

Higher Education



Sherilyn Emberton,
Director of
Higher Education
and President of
Huntington
University

As I complete eight 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 two new members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Luke Fetters was promoted to the vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty in the spring of 2020. He has spent the past 24 years as a member of the faculty and staff at Huntington University. Prior to Dr. Fetters' new role, he served as dean of the graduate school. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible and religion and master's degree in Christian ministry from HU, along with a Master of Arts degree from Wheaton College Graduate School and EdD from Ball State University.

Rev. Arthur Wilson was promoted to the vice president for spiritual formation in the fall of 2020. He started at Huntington University in 2009 as director of the Horizon Leadership Program and joined the Senior Leadership Team in April 2016 as dean of spiritual life. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in pastoral ministries from Taylor University and a Master of Arts degree in youth ministry leadership from Huntington University.

ACADEMICS

Response to Covid-19 Pandemic

Along with nearly every other university in the nation, Huntington University pivoted to virtual instruction in March 2020 to finish the academic year. By the time classes began in the fall of 2020, protocols were in place to allow Huntington University to resume face-to-face instruction with appropriate attention to physical distancing, sanitization, and face masks. We used Habecker Dining Commons, Zurcher Auditorium, the Longaker Recital Hall, and the Family Life Center at College Park Church to hold larger classes.

We made a significant effort to mitigate the challenges associated with Covid-19. Preparing facilities was no exception to this major undertaking. Spacing accommodations, plexiglass dividers, cleaning resources, and informative signage were incorporated at all three University locations. Tents were placed on the Huntington, Indiana, campus to provide additional classroom and meeting spaces during warm weather months. Churches and the UBIC denomination provided financial support for the tents.

Graduations

The May 2020 graduation was cancelled. In its place, on August 14 and 15 HU hosted six graduation ceremonies for the 304 graduates of the Class of 2020. Special video messages were prepared by Mike Packnett, president and chief executive officer of Parkview Health, Jim Carr, president and chief executive officer of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and Shirley Hoogstra, president of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. Dr. Sherilyn Emberton gave the commencement address, and Bishop Todd Fetters offered the invocation and Scripture reading. The services were livestreamed for the



graduates who chose to attend virtually.

On May 8, 2021, HU held five Commencement ceremonies in Zurcher Auditorium inside the Merillat Centre of the Arts for around 300 graduates.

Institute for Christian Thought & Practice

During the 2019-2020 academic year, Huntington University launched the Institute for Christian Thought & Practice. The Institute brings together three academic departments (Bible & Religion, Ministry & Missions, and Philosophy) and is located in the upper level of Loew-Brenn Hall. Dr. Karen Jones serves as chair of the Institute, which also coordinates the Christ in the Academy Committee, Global Vision (student missions fellowship), Joyful Noise (student worship team), and the Veritas Institute (summer theology conference for high school students).

The Institute faculty continue to produce internationally recognized scholarship in their specific disciplines. Dr. Mark Fairchild, professor of New Testament, has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar, one of our nation's highest academic honors, for 2021-2022. As part of the Fulbright appointment, Dr. Fairchild will work on the underwater excavations at ancient Nicea and collaborate with scholars at Uludağ University in Bursa, Turkey.

Idea to Action Symposium Series

The Office of Graduate and Online Programs at Huntington University has partnered with the UB Pastoral Ministry Leadership Team to provide continuing education opportunities. Each Idea to Action Symposium includes three components:

1. A deep dive into a specific ministry topic by a Huntington University faculty member.
2. A presentation by a church leader who is providing exemplary ministry in the area of focus for the symposium.
3. An exploration of resources available to church leaders who wish to enhance their relevant ministries.

Topics of focus have included Special Needs Ministry, Using Geographical and Archaeological Knowledge to Enhance Teaching and Preaching, and Mental Health in the Church.

Occupational Therapy

Huntington University welcomed the first cohort of ten students to the Doctoral Program in Occupational Therapy at our Arizona location on January 22, 2021, with a White Coat ceremony. This event was a collective experience with HU's Fort Wayne cohort of 14 students, and brought the total 2020-2021 enrollment in the OTD three-year program to 155 students. We renovated formerly unoccupied areas of our Arizona facility to provide a state-of-the-art occupational therapy learning environment. Dr. Evelyn Andersson serves as the OTD program director in Arizona.

In spring 2020, Huntington University was the first university in the nation to be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) to offer a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy assistant. Huntington University began the OTA program in 2016 and received a full seven-year accreditation in 2020.

Hauptert Institute for Agricultural Studies

One of the fastest-growing programs at Huntington University is agricultural studies. Over the past two years, we have expanded both our curriculum and facilities for the study of agriculture. In the spring of 2020, the Hauptert Institute added majors in crop science and agronomy and animal science.

Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb cut the ribbon for the Don Strauss Animal Science Education Center on November 16, 2020. The building was named in honor of the late Don Strauss, a fourth-generation member of the Strauss family in North Manchester, Ind., and founder of Strauss Veal Feeds and Midwest Poultry Services. Other facilities for agricultural research and education now include the Ware Plant Science Production Facility, Three Rivers Farms (Livestock Learning Lab), and Thornhill Nature Preserve (Outdoor Learning Lab),

Digital Media Arts

The film production and animation programs at Huntington University, both in Huntington, Ind., and Peoria, Ariz., continue to lead the nation in student and faculty awards. In 2020 and again in 2021, Hunting-



ton University received more Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts awards than any other private college or university in the nation.

In 2021, Huntington University film, television production, and animation students in Indiana and Arizona garnered 19 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. This is the third year in a row that HU has ranked second overall for the BEA awards. Of the sixteen Best of Festival awards that the BEA presents to faculty and students, HU claimed two: Phil Wilson, for Faculty Audio; and Olivya Bryant, for Student News.

New Online Certificates

Three new online certificate opportunities are available through the Office of Graduate and Online Programs: Leadership Coaching, Animation, and Film.

In cooperation with Coach Approach Skill Training (CAST), Huntington University has developed a nine-hour master's-level Leadership Coaching Certificate that provides the tools needed to coach and foster future leaders. The curriculum is designed around eight core competencies of coaching to gain a deeper understanding of the layers of leadership and coaching—including coaching theory and research, coaching practice, and scriptural teachings—to successfully facilitate relationships that help transform lives and careers. Completion of the certificate qualifies recipients to apply for certification by the International Coach Federation (ICF).

Huntington University will be offering two 12-hour undergraduate certificates in Animation and Film. These for-credit certification programs can serve as a stand-alone credential for individuals wishing to develop their media skills or offer students a jumpstart into our award-winning Digital Media Arts programs.

Alpha Chi National Awards

Four Huntington University students presented their work in April at the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society National Convention.

- Hannah Taylor won a presentation prize for “Drawing Me IN: The Challenges and Rewards of Making a Music Video during a Pandemic.”
- Seth Parsell won an alternate regional scholarship for “The Politics of International Trade.”
- Jackson Brandon won a regional scholarship for “The World’s Smallest Pathogen: Prion Structure.”
- Sydney Kallem was named an alternate national scholarship recipient for “Can Modified Constraint Induced Movement Therapy Help Stroke Survivors Regain Upper Extremity Function?”

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.”
- Huntington University ranked in the “Best Regional Colleges” list from the U.S. News & World Report.
- The Princeton Review named Huntington University one of the best colleges in the Midwest.
- BestColleges.com ranked Huntington University #12 on their “Best Online Colleges in Indiana” list.
- College Factual’s “Best Colleges for the Money” lists HU’s value in the top 15 percent of colleges across the country.
- Great Value Colleges ranked HU as a “Great Affordable College in the Midwest.”

ADMISSIONS

Enrollment

The 2020 fall enrollment was 1,402, the largest in the University’s history, with increases at our home campus, in online programs, and in Arizona. This was the seventh consecutive year of enrollment growth.



Enrollment in fall 2019 was 1,393.

Among the 2020 students, the total new degree-seeking traditional undergraduate student enrollment was 309. There were 923 traditional undergraduate students on Huntington's main campus, 145 undergraduate students at the Arizona campus, 90 adult students enrolled in online programs, and 244 graduate students.

The student body included 187 students of ethnic minorities from the US, comprising 16 percent of the student population (compared to 161 students and 15% in 2019). An additional 40 international students represented 26 countries from around the world.

Enrollment Initiatives

In January, we added a cohort of our Doctoral Program in Occupational Therapy in Arizona, and we are launching certificate programs in Leadership Coaching, Animation, and Film. These short certificate programs allow individuals to develop new skills that will assist in professional and ministry settings.

The Departments of Bible & Religion and Ministry & Missions have merged to become the Institute for Christian Thought and Practice, creating synergy that will strengthen the student experience for those preparing for ministry.

United Brethren Connections

A group of Huntington University students attended and served at Winter Bash this past winter. Joyful Noise led worship for the event, and HU senior Brock Perry was the speaker. They had a great time meeting and getting to know future HU students.

We have increased our support of UB students who attend Huntington. Students at the traditional undergrad campus receive \$2,000 per year on top of their normal aid with the UB Grant. Those studying in our graduate ministry and counseling credential programs receive a 50% discount if they are UB members.

Dr. Emberton has visited United Brethren in Christ congregations and participated in church events throughout Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana.

Brian Hughes, from the Mainstreet Church in Walbridge, Ohio; Jeanné Wickens, Emmanuel Community Church, Fort Wayne; and Matt Wilcox, College Park Church, Huntington, have joined the Huntington University Board of Trustees.

ADVANCEMENT

The Office of Advancement is grateful for the continued generosity of our trustees, alumni, and friends who are committed to our purpose of educating and equipping men and women to impact the world for Christ. We continue to see God's hand and blessing in our work, and we are grateful. As of March 31, 2021, overall giving is over \$4 million for fiscal year 2020-2021. We have experienced a 35% increase in alumni giving as well as a 63% increase in personnel participation. We rejoice in God's blessing and continued success as we move into the planning and fundraising phase for the Merillat Complex & Fieldhouse (PLEX) project.

