

## Administration

### Senior Leadership

Huntington University is pleased to announce leadership changes in key roles.

*Cindy Sisson*, interim vice president for enrollment management and marketing, joined the University in the summer of 2022. She has three decades of higher education experience, almost exclusively in the enrollment and recruitment areas. Cindy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and Christian ministries and a Master of Arts in counseling and personnel. She is a Grace College graduate and spent two decades on staff at Grace, last serving as VP for Enrollment Management. She is currently working as a consultant with the College Registry.

*Adam Skiles* was recently promoted to assistant vice president for technology services and chief information officer. He started at Huntington University in May 2013 as the director of information and technology services. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Indiana Wesleyan University and a master's degree in business administration with an accounting specialization from Indiana Wesleyan University.

*Jeff Berggren* will transition to the main campus in Indiana as the new executive director of the Huntington University graduate and online programs. Jeff most recently provided campus leadership for HU's expansion to Arizona and previously served as VP for Enrollment Management. Jeff is a former member of Emmanuel Community Church.

*Dr. Jamie Sanfilippo* will return to Huntington University in the newly created role of dean of the Huntington University-Arizona location. Dr. Sanfilippo most recently served at the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C. Jamie is the daughter of Dr. David Hoag, president of Warner University, a Christian college in Florida.



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

### Commencement

Commencement for nearly 260 Huntington and Fort Wayne graduates occurred on April 29 in four ceremonies. May 5 saw 28 graduates from the Class of 2023 participate in Commencement in Peoria, Ariz. The inaugural Occupational Therapy Doctoral class in Arizona will graduate nine on August 10. Fort Wayne and Huntington's OTD and MBA programs will hold a Commencement ceremony for 38 graduates on August 12.

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## Academics

### Hauptert Institute for Agricultural Studies

Huntington University has entered into an agreement with Purdue University to begin a dual-degree

animal health and veterinary nursing program in the fall of 2023. Students will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in animal health from Huntington University and an Associate of Applied Science degree in veterinary nursing from Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine concurrently.

## **Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Huntington University has articulated an agreement with Indiana Tech in Fort Wayne, Ind., and received approval from the Indiana State Board of Nursing to start an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. We plan to launch the program in the fall of 2023, and students can complete the program in 13 months.

## **Digital Media Arts**

Huntington University and Forester Films LLC teamed up to create the University's first feature film. Through HU's Film Production Capstone program, filming for *Wayfaring Stranger* took place in May and June 2022 and debuted at Huntington University on April 20, 2023. *Wayfaring Stranger* tells the story of a 12-year-old pastor's son in the 1970s who befriends a middle-aged broken-down country singer who helps the boy embrace his musical calling and helps the pastor build a new church. Former country singer Glenn Frank becomes a part of the family by secretly teaching young Lance to play the guitar and working side-by-side with United Brethren pastor Doyle Clark, all while wrestling his demons of alcohol abuse. Filming was completed in the summer of 2023 on a second feature film, *Patterns*, which explores the redemptive themes of forgiveness and reconciliation in the context of a family dealing with Alzheimer's disease, infertility, and long-standing relational tensions.

## **Teacher Education – Science of Reading Grant**

Huntington University received a planning grant from The Lilly Endowment to further equip Education faculty and to expand their capacity to serve as a resource to regional school systems in the Science of Reading.

## **Idea to Action Symposiums**

Since 2019, Huntington University Graduate & Online Programs has partnered with the United Brethren National Offices to offer Idea to Action Symposiums yearly as professional development for United Brethren pastors and ministry staff. Over the past two years, themes have focused on discipling Gen Z, the mental health of the minister, and the cultural backstory of the New Testament. Each Idea to Action Symposium features Huntington University faculty and United Brethren ministry leaders. The title of the next Idea to Action Symposium, to be held on February 12, 2024, is "Missiologically-Informed Evangelism in Post-Christian North America."

## **NetVUE Grant for Conversations Regarding Vocation**

Huntington University received a \$10,000 grant from the Network of Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE). It will support a year-long conversation in 2022-2023 among faculty and staff related to

the understanding of vocation as stewardship of all of life in response to the calling of God. As part of the grant-funded conversation, the Fall 2022 Faculty Workshop featured Gordon T. Smith, president of Ambrose University & Seminary. Faculty read his book, *Your Calling Here and Now: Making Sense of Vocation* (IVP, 2022). Other activities included faculty/staff reading groups and professional development sessions on the theme of vocation.

