

Higher Education



Sherilyn Emberton
Director of
Higher Education

Having completed six years as president of Huntington University, it is my privilege to share that God's work is being carried out through our students, faculty, staff, and administrators. I am thankful for the privilege of partnering with the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and the denomination's influence on our campus community. We share a great history and look forward to the Lord's blessings as we continue to strengthen our relationship and explore additional avenues for collaboration.

Administration

Senior Leadership

Huntington University is pleased to announce three new members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Stephen Weingart was named vice president of advancement. He has spent the majority of his life in Ohio and has nearly 30 years of business and advancement experience. Stephen earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from Malone College, and Master of Business Administration degree from Baldwin-Wallace College.

Connie Bonner has been promoted to vice president for finance and treasurer. She recently served as the Assistant Vice President and Controller and has been an instrumental member of the Huntington University business and finance team. Connie received her Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the University of Arizona and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Dr. Russ Degitz was hired as the chief operating officer. He previously served as principal of Huntington North High School. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in secondary history education from Huntington University and his Master of Arts, Education Specialist, and Ed.D. degrees, all in the areas of education administration and supervision, from Ball State. Russ will be responsible for administrative duties involving university property, athletics, and risk management; oversee auxiliary services such as the university's bookstore, food service, rental properties, and campus mail services; and manage projects and contractors.

Academics

Haupt Institute for Agricultural Studies

In the past two years, the Haupt Institute for Agricultural Studies has seen sustained growth and development. Work on the state-of-the-art Ware Plant Science Production Facility finished in 2017. The 3000-square-foot facility now houses key resources for teaching and plant research for agricultural studies programs, biology programs, and our Horticulture Club. The agricultural sector in the region has continued to support the Haupt Institute, opening up new opportunities for enhancing our programs.

In 2019, we hired Nate Perry as coordinator of ag operations and external relations. A longtime member of the Forester Family, Nate is now responsible for planning the university's agriculture events and fostering partnerships with outside agricultural constituents. See huntington.edu/ag.

Our first-ever agricultural studies students graduated in 2018: two with a degree in agricultural studies, and one with an agriculture minor. These three individuals worked hard to complete their degree requirements in three years, and are now employed in the industry or pursuing a graduate degree.

On May 18, 2019, we graduated the first class of four-year Haupt Institute graduates. We are confident that these Foresters will do much to impact the world through agriculture – in the classroom, the field, and beyond.

Huntington University was honored to have Ted McKinney, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs with the US Department of Agriculture, serve as the featured speaker for our 121st commencement ceremony on May 18.

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Doctoral Program in Occupational Therapy

The doctoral program in occupational therapy continues to graduate strong classes of new therapists ready to advance the practice of occupational therapy. In 2019, 34 students graduated with their doctoral degree. We plan to begin offering the doctoral program in occupational therapy at our Peoria, Arizona, location in the near future. With the success of the Indiana program, we look forward to seeing the impact a Huntington University doctoral program in Arizona will have in the Southwest. See huntington.edu/OTD.

MBA Program

Huntington University's Master of Business Administration (MBA) program graduated its first cohort, a group of students who partnered with us through Ambassador Enterprises, in the fall of 2018. In 2019, a cohort of students from a variety of employers, industries, and backgrounds received their diplomas in our commencement ceremony.

All students in the program have the opportunity to participate in an international learning experience, an immersive trip included in the cost of tuition. A cohort traveled to Europe in 2018, and plans are in the works for 2019. We have also recently begun offering our MBA program to international students who wish to live in the United States on a visa and complete a residential MBA program. See huntington.edu/MBA.

Arizona Center for Digital Media Arts

2018-2019 was a landmark academic year for the Huntington University Arizona Center for Digital Media Arts. First, we saw record enrollment, with 83 degree-seeking students enrolled for the fall 2018 semester. Over the course of the academic year, student work continued to attract local and national awards, including Rocky Mountain Emmys and Huntington University Arizona's first-ever Best of Festival award at the Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts.

In December, Matthew Torres-Gomez, our first Arizona graduate, completed his degree requirements for a bachelor's degree in broadcast media. This May, Torres-Gomez and five more students received their diplomas in a special commencement ceremony in Arizona shortly after the Huntington, Indiana, commencement. See az.huntington.edu.

