brandon Church: I’ve seen [Jesus] in so many different people and in so many different ways, and it’s helped me appreciate the things that I have taken for granted and things I thought were huge problems in my life that were really insignificant. One of the biggest requests we get is, “Hey, do you know where we could take a shower?”

Their other big request is, “Will you just talk to me?” People just want relationships. We take for granted the connections we have with people. When we go downtown with them, we see all of the brokenness that is in the world. It’s in your face, you can’t get away from it, and you bring that back with you. It stays with you; it affects you. It makes you see the power of prayer consistently, every week.

Nathan Thompson: It’s funny to notice the difference in our demeanor when we’re going downtown and when we’re coming back. When we come back, we’re completely silent. Maybe the only words said in the car are, “Who can we pray for? What are the prayer requests this week?” We are trying to process how we can be more of a blessing to them. Our problems really aren’t that bad compared to theirs. “Oh my tire popped. I have a ton of homework,” and then the person next to us says, “Yeah, I used to be a wife and a mom of four, and now I’m a heroin addict.” They’d say “I can’t put the bottle down,” or “I don’t know where my girlfriend is. I haven’t seen her in a day.” It’s heartbreaking and very humbling. We have a bed to sleep in, and we have friends to go to when we need anything. I have never seen so many humble people, as well. We’ve said, “Hey, would you like another sandwich? We have extras; it’s fine if you take one,” and they might say, “No, gives it to someone who needs it.” “Don’t you need it? You can take the sandwich; it’s fine, we have extras,” but they’ll say, “No, give it to someone who really needs it.”

Shae Frazier: Just talking with someone melts their hearts because they know you care about them. They are living under bridges; they are living in conditions that we could not even think about. When we come up and say, “Hey, how was your week?” or “Hey, I remember your name,” we see tears roll down people’s faces because they think, ‘Someone sees me’. They know we care. Talking to someone is so simple, so cliché, and so easy. It’s uncomfortable to go up to someone with a needle in their arm. It’s uncomfortable to go up to a prostitute who is hardly dressed, looks strung out and say, “Hey, how are you doing?” It’s uncomfortable, but that’s the same thing that Jesus did. He wasn’t uncomfortable; he was transparent, and that’s key to what we do. It’s a blessing, and also heartbreaking, to know that a simple hello could mean the world for somebody.

How can the Johnson University community serve alongside you?

Shae Frazier: We could use prayer. It’s so cliché to say “I need prayer,” but ever since we spoke in chapel, we’ve gotten prayer from the student body, and that has brought blessings in our ministry. Shower us with prayers. We’ve talked, and we believe that Houseless Ministries only happens through prayer. If you want to go out and buy peanut butter, bread, and jellies, or if you’re just really obligated to donate money, we could use all of those resources. You may not be able to come down with us, but you’ll help us make an impact for the cause of the Kingdom.

Members:

Brandon Church (’18)
Intercultural Studies
(Urban Studies Concentration)

Shae Frazier (’18)
Youth Ministry

Evan Giannakas (’16)
Nonprofit Organizational Management

Skyler Gibbons (’18)
Communications
(Audio-Radio Production Concentration)

Chase Rigdon (’18)
Preaching & Church Leadership

Nathan Thompson (’18)
Preaching & Youth Ministry

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HANNAH VAUGHN & LEXI BENS CotER
JOHNSON UNIVERSITY TENNESSEE
We received a hands-on understanding of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Both Israel and Palestine were filled with kind, hospitable people who treated us well as we ventured in to some of their bakeries and stores. Understanding the cultures and daily circumstances of each people group was eye-opening, and seeing the various religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam) in the same small territory was interesting.

We were able to meet Arabic Christians who relayed the story of a Christian life in an area where Christians are not known. Our group worshiped with liturgy, a capella music, and prayer, as well as sharing in a common meal; this allowed us to experience our faith and perception of God with a new appreciation in a new place. The complexity of culture and history was a foundational aspect of the journey our group experienced. This cultural experience resulted in new understandings of who Jesus is and who we are in His story.

