

LIPSCOMB *now*:

The Magazine for Alumni and Friends SUMMER 2018

Vol. 13 No.2



LIPSCOMB BISON

MAKE FIRST TRIP TO THE NCAA NATIONALS



Cover: Garrison Mathews (24) looks for an open teammate as George Brammeier (55) plays the post against the North Carolina Tar Heels during Lipscomb's first appearance in the NCAA men's basketball tournament in school history.

Above: Lipscomb students portrayed Parisian mimes in this surprisingly noisy performance during Singarama 2018, themed "It Takes Two." This number is from the show "Name and Address."

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The George Shinn Event Center, funded by a \$15 million gift from George Shinn, began construction this spring and is expected to be completed by August 2019.



CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS IN 2018 FUEL LIPSCOMB'S FUTURE

The first quarter of 2018 has brought some milestone moments for facilities, resources and programs expected to shape the experience of Lipscomb's future students and constituents for the better.

George Shinn Event Center

Construction began this spring on the George Shinn Event Center, a 33,000-square-foot facility adjacent to the existing Ezell Center, that will include an event center to serve the entire university and community, offices and unique labs for Lipscomb's George Shinn College of Entertainment & the Arts and a university welcome center. Construction is expected to be complete by August 2019.

The Shinn Event Center will turn Lipscomb's southwest corner of campus into an arts hub, serving larger audiences from the Nashville community with outstanding entertainment from local and national artists as well as Lipscomb artists.

Lipscomb Academy

Lipscomb Academy has benefitted from two new renovated spaces in Harding Hall: a modern, open-format admissions Mustang Welcome Center and the iWonder innovation lab, a workspace where students are challenged to collaborate, problem-solve and integrate the design thinking process.

According to **Mitchell Despot**, director of communication for the academy, the Mustang Welcome Center is for

potential families and students to see how current students engage in courses, with faculty and academic programs and to see opportunities offered through the university using video touchscreens and presentation space large enough for multiple families.

The iWonder Innovation Lab, completed in September 2017, regularly hosts students in grades 5-12, said **Donna Brasher**. She and **Libby Barker**, the innovation coaches at the academy, first envisioned a space like this in fall 2016, when the innovation curriculum was housed on a mobile cart. The larger permanent space allows teachers to issue challenges that encourage students to learn on a deeper level.

"We often hear the students say 'I wonder if I can do this...' and this space seeks to make it happen," said Barker.

Students work collaboratively using a variety of tools. Some of the tools available are 3D printers, robotics, computer-aided design, graphic design programs, large

format printers, a full kitchen, power tools, woodworking and other prototyping supplies. The lab was modeled from similar cutting-edge “maker spaces” that were seen at both the university level and at pioneering high schools in the Southeast.

School of Physician Assistant Studies

Lipscomb’s health science programs have benefitted from renovations in the past few months providing office and administrative space for the university’s newest school, the School of Physician Assistant Studies, in the James D. Hughes Center.

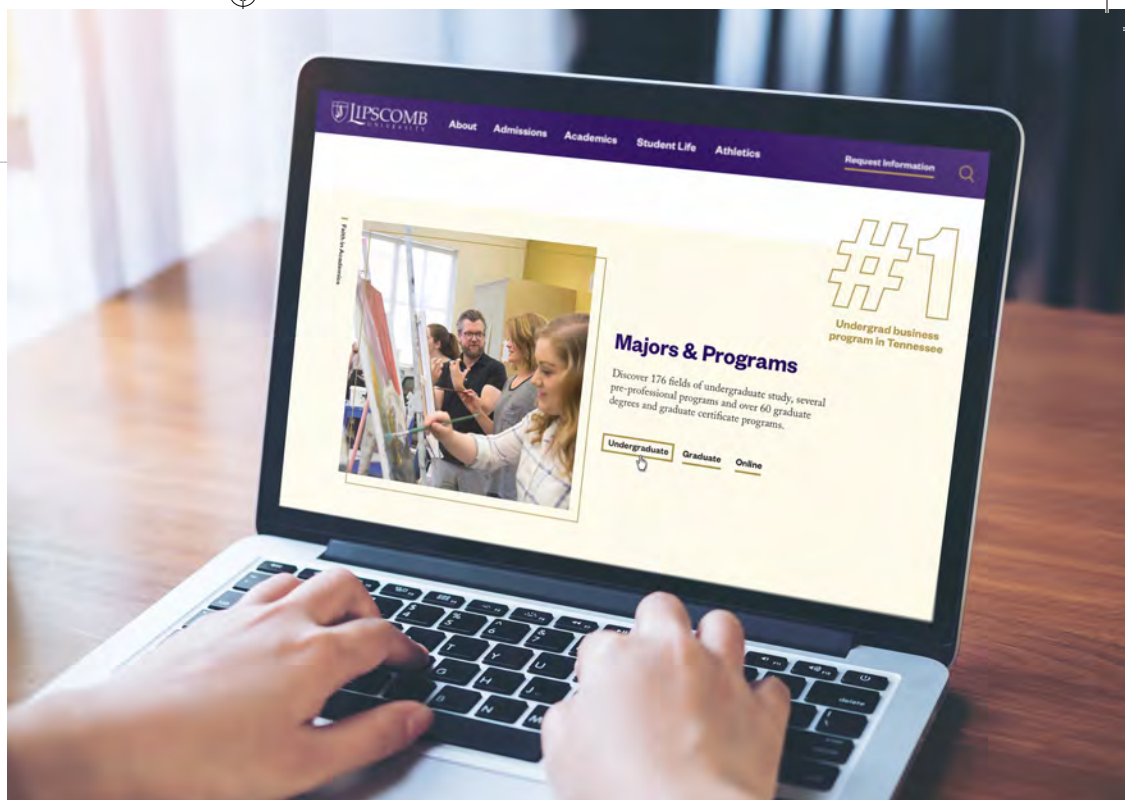
Moving into space vacated by the Raymond B. Jones College of Engineering after it moved into the adjacent Fields Engineering Center a year ago, the physician assistant school hosts new faculty and staff working to enroll the first class of student PAs in October.