## Accreditation Updates

*December 2022.* Huntington University received word that the Doctorate of Occupational Therapy program at Huntington University-Arizona received an initial seven-year accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

*April 2023.* Huntington University received word that the Teacher Education Program received re-accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation through 2027.

## National Awards: Digital Media Arts

In 2023, Huntington University remained a top private digital media arts program in the country for the seventh year. With 19 faculty and student awards at the 2023 Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts, HU took home more animation, narrative film, and faculty awards than any other school in the nation.

## National Awards: Alpha Chi

Huntington University's chapter received recognition as a Star Chapter of Alpha Chi, making it one of only two chapters in the nation to have received this honor every year since the award's inception in 1996. There are 300 Alpha Chi chapters nationwide.

Seven Huntington University students presented their work at the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society National Convention in the spring. Tessa Stutzman won a regional fellowship and national fellowship for her paper, "Diet Diversity in East Africa — Diets, Factors, and Solutions." Jasmin Buffenn won a regional scholarship and national scholarship for her paper, "Variation Analyses of Carotenoid Metabolites and Gene Expression Across Multiple Tomato Accessions," which she completed as a collaborative research project at Cornell University. Karis Scobey was chosen as an alternate for a regional scholarship for her work, "The Process and Complexities of 3D Modeling."

## Recognitions

- Huntington University ranked in the "Best Regional Universities" list from US News & World Report.
- The Princeton Review has named Huntington University one of the best colleges in the Midwest.
- Best Colleges ranked Huntington University #12 on its "Best Online Colleges in Indiana" list.
- College Factual placed Huntington University on its "Best Film & Video Production Schools" list for the Great Lakes Region, and named the University an honorable mention on its "Best for the Money" master's degree programs list.

## Admissions

### Enrollment Initiatives

In the fall of 2022, enrollment at HU stood at 1,428 students, which marks the largest enrollment in the University's history. Twenty percent of the overall student population are students of color. Ninety-six students identify as attending a UB church, and 256 students identify attending a nondenominational church.

### United Brethren Connections

- Rev. Mark Vincenti, the campus pastor, attended the UB Youth Summit in Daytona, Fla.
- The admissions counselors attended the UB Winter Slam retreat in Pennsylvania. In support of our United Brethren students who attend Huntington, home campus (traditional undergrad) students receive \$4,000 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 United Brethren members.
- Dr. Emberton has visited United Brethren congregations and participated in church events throughout Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana.
- College Park UB Church hosted HU students for the final chapel service of the year. Campus pastor Rev. Mark Vincenti led the chapel. Four students participated in the baptismal service. During the 2022-2023 school year, over 40 students were baptized.
- For the first time in many years, the University is hosting a summer camp specifically for children and grandchildren of UBIC congregants. Campers will enjoy an overnight experience on the HU-Indiana campus. The camp coincides with the 2023 UB National Conference in July of 2023.

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## 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. Overall giving for the fiscal 2022-2023 school year was \$4.7 million, the highest in the last five years. Giving was up from trustees, Huntington University Foundation, friends, and foundations.

We rejoice in God's blessings and the success of our comprehensive campaign, Step Forward. The campaign exceeded its goal by \$22.6 million. The advancement team is focused on completing fundraising for the PLEX renovation.

As of May 31, 2023, fiscal year giving from the United Brethren Church was \$123,231, which is consistent with church giving over the last five years. Giving to the UB church Matching Grant Scholarship program is at its highest in over five years. Huntington University is grateful for our denomination's continued prayer and financial support.

## Center for Spiritual Formation and Intercultural Enrichment

- In the upcoming academic year, leadership and programming related to intercultural enrichment will be housed in the Office of Student Life, and the Center for Spiritual Formation and Intercultural Enrichment will become the Center for Spiritual Formation.
- The University partnered with UCO, CRU, FCA, and YFC in programs to support students and the community of Huntington University.
- Fifty-four HU students and faculty traveled to attend the revival at Asbury University in April 2023.
- The Center for Spiritual Formation and the Department of Digital Media Arts hosted and filmed a live contemporary Christian music concert featuring Britt Nicole. Joyful Noise, the HU student worship team, provided instrumental support.