ERIC BASS
JOHNSON UNIVERSITY ONLINE
I left for Israel not knowing what God would do inside me. I experienced amazing vistas, explored ancient archaeological dig sites, and walked in the footsteps of Jesus and his disciples. I scooped water from both the Jordan and the Sea of Galilee. And I prayed in so many places for some sort of powerful revelation. Instead, God gave me assurance—quiet, simple confidence that I am following the right leader. Thanks to my visit to Israel, there resides in me an even deeper desire to follow Jesus, no matter the cost.

As part of a spring semester class, a group of students from all four campuses of Johnson University recently completed a trip to Israel. Prior to their travels, students completed coursework and readings in geography, spiritual formation, and biblical history. These studies came alive as they walked in the footsteps of biblical characters at some of the most venerated and holy sites of faith. We asked a few students, staff, and faculty to reflect upon their recent pilgrimage. Here is what they had to say:
MARK ZIESE  
JOHNSON UNIVERSITY FLORIDA
While travel in Israel/Palestine is always exciting, our study-tour this year was special in that it was my first time sharing it with the community of Johnson University. I found our group curious, engaging, and earnest. I cannot imagine a more positive educational experience.

RICHIE GOAD  
JOHNSON UNIVERSITY ONLINE
My experience in Israel is one that I will cherish for a lifetime! Not only did I gain knowledge about the Biblical world, but I was also able to grow in my relationship with Christ in ways that I did not expect. It was special to grow closer to Christ surrounded by new friends and members from the incredible faculty and staff from Johnson University. This trip has forever impacted the way I preach, teach, and interact with others for the Gospel!

COLLIN INGMIRE  
EXTENDED PHOENIX
The knowledge I gained was very beneficial, but it was even better to realize how the information can be applied to my future ministry. One of my favorite stops on the trip was the Shepherds’ Fields in Bethlehem. They were a reminder of servant leadership and how we must whole-heartedly do what God calls us to, regardless of what we personally desire.

KAYLA CRISWELL  
EXTENDED INDIANAPOLIS
While we were in Israel, we had the opportunity to meet with some Arab-Christian pastors. They helped us understand the current culture of Israel and how that affects their ministries. They are doing ministry the way I believe it is intended to be; they go into people’s homes in their community and develop relationships with them and share the good news. In addition to that experience, I still have no words for the opportunity to be in the places that Jesus lived; it has completely changed the way I read my Bible and how I view our awesome, powerful God.
CAMPUS
2016-2017 SEASON IN PHOTOS

ATHLETICS
Marvin Atkin ('63) passed away on March 15, 2017. He served in the US Navy and was employed at Jewish Hospital for 19 years as assistant head nurse; then retired from Clermont Mercy Hospital. He was married to Janice.

Nyela Hand Cohoon ('59), of Johnson City, Tennessee, passed away May 14, 2017. She was a member of First Christian Church in Johnson City. She was preceded in death by her first husband Dwight Chaplain ('73) and her second husband Robert Hand. She is survived by her husband Jack Cohoon, children Chele ('79)(Henry) Harris, Tembra (Jeff) Aldridge, and Darin Chaplain ('84), 13 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren.

Suzanne Sims Dennis ('75) passed away March 13, 2017. She was a native of Columbia, Kentucky, and a member of White Mills Christian Church. She was a graduate of Lindsey Wilson College, Johnson University, Campbellsville College, and Western Kentucky University. Suzanne taught school for 37 years. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Tim Dennis ('76), two daughters, and three grandchildren.

Hazel Foster, 87, passed away on March 3, 2017. She graduated from Western Connecticut State University and the University of Virginia. After retiring from teaching elementary school, Hazel took a position as a professor at Johnson University until the age of 80. Donations can be made to the Hazel Foster Teacher Education Scholarship at Johnson University.

Roger M. Grubb ('64) passed away January 16, 2017. A graduate of Johnson University and Lincoln Christian Seminary, Roger was involved in Christian ministries for over 40 years. He retired from Community Christian Church in Hobart, Indiana, due to health issues. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Judy ('66), four children, and two grandchildren. Donations in his memory may be sent to Johnson University.