As of March 31, 2021, year-to-date giving from the United Brethren Church totaled \$129,958, which is consistent with church giving over the last four years. Huntington University is grateful for our denomination's continued financial support.

\$40.3 million in gifts, pledges, and deferred giving has been raised for the Step Forward Comprehensive Campaign as of March 31, 2021. The advancement team continues to present the case for support to alumni and friends of Huntington University. The public phase of the campaign launched in the fall of 2019.

We praise God for the successful completion of the Don Strauss Animal Science Education Center and the HUB in 2020. The remainder of the campaign will focus on completion of fundraising for the renovation of the HUB and the PLEX.



STUDENT LIFE

It has been very exciting to see students use the newly-renovated HUB. They see the facility as a place to gather, socialize, and study. Several programs have taken place in the upper level of the HUB during the spring semester. Three of these were in-person praise and worship services.

As the impact of Covid-19 began to lessen on our campus and in our region, we were able to relax some of our protocols and restrictions. Our number of students who tested positive for Covid remained very low, and programs such as residence hall visitation hours were restored. In addition, student activities programming ramped up, and as a result, we offered Forester Night at full capacity in Zurcher Auditorium. As we look to the fall semester of 2021, we expect the student experience at Huntington University to return to something close to pre-Covid levels.

College students' mental health has become a national issue affecting virtually all campuses throughout the United States. Our students have seen their share of stress and anxiety as well. Without a doubt, the impact of the pandemic, coupled with the normal stresses of daily college life, caused students to express a sense of being overwhelmed. Our counseling staff and our Center for Spiritual Formation and Intercultural Enrichment staff provided good care and support for those students who reached out or were referred. We will continue to monitor campus stress and provide various proactive programs and activities aimed at mitigating stress and anxiety for our students.

Center for Spiritual Formation and Intercultural Enrichment

In addition to providing students with quality chapels, spiritual counseling, and other spiritual services, the Center for Spiritual Formation and Intercultural Enrichment spent a significant amount of time implementing more actions of In Stride: The 2019-2023 Spiritual Formation Plan. Highlights from the implementation include:

- Launching a new credit tracking system and livestream viewing option.
- Initiating a podcast series called "i.e." to support the University's commitment to enhance its cultural competence.
- Rebranding and launching the center's peer-to-peer outreach (from "CMCs" to "Sojourners").
- Increasing the number of student speakers in chapel.
- Organizing at least two weeks of the chapel calendar to address contemporary issues (faith and politics, domestic violence, Hispanic heritage, etc.).

Athletics

Over the last two years:

- 6 HU teams participated in an NAIA national tournament.
- 29 HU student-athletes participated as individuals in an NAIA national tournament.
- 29 HU student-athletes (57 total awards) earned NAIA All-American accolades.
- 116 NAIA Scholar Athlete accolades were awarded to HU student-athletes (must be a junior or senior with a cumulative GPA of 3.5).
- 114 HU student-athletes on average have been named to the HU athletic honor roll (must have a GPA of 3.5 for the year).

The women's indoor track and field team made history by clinching their first-ever NAIA National Indoor Championship title in March 2020. Not only is it the program's first national title, but it also provided the first NAIA national title for any Huntington University athletic team.

The men's cross country team also made program history with their second-place finish at the 2020 NAIA Men's National Cross Country Nationals in April 2021.

Junior Hannah Stoffel was named US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Women's National Athlete of the Year after winning an individual title in the 2019 NAIA Cross Country Championships held in November. She was the first female athlete of the year in program history.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

In 2020, we completed two major capital projects to serve the students on the Huntington, Indiana, campus. We finished the highly anticipated reimagination of the HUB, creating a first-class student center for gathering and student programming. Additionally, we completed construction on the Don Strauss Animal Science Education Center on the outskirts of campus, featuring a space for animals and a great classroom space.

Smaller projects on campus completed in 2020 included a covered pavilion (located to the south of Miller and Meadows Halls) and updates to the deck overlooking Lake Sno-Tip near Habecker Dining Commons. A larger-scale renovation also took place at the University's Arizona location in preparation for the Doctoral Program in Occupational Therapy cohort that launched in January.

The next major capital renovation project, the PLEX (athletic center), is currently going through planning and design phases. We anticipate that construction will begin this coming winter.

The summer of 2021 promises to be busy, especially after spending the vast majority of the time during the summer of 2020 preparing for a Covid environment. Projects for this summer include the removal of the Administration Annex (the original library), completing roofing projects for major buildings on campus, refreshing residence hall furniture and common areas, and moving the Office of Advancement to the UB Headquarters building.

The University's Faith Forward 2022 strategic plan wrap up in the upcoming year, and plans have already begun for the next stage of HU's strategic planning. The next stage of planning will help create a roadmap for programming decisions, and then the facility/space needs to match.