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## Student Life

The Office of Student Life is the home for student-centered services that share the love of Christ, support high-quality academic experiences, and provide space to learn and grow for all Huntington University students.

### The ABLE Program

The ABLE (Achieving Balance in Life through Education) program at Huntington University provides students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to be part of a university campus while learning skill-sets in independent living, employability, and interpersonal skills. ABLE students follow a guide to typical programs of courses they audit in the University's classrooms with faculty and peers. Modifications to the curriculum are made to provide access and promote independence.

In collaboration with various departments on campus, the ABLE program has been named the first comprehensive transition and postsecondary program in Indiana. Thus, students and families can use Pell dollars to pay for the ABLE program, allowing the program to be financially stable at the University and a viable option for many families, not only in the surrounding county but around the nation.

The ABLE program was honored to receive the prestigious Herbert D. Lamont Award from Pathfinder Services. This award honors people or programs that significantly contribute to creating opportunities for persons with disabilities to reach their maximum potential through communicating, working, and living as an integrated part of Huntington County (and its surrounding communities).

### Intercultural Enrichment

Huntington University enjoys a diverse student body and aims to support this valuable campus culture. Students from all backgrounds and countries will appreciate the multicultural activities, academic support,

culture-specific clubs, and international student services provided by intercultural enrichment in Student Life.

The University hired graduating senior Destiny Copeland, All-American Track and Field athlete, to serve as Coordinator of Multicultural Experiences for the 2023-24 year. Destiny is enrolled in Huntington University's Master of Arts in Counseling.

## Athletics

The past two school years:

- Six HU teams participated in an NAIA national tournament.
- 46 HU student-athletes participated as individuals in an NAIA national tournament.
- 28 HU student-athletes (53 total awards) earned NAIA All-American accolades.
- 135 NAIA Scholar-Athlete accolades were awarded to HU student-athletes (must be a junior or senior with a cumulative GPA of 3.5).
- 97 student-athletes were named to the HU athletic honor roll (must have a GPA of 3.5 for the year).

## National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National Championships

The following Huntington University teams competed in NAIA national championships during the 2022-2023 academic year:

- Women's indoor track and field finished second and received the national runner-up trophy, collecting five national titles and 12 All-American honors. They were selected NAIA Program of the Year by the USTFCC.
- Men's and women's outdoor track and field won two national titles and 11 All-American honors.
- Men's cross country won two All-American honors.
- Women's cross country won two All-American honors.
- Men's basketball competed in the NAIA national championship, and was runner-up in the Crossroads League tournament.

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# Strategic Initiatives

## Forever Foresters

The University's new strategic plan, Forever Foresters, was launched this past academic year. The plan was developed using a wide representation of faculty, staff, students, alumni, board of trustees members, and community members, totaling nearly 100 individuals throughout the entirety of the process. The plan continues to emphasize the University's mission through five foundational pillars:

1. Strengthening Student Engagement and Belonging.
2. Enhancing a Culture of Academic Excellence.
3. Sustaining Spiritual Significance and Faithful Service.
4. Promoting Enrollment Growth, Strategic Programs, and Visibility.
5. Increasing Student Economic Value and Institutional Financial Strength.

## **Capital Project and PLEX Expansion**

The University is also embarking on its largest capital project since 2002 with the renovation and expansion of the PLEX athletic center. Contractors began work in July 2022 with an anticipated completion in early fall 2024. The project will enhance the athletic experience and expand opportunities for the Forester Family and the greater regional community. When finished, every space will be upgraded.

New spaces will include an additional gym, greatly increased weight/cardio space, offices and classrooms, a grand main lobby, a team shop for Forester apparel, significantly expanded restroom facilities, and lights for King Stadium. Already completed in the spring of 2023 was a major upgrade to the softball facility, featuring a new two-story press box, a fan seating pavilion, professional backstop netting, and a scoreboard.

## **Academic Camps**

The summer of 2023 will usher in a unique opportunity for the University in the area of academic camps. Through grant funding provided by The Lilly Endowment, Forester Camps will host over 300 high-school-aged youth in 14 mini-camp and week-long camp experiences. In addition to offering a Christ-centered experience, Forester Camps will connect the University to a large group of students for potential future recruiting and enrollment.