Harry P. Hendrickson Jr. ('00) passed away June 26, 2016. Harry became a minister in the Christian church, serving at several churches. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Joy Hendrickson ('02), his daughters Karen (Hendrickson, '87) Lipscomb and Kristin (Hendrickson, '86) Eitland, two son-in-laws, John Lipscomb ('01), and Kevin Eitland, along with five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Johnson University designated to the Gladys Greene Joscelyn Preaching Fund.

Jennifer Holderby ('04), of St. Cloud, Florida, passed away on January 22, 2017. Jennifer was born to be a teacher. In every ministry in her life she was always leading and teaching. She was an elementary school teacher for 9 1/2 years. She fell in love on a mission trip to Mexico and married Todd Holderby, the man she never thought she would find. She realized a lifelong dream of becoming a mother in August 2014 and November 2016. Jennifer was known for her smile, and her passion to teach others about Jesus.

Jennifer is survived by her husband Todd ('04) and two daughters, Arabella and Hallie; parents Joseph and Phyllis Merkley, and sister Laura Kretschar. M. Marion Hoschouer, 94, passed away January 13, 2017 in Longmont, Colorado. She was the widow of Kenneth Hoschouer ('45). She is survived by four children, 13 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

Lois Largent passed away April 18, 2017. She married Leonard J. Largent, Sr. ('72) in 1947. He preceded her in death in 2013. She is survived by her daughters: Karen K. Largent, Kimberlin K. (Steve) Keller, and her son Leonard J. (Judy) Largent, Jr. ('72). Also surviving are her four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Memorials in Lois’ name may be made to The Leonard Largent/Parkville Christian Church Scholarship Fund at Johnson University.

Fred Moore ('62) passed away on March 22, 2017, at the age of 83, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was a U.S. Navy veteran, former professor at Johnson University, and a retired preacher. Fred was the beloved husband of Patricia A. McIntyre Moore (‘66) and devoted father of three daughters and sons-in-law: Susan (Jo) Gattis, Stephanie ('83) and Dwight ('86) Young, and Sara ('85) and Mike ('87) Baker. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be directed to Johnson University.

Mary Helen (Gilmore, ’66) Owen, 73, passed away May 28, 2017. She grew up in Harriman, Tennessee, where she and her family were very involved in the First Christian Church. Mary Helen was a beautiful singer and writer and was a longtime member of the First Christian Church in Bartow, Florida. She is survived by her beloved husband, Eddie W. Owen ('65), sons Eddie (Jane) Owen Jr ('88), Marvin Hamilton (Julie) Owen ('92), Patrick Owen, and four grandchildren.

Ann Powell, the widow of Harvey Powell ('46), passed away March, 15, 2017. Ann lived in Mechanicsville, Virginia.

Dee Ann Sams ('66), passed away on April 4, 2017. She was a caring preacher’s wife who poured her heart into each of the five churches she ministered at with her late husband, Ronnie Sams ('62). Dee Ann had worked for Cardinal Services, helping those with handicaps live a life of dignity. She is survived by her mother, Evelyn Burkholder; daughter, Patti Sams ('86) and son and daughter-in-law, Marcelle ('90) and Mindy ('91) Sams; and two grandchildren.

Rose (Watson, ’81) Scheib, passed away December 30, 2016, in New Zealand after a hard year with cancer. Much loved and fondly remembered by husband Lyall ('81), five children, and six grandchildren.

Bertrum “Butch” Scott ('95), 44, passed away January 23, 2017. Butch graduated from Johnson University and received a master’s degree from...
Webster College. He was a youth minister and a counselor. Alumni parents are Bert (’70) and Patsy (’71) Scott.

Madonna (Burget, ’59) Spratt died on May 19, 2017 in Honduras, where she had been a missionary since 1984. She married John in 1987, and they served together until their deaths and were buried in Honduras. Madonna’s medical missionary life began in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1960. In 1970 she relocated to Kulpahar, India, where she served until 1981, when she returned to Zimbabwe for two years.