Physician Assistant Studies

The university has begun development of a master's program in Physician Assistant Studies and has hired its inaugural Program Director, David Mays, Jr., PA-C. The 24-month master's program in PA will prepare graduates to provide health care services under the supervision of a physician, and is one of the fastest-growing occupations in the medical field. As with all of HU's programs, the focus on Christ in scholarship and service will be the anchor around which the program and curriculum are built.

HU is following an accreditation timeline laid out by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA.) Significant work will occur in the next few months in preparation for accreditor evaluation leading to anticipated enrollment in the Fall of 2020. To be housed in the Dowden Science Hall on HU's main campus, an annual cohort of 32 students is being planned. The university is currently seeking PA-C faculty members to join the program.

National Awards

In 2019, Huntington University film, broadcast, and animation students in Indiana and Arizona garnered 16 top awards at the Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts. HU took second place in overall awards and was the smallest school by population to make the top five awarded school list. Of the eleven Best of Festival awards that the BEA presents to students, HU claimed three, including the first-ever Best of Festival award for Huntington University Arizona. "The Concourse," the work of recent HU alums Jonathon Kane and James Ehle, received the Best of Best of Fest award, the top prize given to any student entry.

Five Huntington University students presented their work in April at the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society National Convention. Juliet Wilson, a history/political science, international and development studies, and philosophy major, won a national and regional scholarship. Trent Yentes, a history education major, won a presentation prize and was named as an alternate for a national scholarship. Huntington University's chapter received recognition as a Star Chapter of Alpha Chi, making it one of only four chapters in



the nation to have received this honor every year since the award's inception in 1995. There are 300 Alpha Chi chapters nationwide.

Recognitions

- Forbes named Huntington University one of "America's Top Colleges."
- Money magazine named Huntington University one of the "Best Colleges for Your Money."
- Huntington University ranked in the "Best Regional Colleges" list from the US News & World Report.
- The Princeton Review named Huntington University one of the best colleges in the Midwest.
- BestColleges.com ranked Huntington University #13 on their "Best Online Colleges in Indiana" list.
- Huntington University's online marketing degree ranks among the best in the nation, according to Successful Student. HU holds the #15 spot and is among the smallest schools to appear on the list.
 - GreatValueColleges.net ranked Huntington University #6 for its online associates in organizational management program.
 - Huntington University ranked #35 in the OnlineChristianColleges.com list of the "50 Best Christian Colleges and Universities."

Admissions

Enrollment Initiatives

In the fall of 2018, HU had a record enrollment of 1,355 students, fueled by the growth of our site in Peoria, Arizona. In the coming year we will be launching a physician's assistant program on the home campus and expanding the doctoral program in occupational therapy in Peoria.

At the undergraduate level, we continue to see strong growth in the health sciences, with nursing and the occupational therapy assistant program leading the way. The addition of the physician's assistant program should further boost undergraduate enrollment in the health sciences.

United Brethren Connections

In February 2019, Huntington University hosted an undergraduate visit day just for UB churches. The visit included a Friday night concert and campus visit on Saturday. We had 25 students from five different UB churches. We will be hosting the event again on November 8-9, 2019. Undergraduate students enrolling at the Huntington campus are eligible for a UB Grant to help reduce their out-of-pocket expense.

Huntington University sponsored and sent representatives to Winter Slam in February, an annual event for UB students and youth workers. Myra Vance, admissions counselor, along with four HU students, made connections with high school students and youth pastors, spent time on the slopes, and participated in some fun games.

Four Huntington University students, along with Myra Vance, attended the first annual ski trip in Ohio for UB youth groups from Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.

Dr. Emberton has visited United Brethren in Christ congregations and participated in church events throughout Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Indiana. During the fall of 2018, she presented a workshop entitled "Restoring Racial and Cultural Differences for Kingdom Impact" at the 2018 UB Women's Conference in Toledo, Ohio. In May 2019, she was the commencement speaker at the UBIC Academy in Holly Hill, Fla.

Pastor Marty Pennington, of Mainstreet Church in Wallbridge, Ohio, has joined the Huntington University Board of Trustees.