The new office space is strategically located in the middle of the pharmacy and nursing program facilities, including a health simulation lab and research labs, which will provide many resources and assets for the new PA program, said **Stephen Heffington**, program director for the school.

University Health Services

Also in the health care arena, University Health Services has moved into a new location, which brought more space for its waiting room, an expanded blood draw and vaccination room and offices for a new RN-to-BSN program now in development.

The larger waiting room will allow Health Services to offer educational courses within their space and the addition of built-in noise maskers improves patient confidentiality, said **Erin Keckley**, director of health services.



NEW LIPSCOMB WEBSITE COMING SOON

By fall, visitors to Lipscomb’s digital campus—its website at lipscomb.edu—can expect to see some changes to the real estate. The university is working to not only update the look and feel experienced by web users, but it is also revamping the website operating system, an infrastructure that few people ever see but is crucially important to every aspect of the university.

Lipscomb has contracted with mStoner, a St. Louis-based web design and development company, to re-think and re-design the site’s navigation and behind-the-scenes operation, said **Dave Bruno**, vice president of marketing, a recent hire who brings a wealth of digital marketing experience and has been a consultant on the web design project since its beginning. The project is the largest financial investment the university has made in its digital marketing resources to date, he said.

“This redesign will allow Lipscomb’s web presence to become a crucial component in the overall enrollment strategies at Lipscomb,” said Bruno. “Rather than serving as an informational tool, Lipscomb’s new website will be an

interactive, engaging visit to our campus for potential students and supporters.”

Currently in the content development and design process for Lipscomb’s new site, mStoner is working to revamp the navigation and look of the site as well as the content management system employees use to populate the site with information, said **Kyle Gregory**, manager of digital marketing.

The new site is expected to focus more on the degrees offered, to be more user-intuitive, to provide users with the ability to compare and contrast degree options and to provide the university the ability to incorporate new and more robust technology features for an engaging experience and needed information, said Gregory.

“mStoner is providing us with the ability to adapt faster to the new developments online,” he said. “Those new online features must deliver an excellent customer experience, which people expect from the very best organizations. The know-how mStoner brings to this project gives us confidence the new Lipscomb website will delight people who use it.”

EVENTS

CIVIL RIGHTS ICONS JOHN LEWIS, FRED D. GRAY SHARE EXPERIENCES WITH STUDENTS, COMMUNITY LEADERS

In December, the Fred D. Gray Institute for Law, Justice & Society recognized the impact young people can have on society. It brought together those who have impacted society in the past to share their experiences with the next generation of students who will play key roles in their communities in the future.

Congressman **John Lewis**, U.S. representative for Georgia's 5th Congressional District and iconic civil rights advocate, and famed civil rights attorney **Fred D. Gray** spoke at a student forum on campus. They also participated in a special gathering in Nashville's new Woolworth on 5th event venue, located in the restored Woolworth Building, the site of lunch counter sit-ins in the 1960s where Lewis was arrested for the first of many times.

On the eve of a major vote on tax reform in December, Lewis joined the



Fred D. Gray Scholars: (l to r) **Martinez, Climaco, Monyei, Murphy** and **Tawiah**.

forum via Skype as he and Gray discussed their experiences during the civil rights movement.

Gray represented Lewis when he was arrested during the Nashville sit-ins.

"What I did, I tried to do in a peaceful, loving and non-violent fashion in keeping with the teachings of Jesus," Lewis recalled. "But when things happened, it was Fred Gray who defended us. He had a great sense of faith that he instilled in all of us. He taught us that when you see something and it's not right, not fair, not just—to speak up."

On Feb. 13, 1960, college students, including Lewis, entered Kress, Woolworth and McClellan stores at 12:40 p.m. and sat at the lunch counters.

Two hours later, the owners closed the counters without serving any of the students. During the next three months the Nashville sit-ins continued.

When he was arrested in the sit-in protests, Lewis said, "I felt liberated. I felt like I had crossed over, and I have not looked back since. And were it not for the city of Nashville, I don't know what would have happened to me. I 'grew up' sitting on those lunch counter stools."

The future was recognized during the community event as the first recipients of Lipscomb's newly established Fred D. Gray Scholarship were honored: **Christian Monyei, Morgan Murphy, Katherine Climaco, Paulina Martinez** and **Abena Tawiah**.

@ Go to bit.ly/firstgrayscholarships to read more about the 2017-18 Fred Gray Scholars.

Rep. **John Lewis** meets with Lipscomb students outside the U.S. Capitol on a trip coordinated for law, justice and society majors.



EVENTS

LABOR LEADER, COMMUNITY ORGANIZER DOLORES HUERTA SHARES STORY AT HUMANDOCS

Students and patrons of Lipscomb's HumanDocs Series had a unique opportunity in November to meet Dolores Huerta, 87-year-old labor leader and community organizer, after a screening of the Sundance Award-winning film *Dolores*.

The feature documentary chronicles Huerta's lifelong struggle for justice for farm workers, Latinos and women. In 1962 she and Cesar Chavez founded the United Farm Workers union, and she played a critical role in many of the union's accomplishments for four decades.

"I would see homes where people would have dirt floors and used cardboard boxes and orange crates for furniture when I was going door-to-door registering people to vote," she said.