Lynda Williams (’59) passed away March 29, 2017. She served as a librarian at the Marion Public Library. She was a faithful member of the Mr. Vernon Avenue Church of Christ. She is survived by four nieces and one nephew. Donations may be given to Johnson University.


**EMPLOYMENT**

Steven Wilson (’07) accepted the position of family minister at Calvary Chapel in Palm City, Florida.

Jared Wortman (’07) was recently appointed the associate minister of Peachtree Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Atlanta, Georgia.

**BIRTHS**

Bob (’83) and Kim Hicks welcomed their first grandchild, Addalynn Rose Hicks, into the world on September 11, 2016.

Todd (’04) and Jennifer (Merkley, ’04) Holderby welcomed their second daughter, Hallie Lauren Holderby, on November 21, 2016.

Eric (’12) and Cana (Steinberg, ’10) Thompson are the proud parents of Atlas Samuel, born September 16, 2017. He joins Eden who is 3. Cana is the resident manager of Johnson Hall on the Tennessee campus.

**POTPOURRI**

Harley Ihm (’92) published Vital Signs: How to Monitor Your Spiritual Health, available in local bookstores as well as Amazon, Barnes and Nobles, etc.

Rufus (’48) and Arlis (Cook, ’49) Peer recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Alex Marrs (’16) is currently serving on the World Race, an 11-month mission trip sponsored by Adventures in Missions. You can follow his journey at alexmarrs.theworldrace.org.

Dani (Seybold, ’87) Morris was ordained into ministry at First Christian Church, Cookeville, Tennessee, on January 29, 2017.

Christopher Wehrle (’04) graduated with a Ph.D. in New Testament from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He currently resides in Louisville, Kentucky, with his wife Amy and their two children.

Want to help influence the future of Johnson University? Join the Alva Ross Brown Society!

**HELP US KEEP CURRENT!**

Send your news, updates, and photos to Johnson Tennessee at:

**EMAIL:** MShears@JohnsonU.edu

**SOCIAL:** Facebook.com/JohnsonUniversityAlumni

**MAIL:** Johnson University Tennessee
Public Relations Office, Box 777075
Knoxville, TN 37998

50% of Johnson Alumni have graduated in the last 15 years
The Class of 2017  Johnson University System

School of Arts & Sciences

ENGLISH
Joshua Robert Carpenter B.S.
Joshua Thomas Denney B.S.
Hannah Renee Langston B.A.
Rachel Woodford B.S.
Carley Alyse Wright B.S.

HISTORY
Katie Suzanne Borden B.A.
Whitney Glynn Jones B.A.

HUMANITIES
Madison Grigsby, B.A.
Amber Lane McKinley B.A.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Rebecca Catherine Beard B.S.
Kelsey Marie Rhode Coover B.S.
Riley Thomas Morgan B.A.

SPORT & FITNESS LEADERSHIP
Jessie Cara Charlton B.S.
Jacob Glenn Clark B.S.
Brandon Pierce Crussel B.S.
Jean B. Faton B.S.
William Stanton Smith B.S.
Matthew-Michael Hadley Weiss B.A.

School of Bible & Theology

BIBLICAL STUDIES
Nicolette Erin LaMaison A.S.
Michaela Jeanette Meador A.S.
Karen Jackson Hackney A.S.
Jerry Jerome Alexander B.S.
Ruth Miller-Shockley B.S.

NEW TESTAMENT
Matthew J. Craig M.A.
Donald Eugene Crane Jr. M.A.
Andrew Martin Frazier M.A.
Matthew Brian Sink M.A.
Bryan William Taylor M.A.
Karen Janece Thompson M.A.

School of Business & Public Leadership

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Elisabeth Krysteen Arnold B.A.
Darshee Liona Cenecharles B.S.
Gabriel Correll B.S.
Cassandra Lee Craigo B.S.
Nicholas Keith Gordon B.S.
Rashad Alfredo Hanna B.A.
D’uane Anthony Howard B.S.
Bennett Sims Trainer B.S.
Clayton Charles Underwood B.S.

MANAGEMENT OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
Valentin Chun B.A.

