



LIONS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022



Note from Trent

Welcome to our first annual alumni newsletter! Our graduates mean the world to us, and we want to be better about keeping in touch.

First, we want to invite you to come visit campus. Walk the hallways, check out your old locker (if you can remember the number), and visit with your favorite teachers. We love when alumni stop by!

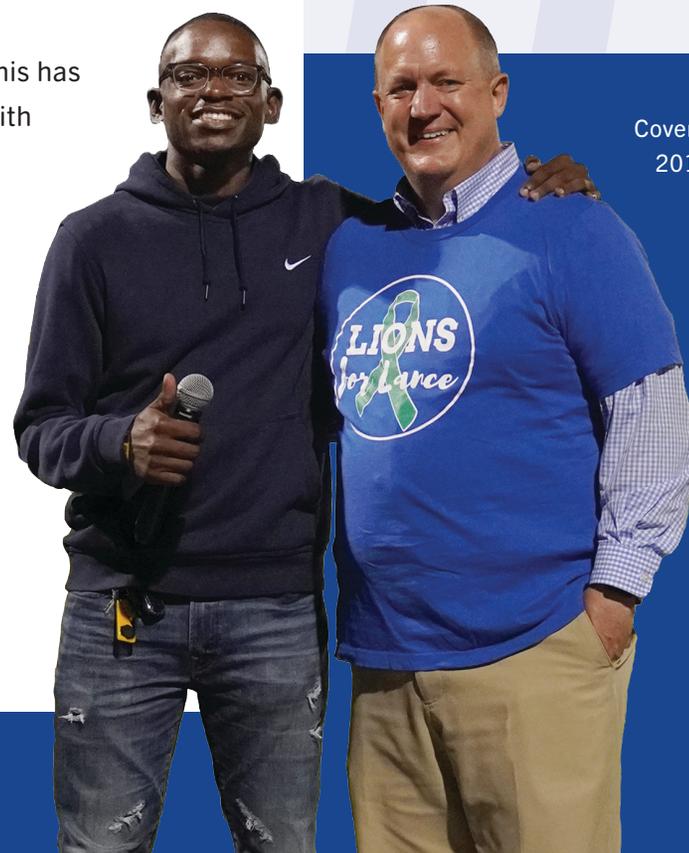
To catch you up on what's been happening at Harding Academy, here are a few exciting updates.

- Senior K–grade 12 is now on **one campus** at Cherry Road. This has been a huge blessing to our school culture and to families with children in multiple grades.
- Our **enrollment** increased by 53 students in 2021–2022.
- We have a waitlist of over 75 families for our **infant care** at Little Harding. (Good news for graduates – Alumni are given priority after siblings of current families.)
- Next year marks our **70th anniversary!** Stay tuned for more details about how we plan to celebrate.

I look forward to a renewed relationship with our alumni.
Please reach out to me anytime at president@hardinglions.org.

ALUMNI DIRECTORY COMING SOON!

An online alumni directory is in the works! Make sure we have your updated information so you'll receive the announcement when it goes live. Send in your update at hardinglions.org/alumniupdate.



Cover: Alumni reconnect at our 2018 alumni chapel

Left: Trent welcomes alumni Lance Mason ('17) to campus to speak about his kidney transplant

Distinguished Alumna of the Year NADIA WINSTON

We were honored to present Nadia Winston ('05) with our Distinguished Alumna Award at Taste & Tunes 2021. This award recognizes alumni who have enhanced the reputation of Harding Academy through their professional and community leadership and their advancement of Harding Academy's mission.

Nadia has a passion for serving disadvantaged individuals. As a board-certified family nurse practitioner, she leads CAN Community Health in Arlington, TX. This clinic, the first of its kind in the state, provides HIV and primary care services to underserved populations. Prior to working as a nurse practitioner, she worked as a registered nurse at the Walter Payton Liver Center serving kidney and liver transplant patients. Through her practice, she strives to serve her patients with the eyes and heart of Christ.

Nadia is pursuing a PhD in nursing through Rush University. Her current research publications are focused on aging with HIV across the lifespan.



Nominations for Alumni of the Year

Would you like to nominate a graduate for this honor? Simply email your nomination to advancement@hardinglions.org.

Black Alumni Association

In 2020, the class of 2014 Black alumni gathered to discuss how they could help Harding students. The result of their conversations is the Black Alumni Board and Black Alumni Mentorship program designed to assist students of color at Harding Academy. The goal of the mentorship program is to provide students an additional line of support as they prepare to pursue their careers. Additionally, the program encourages mentorship relationships, stimulates helpful dialogue, and assists with academic and employment opportunities.

In November the Black Alumni Board hosted a College Experience Panel for all 10-12 graders.

Pictured (L to R): Glenn Hill ('13), Ike Griffith, Irris Williams ('13), Anesha Hines, Alexis Franklin ('14), and Janaye Green ('14).



Honoring Melanie Semore

Tuesday, February 5, marked one year since the passing of Melanie Semore. Melanie was a teacher, principal, mentor, and friend. Most of all, she was a humble, faithful, and loving servant of God. We want to take a moment to share a couple of ways Melanie's legacy lives on at Harding Academy and beyond.

Melanie taught English for several years and loved getting lost in a good book. The class of 2019 wanted to honor Melanie, and it seemed like the perfect fit to rename the school library. In 2019, we unveiled the newly named **Melanie Pogue Semore Library**.

Her beautiful writing lives on as well. In her years as principal, Melanie would share a prayer in her daily memo. In 2019, we compiled her prayers into a book called *Prayers of a Principal*. In true Melanie fashion, she asked that any proceeds from the book be donated to the school. Copies of the book can be ordered at hardinglions.org/prayers.



Melanie Semore and Allen Gillespie ('93) celebrate at her retirement reception

EVENTS

NOW

Athletics Hall of Fame

We are accepting nominations for the Harding Academy Athletics Hall of Fame. Read the guidelines and submit your nominee at the link below.

hardinglions.org/halloffame



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Taste & Tunes with The New Respects and Jillian Edwards Chapman
hardinglions.org/taste

ALUMNI UPDATES

Kelsey Hopkins ('05) helped launch the Oikos church in January 2022. They meet near the University of Memphis.

Charli Gonder ('08) and her husband Morgan welcomed baby boy Watson on September 12, 2021.

Glenn Hill ('13) has released an album called *Peace of Mind*. It is available on most music streaming platforms.

Jalen Harris ('13) is on tour as Eddie Kendricks in *Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations*, the Tony Award®-winning Broadway smash hit musical.

Lance Mason ('17) is the founder of Key2Life whose goal is to improve the lifestyle of kidney disease patients.

HAVE AN UPDATE?

Let us know what's been going on with you! Send in your update at hardinglions.org/alumniupdate.