Following the screening, Lipscomb student **Leslie García** interviewed Huerta in front of a packed audience in Stowe Hall.

Now in its ninth year, the HumanDocs film series, hosted by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, aims to inspire critical thinking about vital issues of social justice.



Chris Gonzalez (far right), director of the marriage and family therapy program, works with clients and interns in the newly accredited therapy program.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

THERAPY PROGRAM ONE OF TWO IN STATE TO ACHIEVE PRESTIGIOUS ACCREDITATION

The marriage and family therapy program was recently awarded accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, making it only the second program in the state of Tennessee to be accredited by the most respected accrediting agency for marriage and family therapy.

Unlike other accrediting bodies, or the state of Tennessee, the COAMFTE requires students to attain 500 hours in face-

to-face client contact hours before graduation in order to bestow accreditation on a program.

Lipscomb attained COAMFTE accreditation for the next six years, the maximum time allowable, and without any pending stipulations, said **Chris Gonzalez**, director of the program, which is housed in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

"We are the only program to receive six-year accreditation with no stipulations under the current COAMFTE standards. That hasn't happened since 2013," said Gonzalez.

Lipscomb's marriage and family therapy program was established in 2012 in the Department of Psychology, Counseling and Family Science. In 2015, Lipscomb opened the Lipscomb Family Therapy Center, an on-campus facility offering affordable mental health care to the community, which helped the program to provide the 500 hours of client contact needed for each student in order to attain accreditation, Gonzalez said.

"Those 500 hours are beneficial to students because when they graduate they are far more experienced, and that gives them a strong advantage in the job market," he said. "Our standard is not the minimum; it is excellence. We now stand with the other elite programs in the nation."

Leslie García (left) and **Dolores Huerta** (right)



01



02



03



04

The Lipscomb Scene

- 01 Homecoming 2017 brought back the tradition of Bison Day, featuring skits by the various social clubs, including this one by Sigma Iota Delta.
- 02 The annual Tau Phi Cowboy Show is the second-largest student-led production on campus. The 2017 show featured **Pat Flynn** ('92), Nashville singer/songwriter and producer, and his band.
- 03 **Everett Kinstler** (foreground), who has painted official portraits of five presidents, spoke to students and the community in April. Kinstler's protégé and Lipscomb alumnus **Michael Shane Neal** (background) hosted the event.
- 04 Spring commencement brought college degrees to more than 800 graduates who gathered in Allen Arena with friends and family.
- 05 Former Disney animator **Aaron Blaise**, who worked on *The Lion King*, gave a talk and demonstration for Lipscomb's visual arts students this spring.
- 06 **Hudson Parker** (left) and **Madeline McPherson** (right) served as two of the six hosts at Singarama 2018, themed "It Takes Two."
- 07 Lipscomb Theatre performed *The Miracle Worker* this past fall, including a shadow interpreted performance for Nashville's deaf population.
- 08 Who knew goats could be so relaxing? The Lipscomb Counseling Center brought goat yoga to campus for study day before exams.
- 09 Stompfest, featuring student groups performing step routines, has become an entertaining annual tradition for the entire student body.
- 10 At November's Homecoming, another new tradition was renewed as **Sonnie Givens**, of Robinson, Illinois, (right) was awarded as Miss Lipscomb and **Deion Sims**, of Nashville, (left) as Bachelor of Ugliness.



THE NATION KNOWS LIPSCOMB'S NAME AFTER BISONS' FIRST-TIME DANCE

The Lipscomb men's basketball team made school history on March 16 when it played in the NCAA national tournament for the first time. When the No. 15-seed Bisons took on the No. 2-seed University of North Carolina, it was a defining moment in Lipscomb history.

The Bisons made a strong showing in their tournament debut opening strong against the Tar Heels, but eventually falling to the defending national champions 84-66. Despite the final score, the game was a big win for the program.

Since Lipscomb made the move to NCAA Division 1 in 1999, the university's various athletic teams have advanced to their respective NCAA national tournaments 28 times, including the women's basketball team shortly after Lipscomb became eligible for post-season play. But 2018 marked the first year the men's basketball team has made it to the Big Dance, and it was quite a journey to get there.

During his five years at the helm of the Bisons, Head Coach **Casey Alexander** and his staff built a team that

was consistently at .500 or better in the Atlantic Sun Conference and was knocking on the door of a conference tournament championship, which would give them an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

After being picked to finish second in the ASUN preseason poll by the league's coaches, the Bisons lived up to that billing in 2017-18 with a 10-4 record in conference play to only finish behind regular season league champs Florida Gulf Coast University.

The Bisons won 12 of their final 13 games heading into the NCAA tournament, including an eight-game win streak that featured a record-breaking 108-96 March 4 victory over the top-seeded FGCU Eagles in the ASUN title game in Fort Myers, Florida, to send them dancing.

"I felt like we had a level of maturity on our team this year that we hadn't had before," Alexander said. "We did build upon the minimal success we had last season with 20 wins. All of that contributed to us weathering the storms better than we had in previous years."

The win set off an 11-day blitz filled with hundreds of media interviews, celebrations, excitement and practice before they stepped into Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the first round of the West Region in the NCAA tournament.

Lipscomb was featured in more than 2,200 articles,

"CASEY ALEXANDER HAS BUILT LIPSCOMB INTO A PERENNIAL CONTENDER, AND HE HAS DONE IT THE RIGHT WAY. HIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN STRONG BOTH ON THE COURT AND IN THE CLASSROOM, AND HE HAS ALWAYS CONDUCTED HIMSELF IN A FIRST-CLASS MANNER."