Advancement

The Advancement team is grateful for the continued generosity of our trustees, alumni, and friends of the university who are committed to our purpose of educating and equipping men and women to impact the world for Christ. As of April 30, 2019, overall giving is at \$4.1 million for fiscal year 2018-2019. We have experienced a 39% increase in alumni giving as well as a 45% increase in personnel giving, both the highest in five



years. We rejoice in the faithfulness and generosity of God's people to help fund our mission.

As of April 30, 2019, year-to-date giving from the United Brethren Church totaled \$116,295, which is consistent with church giving over the last four years. Huntington University is grateful for the continued financial support of our denomination.

Faith Forward Comprehensive Campaign. As of April 30, 2019, the campaign has raised \$32.3 million in gifts, pledges, and deferred giving. The Advancement team continues to present the case for support to donors as part of the leadership/quiet phase. The public phase of the campaign will be launched in the fall of 2019 and will focus on fundraising for the renovation of the HUB and the athletic complex.

Student Life

Preparations are underway to relocate remaining programs and personnel from the HUB so that renovation work can begin on that building. Much planning has gone into the renovation project, and in the end, students will have a beautiful building where they can gather. Both the interior and exterior spaces will be developed, the entire site will have greater utility in terms of how it can be used, and the building will take on a fresh, reimagined look.

Athletics

Over the last two years:

- 4 HU teams participated in an NAIA National Tournament.
- 15 HU student-athletes participated as individuals in an NAIA national tournament.
- 8 HU student-athletes (12 total awards) earned NAIA All-American accolades.
- 91 NAIA Scholar Athlete accolades were awarded to HU student-athletes (must be a junior or senior with a cumulative GPA of 3.5).
- On average, 105 HU student-athletes have been named to the HU athletic honor roll (must have a GPA of 3.5 for the year).

The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Board of Directors named Lori Culler, Huntington University's women's basketball head coach, as a member of the 2019 Women's Induction Class and the 2019 Indiana Fever Silver Metal Award recipient. Each year, the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame awards this honor to a living person based on outstanding contribution to Indiana high school basketball in a capacity other than as an Indiana high school basketball player or coach. Lori is the winningest active NAIA Division II women's basketball coach in the nation.

Campus Ministries

In 2019, the comprehensive multi-year spiritual formation plan was approved by senior leadership and shared with the Board of Trustees at their April meeting. The plan emphasizes equipping faculty, staff, and student leaders to carry out discipline activities with students. In addition, one other key component of the plan is to implement a mission trip strategy which would allow every student to have the opportunity to access funding to take part in a trip.

Strategic Initiatives

In 2017, HU made a \$3 million investment in an energy initiative to improve lighting, heating, and air conditioning. On November 19, 2018, HU received its Guaranteed Performance Report from Performance Services, Inc. showing a calculated energy savings of \$359,000 for the past 12 months. The savings meets the guaranteed performance requirements of the project.

In order to provide excellent care for our athletes, the training suite located in the Merillat Complex & Fieldhouse (Plex) was renovated in early 2018. The facility is dedicated in memory of Holly Sale and her mother, Claire Connolly. Holly was a former HU trustee.

The women's basketball and volleyball locker room facilities have also been remodeled. This project in-

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cluded new flooring, lighting, countertops, sinks, and shower curtains. In addition, all new wood lockers and furniture were added. The renovation substantially improved the locker room space and was critical to the growth in our women's athletic program.

The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) moved to the second floor of the Richlyn Library. The new location provides comfortable and accessible space for students who request academic services. The renovation included a large conference room that will be available for use to the entire campus. A major benefactor provided funding for the renovation.

Renovations were made to offices on the third floor of the Dowden Science Hall to accommodate the new Physician's Assistant program. The program director, assistant, and medical director will be moving into the new offices this summer. The designated office space for Physician's Assistant faculty and staff moves the university one step closer to accreditation.

Huntington University will greet visitors with a new campus digital sign on Highway 24. The sign construction is complete and will be installed in June 2019.

The summer 2019 maintenance list includes many office moves to accommodate the future HUB project and the ACE relocation. As a result, spaces are being refreshed and/or updated to meet the needs of the new tenants. Strategic plans are in place to provide new temporary spaces for food service, the bookstore, student gathering places, student service offices, and student organization offices.