



2022 Report to Central District Conference

KNOWLTON SCIENCE CENTER

Bluffton University held a groundbreaking celebration for the Austin E. Knowlton Science Center on Oct. 1 during the 2021 Homecoming and Alumni Weekend celebration. The \$10 million building features several teaching labs and will transform science education at Bluffton as we prepare leaders equipped to address the pressing science, technology, math and health care needs of the region.

The building is expected to open in time for the 2023 academic year.

DESIGN YOUR LIFE

During the 2020-21 academic year, two sections of Bluffton's first-year Becoming a Scholar class piloted a new program called Design Your Life (DYL). This year, the curriculum is being fully implemented on campus.

Originally developed at Stanford University and modified for Bluffton undergraduates, lessons help students:

Engage—explore, prototype and develop an action mindset

Reflect—learn by taking stock of experiences after they happen

Storytell—articulate a point of view to gain clarity and create opportunities

The goal is for students to get more out of (instead of just cramming more into) their college experience. Senior students will come full circle with the DYL process as they transition the framework from getting more out of their college experience to getting more out of life.

PRESIDENT WOOD REAPPOINTED

During their June 2021 meeting, Bluffton University's Board of Trustees completed a presidential review process and reappointed President Jane M. Wood, Ph.D., for a five-year term. The board noted her areas of strength as mission and planning, administrative management, budget and finance, enrollment management, student life and representing the institution. President Wood came to Bluffton in summer 2018.

NEW CAMPUS PASTOR

Chalsi Campbell, a 2012 Bluffton graduate, is now serving as campus pastor. After studying religion and youth ministry in her undergrad, Campbell earned her master's in theological studies from Conrad Grebel University College. Since then, she has worked in a range of church and teaching positions. As a Bluffton student, Campbell was instrumental in the creation of the university's Prayer Labyrinth and served as Spiritual Life Week Coordinator.

Thank you!

Bluffton University currently enrolls eight students from Central District Conference churches: **Theodore Andreas**, First Mennonite Church, Bluffton, Ohio; **Rilynn Kauffman**, Assembly Mennonite Church; **Grace Liechty-Zickafoose**, Lima Mennonite Church; **Caitlyn Renner**, Grace Mennonite Church; **Kyle Schmidt**, Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship; **Jeff Strayer**, Columbus Mennonite Church; **Katie Villegas**, Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship; **Deborah Yoder**, Assembly Mennonite Church.

Church Matching Scholarship support is \$7,216 for 2021-22.

The Bluffton trustees from Central District Conference are **Annette Heslep '89**, First Mennonite Church; **Heather Reichenbach '99**, Eighth Street Mennonite Church; **Jane Roeschley '77**, Mennonite Church of Normal; **Tim Stried '98**, Columbus Mennonite Church.

Save the date

**Voices Together art exhibit
at Bluffton University**

Jan. 11-Feb. 19, 2023
Sauder Visual Arts Center

Exhibit includes 12 works of original visual art by Mennonite artists included in the new hymnal—Voices Together

For more information, contact

Gerald Mast

*Church relations coordinator and
professor of communications*
mastg@bluffton.edu