—COLLEGEINSIDER.COM'S ANGELA LENTO





BISONS HEAD TO THE BIG DANCE



radio interviews and television broadcasts. Lipscomb's tournament play was covered by ESPN, Sports Illustrated, USA Today, Washington Post, Associated Press, daily newspapers across the U.S. and media outlets around the world.

The publicity value of the broadcast media hits worldwide alone came in at more than \$5 million, with total viewership at more than 200 million people. The number of users on the Lipscomb website increased by almost 500 percent to more than 46,000 users during the NCAA game, and engagement on the university's social media assets quadrupled during the tournament run.

"One of the great benefits of being in that position is what it can do for your university. That's what our role is in the big picture," said Alexander. "That's why we are here. Our basketball program is one great opportunity to share the news that this is a great place. So it was awesome to have that opportunity to do so."

Lipscomb was the only Nashville team and the only first-time team in the 2018 tournament. Viewers nationally watched Lipscomb play North Carolina on CBS. Hundreds of Bison fans made the trek to Charlotte to support their team.

"It was incredible," junior forward **Rob Marberry** said about the Lipscomb crowd in attendance at the game. "I was really proud just for the school. For the opportunity that it gave this school for the first time in the history of the school."

Lipscomb Athletic Director **Philip Hutcheson**, a former Bison basketball player, set the wheels in motion to lead the program to this big moment over the last few years and put the final piece of the puzzle in place when he hired Alexander as men's head coach five years ago.

"It's difficult to fully quantify the impact that getting to the men's NCAA basketball tournament for the first time has had not only on that program and Lipscomb athletics as a whole, but also on the university," said Hutcheson, Lipscomb athletic director. "This is a huge boost to name recognition for this institution by millions of people who had never heard the name Lipscomb before, and I have no doubt that it will have an impact in ways that we haven't even realized yet."

"It's an honor just to be a part of this Lipscomb basketball team and what the program has become," sophomore **Kenny Cooper** said. "We plan on being back, that's for sure. We're going to work our tails off this

upcoming offseason and get back. Hopefully this is just a start and we can build on to it."

Lipscomb finished the year 23-10, which is the most wins in the program's NCAA era and the first time the Bisons have posted back-to-back 20-win seasons since moving to the NCAA. They also led the ASUN Conference in scoring offense (82.1) for the second consecutive season and had two players—**Garrison Mathews** and Marberry—earn First Team All-ASUN honors.

"We are no longer selling hopes and dreams, we have proven we can do this," Alexander said. "We have worked hard to build a program I felt was sustainable, so we're not in a situation where this was some random miracle week. Our program is in a good place, but we do need to keep making it better.

"What I tell the team is, let's take the wins and losses out of it. You have a unique opportunity to set the standard for what you want this program to be now," Alexander said. "You will leave some kind of legacy no matter what. Let's leave a standard of excellence that will carry over after that great senior class leaves next year."

For more on the Bisons' first-time NCAA national tournament appearance go to bit.ly/BisonsinNCAA.

ALEXANDER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS SKIP PROSSER MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

In addition to leading the Bisons to the NCAA men's basketball tournament for the first time, head coach Casey Alexander was named the 2018 Skip Prosser Man of the Year.

He was recognized at the annual Collegelnsider.com awards banquet held in conjunction with the NCAA Final Four in April. The Skip Prosser Award is one of the most prestigious honors bestowed each year on coaches.

"It is an honor to win an award that bears Prosser's name. A head coach is only as good as his assistants and players allow him to be. I am very grateful for the group I get to work with every single day," said Alexander.

The Skip Prosser Award was established in 2008 to honor those who not only achieve success on the basketball court but who display moral integrity off of it as well. The award is named after the late Skip Prosser, who died suddenly in 2007 while the head coach at Wake Forest.



TELLING THE STORIES THAT MATTER

Tom Brokaw, one of America's legendary storytellers, featured at Imagine 2018



Few people could bring together eyewitness stories of New York City on 9/11, the fall of the Berlin Wall, D-Day in World War II and the scandals surrounding President Bill Clinton at one time on one stage, but that is what **Tom Brokaw**, retired anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News brought to the Lipscomb University campus in April.

Brokaw was the guest at this year's Imagine event, themed "The Power of Telling Nashville's Story." He sat down with more than 100 Lipscomb students to answer questions and converse with student body leaders about his experiences, and later, more than 1,400 Lipscomb Associate donors gathered in Allen Arena to hear his stories of world-changing events.

"Coming to a great school like this and seeing all of you and your commitment to the values of this school is a reminder to me, again, of the greatness of this country," Brokaw told the audience in Allen Arena. "As a citizen and as a journalist, I love having the opportunity to explore America and see all of the great work that is being done. . . . Whatever we believe politically, whatever we believe spiritually, in the final analysis we find a way to move forward together."

The Imagine initiative began in 2016 to engage the Nashville community in topics of local and

global importance through perspectives of significant leaders. The annual Imagine talk in Allen Arena is an appreciation event for Lipscomb Associates, donors of \$1,000 or more per year. The first inaugural Imagine event featured President George W. Bush, and in 2017 the guests were NBA legend and entrepreneur Magic Johnson and his wife, Cookie, an author and philanthropist.

Interviewed first in the Student Activity Center by senior journalism major **Lindsey Nance**, Brokaw told students to "use intelligence, not emotion" when trying to make a difference in the world. Lipscomb students are already making a difference, as student ticket sales to Brokaw's appearance benefitted the Make-A-Way

Lipscomb President L. Randolph Lowry (left) and Tom Brokaw, retired anchorman for the NBC Nightly News

Scholarship Fund, established by junior **Ralston Drake** to help low-income high school students pursue higher education at Lipscomb. The fundraiser garnered \$3,900 for the scholarship fund.