Angela Rene’ Duncan B.S.
Macy Alexandra Dyer B.S.
Minor: Intercultural Studies
Matthew Thomas Emery B.S.
Minor: Communication
Audrey Jaeger B.S.
Caleb Todd Jeffries B.S.
Ying Li B.A.
Nicholas Christopher Marshall B.S.
Spencer Alexandra Myers B.A.

Leadership Studies
Derek Michael Brown Ph.D.
DeWayne Bernard Cuffee Ph.D.
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<td>Marion Hoschauer</td>
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<td>D/M David Eubanks</td>
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<td>M/M Oren McBride</td>
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<td>Janet House</td>
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<td>M/M Gerald Wood</td>
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<td>Jack R Hudson</td>
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<td>M/M James W. Exley III</td>
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<td>Guyton CC, Guyton, GA</td>
<td>M/M Robert A. Mitchell</td>
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<td>Ray Huskins</td>
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<td>East Side CC, Elizabethon, TN</td>
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<td>M/M Ronald C. Simkins</td>
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<td>Raymond &amp; Eleanor Jackson</td>
<td>M/M Robert A. Mitchell</td>
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<td>Vickie Carroll</td>
<td>M/M Robert A. Mitchell</td>
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<td>Raymond Jackson</td>
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<td>M/M Russell E. Millspaugh</td>
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<td>Ali &amp; Marion Jarman</td>
<td>M/M Robert A. Mitchell</td>
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COORDINATED BY YMT VACATIONS

34 Summer 2017
On June 20, 2017, the Board of Trustees of Johnson University announced the selection of Dr. L. Thomas Smith, Jr. as president-elect. When he succeeds Dr. Gary Weedman on July 1, 2018, he will become the seventh president of the University in its 125 year history.

Dr. Smith, a native of Carter County, Tennessee, is a graduate of Johnson University (B.A., 1978), Emmanuel Christian Seminary (M.A.R., 1986), and the University of Tennessee (Ph.D., 1990). In his Statement of Acceptance, Smith said, “There are many who love Johnson University as much as I do, but no one loves Johnson any more than me…I have invested the past 28 years of my life in this institution, serving as professor, dean, and provost, as well as university historian. I know much about the past of this school, have had a hand in shaping the present, and am so grateful that the trustees have given me opportunity to lead Johnson into the future.”

Dr. Smith (Tommy) and his wife, Debbie, live near the campus of Johnson University in the Kimberlin Heights community and have two married sons, Jacob and Joshua, and six grandchildren. They attend the Crossings Knoxville church.

Dr. Gary Weedman, president of Johnson University offered his endorsement of Dr. Smith, citing his personal achievements and proven skillful leadership. He concluded, “Perhaps most importantly, he enthusiastically embraces our institutional mission ‘to educate students for Christian ministry and other strategic vocations framed by the Great Commission in order to extend the kingdom of God among all nations.’ I am happy to welcome him as the president-elect of Johnson University.”

Dr. L.D. Campbell, chairman of the Board of Trustees at Johnson added, “Dr. Smith has proven his value to Johnson University for many years in a variety positions…During his tenure as provost Dr. Smith has excelled in helping usher in an era of tremendous programs and faculty growth. Dr. Smith has demonstrated his commitment to the core values, mission, and vision of the University.”

Regarding his hopes for Johnson’s future, Dr. Smith stated, “We must continue to make this education affordable, making sure that anyone who ‘desires above every other desire’ has access to the opportunity to prepare to extend God’s kingdom. All of this must be accomplished with the ethos of faith, prayer, and work.”

He continued, “As I wrote in the centennial history of Johnson nearly 25 years ago, ‘Faithfulness to the original impetus yet flexibility in response to change suggests the formula for success…[and] becomes the rudder by which the past guides the present.’ The institution honors its past by evaluating every response to changing contexts and challenges in light of its original purpose…I promise to keep my hand on that rudder.”

Dr. Smith became president-elect effective Tuesday, June 20, 2017. He anticipates continuing his role as provost until January 1, 2018. He will remain president-elect until July 1, 2018, when he will assume his new role as president of Johnson University.
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