“Get involved in public policy,” Brokaw told the students. “Learn how to communicate with each other. Don’t just divide yourselves up. Find ways to unite.”

Brokaw’s career spans a time of perhaps the greatest change in journalism. His career began long before the existence of the Internet and in a time when color television was a new luxury.

“Now the news cycle runs completely faster than an individual journalist can keep up with,” said Brokaw. “It’s a big, big dilemma, because what we have, at the end of the day, is your trust, or not. We have our integrity, or not. If you can’t count on us, then we’ve lost our place,” he said.

When asked about the turmoil in our world today compared to the past, Brokaw reminded the audience of 1968, a year filled with tragedies in America including the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, the stepping down of President Lyndon Johnson, riots across the country and the ongoing Vietnam War.

“People say to me, ‘We’ve never been through anything like this before.’ I say no, 1968

was worse,” he declared.

But 1968 ended with a note of hope, he reminded the audience, with the launch of Apollo 8 and its Christmas Eve trip around the back side of the moon, when the astronauts read the first verses of Genesis as they emerged.

Brokaw is also well-known as the author of best-selling book *The Greatest Generation*, which shared the then-untold stories of men and women who came of age during the Great Depression and World War II on their way to building modern America through their service, sacrifice and courage.

He was inspired to write the book in the spring of 1984 while travelling across Europe in preparation for a documentary on the 40th anniversary of D-Day, he said. His preparation included many conversations with American veterans who returned to the battlefields for the anniversary. While conducting his research, Brokaw crossed paths with the late Sam Gibbons, a World War II hero who served for 44 years as a U.S. legislator.

Gibbons told Brokaw how paratroopers dropping into France the night before the D-Day invasion used small metal clickers to find each other in the dark. Brokaw pulled his own 1940s—era metal clicker from his pocket and demonstrated, noting that soldiers would strain to hear the responding double-click from fellow American soldiers.

“When he heard that (double click), it wasn’t someone saying, ‘Are you from the Tea Party? I only work with people from the Tea Party,’” he joked. “They didn’t say, ‘Are you a Democrat? ... I’m a Republican. I’m a Catholic. I’m Jewish.’”

All they heard in that double click was “I hear you. I’m coming—Let’s win this war together,” Brokaw concluded.

Lipscomb President **L. Randolph Lowry** also announced at the event the university’s largest donation in history for the second consecutive year. Two anonymous donors gave \$23 million to benefit the university.

For more information on this history-making gift go to page 4.



Qingguo Wang *fights cancer one byte at a time*

Cancer.

It's a word that strikes fear when doctors pronounce it.

It is a disease that, in its many forms, will impact an estimated 1.7 million Americans this year as new cases are diagnosed.

It is the driving force for **Qingguo Wang's** life's work.

But Wang isn't your typical cancer researcher. He is a data scientist, and he is fighting cancer one byte at a time.

Wang is an associate professor of data science in College of Computing & Technology. He has a long career in data science research with past stints at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Vanderbilt University and work with the Human Genome Project at the National Institutes of Health.

"Studying cancer through the lens of computational science is ... directly related to the welfare of patients," Wang said. "Even with all of the research that has been done... still we don't know as much as there is to know."

Data scientists like Wang typically use genomic data as next generation sequencing—or NGS—to detect mutations that cause cancer. For some cancer types, scientists know how to treat the patient if they know the driving genetic mutation. NGS allows researchers to sequence DNA and RNA quickly and cost-effectively, Wang said.

The process starts with cancer tissue samples which contain numerous cells. The DNA is extracted and "chopped into short fragments" that contain hundreds of nucleotides, Wang said.

"We have to read the nucleotides from each fragment, and there can be hundreds of thousands of fragments," he says. "These short fragments, were then provided to an NGS machine which reads the nucleotides from each fragment."

Wang and his research partners analyze the files, which have hundreds of thousands of lines, he says.

When Wang started to work in this field more than seven years ago, he says it could take up to six months from receiving the genome sequencing to the discovery of the mutations that potentially cause the cancer. Today, with advances in technology, that can be done in a matter of weeks.

Wang initially launched into his career as a software engineer in his native China. He quickly realized that the demanding nature of the work culture in China, made his work exhausting and unfulfilling. So, Wang and his wife, **Mian Pan**, moved to the United States where he could pursue advanced degrees in computer science and then conduct research. It was a move that changed his life both professionally and spiritually.

He earned master's and doctoral degrees in computer science, and then accepted a three-year fellowship at Vanderbilt University, where he studied cancer genomics and biomedical informatics. Wang analyzed protein data and presented the mutations to physicians at Vanderbilt who would then determine the cause of the mutations which cause cancer cells to develop.

Even with all the research that's been done... still we don't know as much as there is to know.

In 2012, Wang and his colleagues developed the VirusFinder software, a program to detect viruses in humans using NGS technology.

"Viral infection is one of the leading causes of deaths worldwide," Wang said. "Detecting the existence of viruses and, especially, their integration sites in host genomes is critical in understanding their role in disease development. Investigations of virus-host interactions could also shed light on virus-related cancers."

VirusFinder quickly became one of the most-used tools in the field. It is used by medical researchers around the world.

Another of Wang's work focuses was detecting binding sites of the cancer-driving gene MYC. MYC is a master regulator of many processes, including cell cycle entry, ribosome biogenesis and metabolism.

"It's very important to study the MYC protein because it causes about 100,000 deaths in America alone every year," said Wang. "Our collaborator at Vanderbilt discovered that this protein can bind to another protein—WDR5—but we needed to verify that using sequencing data."

Wang accepted a computational engineer post at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York in 2014, where he

began developing a pipeline for unifying information to integrate data from different sources. While there, he also began studying gene androgen receptor (AR), the most prominent driver of genes in prostate cancer, and was particularly interested in the AR-V7 gene that can be translated into a protein product.

Wang's work has been on the front lines of research and technology, and he continues his research in this area today. His findings have been published in numerous journals, reports and books, and he has presented at many national conferences.

"Different hospitals used different cancer panels, and data sharing and privacy were all barriers for cancer research," said Wang. "By using big data and sharing that data we can find ways to improve cancer treatment. Data sharing will continue to be critically important for entire communities to find cures for cancer—to allow the sharing of information across different researchers, hospitals and countries—and to save lives."

When Wang and his wife moved to Columbia, Missouri, in 2005, several encounters with simple acts of Christian kindness made a profound impact on his world view. A minister who went out of his way to provide him a free ride to the university campus. An acquaintance who regularly invited cash-poor international students to eat dinner in his home.

"The Chinese culture is different in that status is very important. But for many Christians, they don't care about status. They try to get to know the people they meet. This was something I really enjoyed and really love," he continued. "That's one reason I converted to

the Christian faith a year after I came to the U.S."

Wang first learned of Lipscomb through connections at his congregation while working at Vanderbilt, and then after moving on to work at Sloan Kettering for a time, came to recognize the unique opportunities of serving on the Lipscomb faculty.

"At Lipscomb I could be more useful," he admitted. "God can use my skills. At Sloan Kettering, I was useful to a small group of people around me. But at Lipscomb, I could teach students and help many more people. It was a big decision to be here. But I saw God open the door to Lipscomb University. His will is very clear to me."

Today, Wang prepares the next generation of data scientists in the classroom and as they work alongside him in his research to help find a cure for cancer, one byte at a time.



Getting *to* *the* core

Lipscomb University re-explores who we are and what that means for relationships in today's world

America is experiencing a time of great divisiveness. Political divisions are proving to be stronger than they have been in decades. Cultural divisions are fueled by negative rhetoric on the Internet and in mass media. Violence sparked by racial, religious and cultural differences is a common occurrence.


While navigating these growing divisions in the United States, Christians in America, especially those who are part of the Churches of Christ, are facing additional challenges of growth and mindset in an increasingly post-Christian era. Research shows that the Churches of Christ are experiencing declines in membership at the same time they are becoming much more diverse in their beliefs, all sparking an identity crisis within the Christian community that has been Lipscomb's church affiliation for more than 125 years.

This was the atmosphere when Lipscomb's top leader, President **L. Randolph Lowry**, charged two groups of individuals—one representing all groups on the campus and one representing Lipscomb's theological leaders—to renew Lipscomb's focus on two crucial areas for maintaining and strengthening its Christian character in a more secular America:

- To be more intentional and clear about the Biblical story that is the 'centering core' defining and guiding the university, and
- To promote a culture of respect in all quadrants of the university

These groups, with input and intentional action from students, staff, faculty and the board of trustees, have established two initiatives that are now cornerstones in Lipscomb's on-campus culture and will grow in impact and influence in the coming years:

Centering Core and Respect Leads.

A man with a beard and short dark hair is sitting on wooden steps in front of a white house. He is wearing a dark blue polo shirt, black pants, and dark sneakers. He has his hands clasped in his lap and is smiling at the camera. The house behind him has white siding, a white door with a window, and two small lantern-style light fixtures on either side of the door. The steps are made of light-colored wood and have white railings. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting it's daytime.

The thing that kept me going was the thought of what I could become and what God had already allowed me to be.

Hill pursues dream of Lipscomb degree and career in communication

*When **LeBron Hill** was a teenager, attending college was a distant dream. Survival was all that was on 18-year-old Hill's mind after his mother kicked him out of their house in Tullahoma, Tennessee.*

"I really wasn't looking at a good situation in my life at that time," recalled Hill. "I remember my mom telling me that I wasn't welcome there and that I needed to go somewhere else. I remember not knowing what to do."

His brother drove him part of the way to a local homeless shelter, but left him on the side of the road after throwing Hill's bags into a nearby ditch.

A high school senior at the time, Hill was forced to drop out of high school.

But where Hill's story seems to come to a dead end, was actually the beginning of another significant story in his life—the pathway to a college education and to making a better life for himself. And now, five years later, Hill is preparing to graduate from Lipscomb University in December with a degree in communication and is on the way to pursuing a career in journalism.

"That's really where I remember my story starting, getting those bags out from the ditch and walking up to the shelter," he said. "I was very depressed and sad about what was happening in

my life. But I went up to the shelter and knocked on the door."

The shelter—the Shepherd's House in Tullahoma—is a Christian-based environment that provides food, clothing and temporary housing for the homeless as well as hope for the future and help to heal broken lives, said **Lori Winningham**, president of the organization's board.

"We try to fill our residents with hope and love so they can see light at the end of their tunnels," said Winningham.

Moving forward from what he describes as a "chaotic" childhood, Hill saw the time in the shelter as an opportunity to finally focus on himself and what he wanted to make of his life.

"At that point in time, it was a God-send that I could be who I am and do what I wanted to do. I started to realize that my faith was going to play a big role in who I was going to be next," he said.

Hill got a job at Walmart, and without a driver's license, began riding his bike

from the shelter to work and G.E.D. classes. During this time, Hill also got involved with the Wilson Avenue Church of Christ in Tullahoma, whose minister, **Randy Davis**, befriended Hill. Davis, his wife and their children became family to Hill.

"He had heard a lot of negativity about being trouble, about not being able to achieve or that he would never get anywhere," said Davis. "But I saw his determination. He never gave up in spite of the obstacles and the hardship."

Davis would sometimes drive Hill to and from work and to the G.E.D. classes and continued to encourage him. Once Hill passed his G.E.D., Davis encouraged him to enroll in Motlow State Community College in Smyrna, Tennessee, where he could receive an associate degree in mass communication for free through Tennessee Promise. Davis often provided transportation for Hill to get to classes at Motlow State.

"He was so dedicated to me, and I realized that I needed to start a relationship with this guy because he cares a lot about me and about my story," said Hill. "I knew we were going to be close."

Hill remembers Davis—whom he later came to call "dad"—telling him that just because he was going to college it

“Lipscomb has given me the realization that anything is possible.”

wasn't going to resolve any issues from his past. He said the first two years at Motlow gave him an opportunity to “find out who I really was.”

“When I got the letter that I was going to Motlow, it didn't hit me at that point that I was going to college because I never, ever thought this was a possibility for me,” Hill said. “At that point I was nervous, because I never studied a day of my life in high school. My first day of classes I was very excited about having an opportunity that I never thought I would have.”

During the first semester, Hill continued to live at Shepherd's House. The following semester, Hill moved into an apartment and got his driver's license with the help of Davis. A year later, he earned his associate degree.

“When I graduated from Motlow, I was sitting there crying like a baby thinking of what I accomplished,” he said. “The thing that kept me going was the thought of what I could become and what God had already allowed me to be.”

Davis said they met Lipscomb President **L. Randolph Lowry** during Summer Celebration while Hill was completing his associate degree at Motlow. Then the following year after Hill graduated, Davis got back in touch with Lowry and the wheels were set in motion for Hill to enroll at Lipscomb University through the Lipscomb Promise program and to begin another important chapter on his journey.

“I tell people that my time at Motlow

was to prove to other people that I can do it (college), but my time at Lipscomb has been for me to prove to myself that I can do it,” said Hill. “When I came to Lipscomb people kept telling me that it's a very hard school. But I knew deep inside that God wouldn't have put Lipscomb in my life if it weren't possible.”

Hill is majoring in communication and has become very involved in campus life at Lipscomb. He works for the student news service, Lumination Network, and is a member of the Collegiate 100. This past semester he was an intern at the Nashville Scene.

“LeBron has really made an impact on me and my life and on my classroom,” said

Sarah Gipson, assistant professor of communication and academic advisor to Hill. “I think Lipscomb is a better place because of LeBron and what he brings to the table.”

“I think it's important for us to see how students like LeBron can come into the classroom, can come into our lives, can come into our community and can change it for the good. It can give us a new perspective on how we see our own lives.”

Lipscomb has made an impact on Hill's life as well.

“Lipscomb has given me the realization that anything is possible,” he said. “I grew up in a very humble beginning. It's a surreal moment waking up every day realizing that I have come so far. That gives me hope that I can do anything. It allows me to say, ‘look, God loves me and He is able to give me this opportunity.’ And Lipscomb has been able to be that opportunity for me. “

📌 To learn more about view Hill's story, check out the video interview at vimeo.com/252591242.



Randy Davis (left), minister at Wilson Avenue Church of Christ in Tullahoma, Tennessee, became a surrogate father for **LeBron Hill** (right), and helped him apply to attend Lipscomb.



LIPSCOMB ACADEMY'S CLASS OF 2018

Lipscomb Academy's Class of 2018 left a lasting impact on the school both in the classroom and beyond. From earning significant amounts of college credit while also using their gifts via the arts and athletics to serving locally and globally, these students lived out the school's mission in mind, body, and soul.

60% OF THE CLASS PARTICIPATED IN THE PERFORMING ARTS, WITH **1,557** FINE ARTS PERFORMANCES TOTAL.

88%

OF THE CLASS PARTICIPATED IN ATHLETICS, WITH **481** TOTAL SEASONS.

COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSES TAKEN

DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES:
145 courses, **47%** of students
ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES:
211 courses, **64%** of students

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

335 honors courses taken
86% HOPE Scholarship qualifiers
Accepted into **96** unique colleges

SERVICE & SPIRITUALITY

11,279 service hours
175 mission trips taken
61% of students have been on a mission trip

GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

69 males
57 females
35 Lipscomb Lifers

3.97
Avg. GPA*

30
Avg. ACT*

104
Honors courses*

2
National Merit Finalists

8
NCAA Athletes

Over \$12 million
in scholarships awarded to the Class of 2018

*statistics refer to top 10% of graduating class.

Bisonotes

Class Notes

At lipscomb.edu/classnotes see the latest, post an update, share a photo—especially if it's your reunion year. For Bisons who've joined Golden Circle—that's 50+ years since graduation—every year is a reunion year.

1951 Robert and Elizabeth Kerce ('51) celebrated the 70th anniversary of their Aug. 22, 1947, wedding this past August in Manchester, Tenn. Dr. Robert Kerce was the business manager, chairman and professor in the math department for more than 50 years beginning in 1946. He met Elizabeth, then a freshman at Lipscomb, on Valentine's Day in 1947 and they were married by August of that year. They have three daughters—Mary Beth Chambers ('73), Karen Browning ('76) and Linda Elrod ('77)—and one of their grandchildren also graduated from Lipscomb—John Elrod ('11). Robert and Elizabeth are pictured on the bottom row, while current math chair (and former student and lifelong friend of Kerce's) Carroll Wells ('62) and his wife Eunice ('63), associate librarian at Lipscomb, are pictured on the top row.

1963 Frank Black of Indianapolis, Ind., published the book *Happiness is a Fat Gecko*, about the five years he and his wife Lou Ann spent working in missionary medicine in a bush hospital in Tanzania.

1971 William Crump of Madison, Tenn., has published his fifth book, *How the Movies Saved Christmas* in May. He is currently writing the *Encyclopedia of Animated Christmas Cartoons* for McFarland Publishers.

1981 Lisa Holland Harless of Brentwood was named by Nashville Business Journal as one of its 2017 Women in Music City Award winners. Harless is senior vice president and private wealth advisor for Regions Bank.

1982 Valerie Oliver of Nashville is assistant commissioner for administrative services for the Tennessee Department of Health.



Valerie Oliver



1987 May Jones Patterson of Huntsville, Ala., published *Seeking a Familiar Face: The Transformational Journey of Connecting with God* in October. It is a nonfiction book about how seeking and finding God in everyday places can change our lives forever.



Mary Jones Patterson

1988 Teb Batey of Milton, Tenn., received the 2017 Leadership Rutherford Pinnacle Award from Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce during the annual Business at Its Best celebration in Murfreesboro.

1989 Sara Duvall graduated in June from A.T. Still University with a Doctor of Health Sciences degree.

1991 Sabrina Cowden (MBA '16) is CEO of Milepost Consulting.

1993 Kerri Pauley Edwards of Nashville was named by Nashville Business

Journal as one of its 2017 Women in Music City Award winners. Edwards is the president of KP Entertainment.

1996 Daniel Cline II of Alpharetta, Ga., was named vice president of partnerships at Catalyst Leader LLC in Atlanta.

1998 Craig and Sarah Martin Parnell ('04) of Nashville announce the Aug. 31 birth of their daughter Anna Kate. Casey Hester of Spring Hill is vice president of customer success at DEV/CON DETECT, Ad Tech Security. Daniel Norton is a student of the MIT Sloan School of Management's Executive MBA program. He expects to graduate in June 2019.

1999 Matt Kroplin, partner in Burr & Forman, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Nashville Medical Group Management Association for the 2017-2018 term.



Matt Kroplin

Bisonnotes



Lori Hodge Corley

¶ **Lori Hodge Corley** (MACL) was promoted to deputy director of East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission. ¶ **Alé Dalton** of Nashville was re-appointed to serve on the Latina Commission of the Hispanic National Bar Association. ¶ **Taylor Ezell** of Nashville was one of 70 finalists for the 2017 Nashville Emerging Leaders Award presented by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and Young Professionals of Nashville. Ezell is a manager at Formos Consulting. ¶ **Shaun and**



Fitz Falconer

Danielle Falconer (PHARM D), announce the March 31, 2017, birth of their son Fitz Miller Falconer. Danielle is assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Lipscomb University. ¶ **Carter and Lindsay Hamric** ('13) of Nashville announce the Aug. 24 birth of their daughter Esther Tate. ¶ **Abbey Start** of Nashville is an associate sales representative with Kore Medical LLC. ¶ **Jaclyn Mothupi** (MS) of Nashville was recognized by the Nashville Business Journal as one of its 2017 40 Under 40 honorees. Mothupi is the regional director of external affairs for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. ¶ **Sharon Stewart** of Houston is a human resources project manager for Harris Health System. ¶ **Zach** (PHARM D '13) and **Allyson Wunderlich** (PHARM D) announce the Nov. 21 birth of their son Brady Hunter Wunderlich.

2013 Taylor and **Bailey Bowman** (PHARM D) announce the Aug. 23, 2016, birth of their daughter Willa Taylor Bowman.

¶ **Kayleigh Butterfield** of Nashville joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate in the firm's Nashville office. Butterfield is a member of the Litigation Practice Group. She earned her J.D. from Wake Forest University School of Law. ¶ **Natasha Reeves** of Lawrenceville, Ga., received a Master of Science degree in biomedical science from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia Campus. ¶ **Andie Scott** (MA), of Glenwood Springs, Colo., is the collaborative management program coordinator with YouthZone.

2014 David and **Adrienne Christensen** (PHARM D) announce the Aug. 18, 2016, birth of their son Ivan Laird Christensen.

¶ **Allison Kiendle Deissler** and Lee Andrew Fann of Nashville were married Oct. 28. ¶ **Keiana Hastings** (MM '15) is a campaign marketer for Ramsey Solutions, a Dave Ramsey Company.

2015 **Ning Boupharath Bennett** (PHARM D) of Missouri was married on Oct. 21, 2017. She works at Walmart as a pharmacist-in-charge. ¶ **Juri Korekata** and **Rod Bugawan** (PHARM D) announce the March 27,

2016, birth of their son Brayden Jace Bugawan. Bugawan works for PRC Clinical managing clinical trials for drugs and medical devices looking for FDA approval. ¶ **Justin Kirby** (PHARM D) of Nashville is assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy and clinical services director at Perkins Drugs in Gallatin, Tenn. ¶ **Paige Neely** of Johnson City, Tenn., was promoted to assistant coach for softball at East Tennessee State University.

2016 **Mena George** (MS) and **Mariam Shaker** (PHARM D) were married on Nov. 19, 2016.

¶ **Katie Radel** of Nashville was one of 70 finalists for the 2017 Nashville Emerging Leaders Award presented by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and Young Professionals of Nashville. Radel is director of marketing and public relations with TriStar Southern Hills Medical Center/HCA.

2017 **Jessica Craft** of Nashville is an analyst in the litigation/valuation division at LMBC. ¶ **Malissa Samson** (PHARM D) and **Justin Hammond** (PHARM D) were married on May 21, 2016, in Nashville.

The Georges graduated together in May 2016 and got married in November 2016 after a seven-year romance.

