



LIONS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

Note from Head of School Trent Williamson

Welcome to our third annual alumni newsletter! We have some exciting updates to share from the past year.

- We launched our strategic planning process, **Level Up**, which will help guide our strategy over the next five years.
- **Enrollment** is looking strong, and we are around 90% capacity with waitlists in some grades.
- We have plans to **expand!** We have first right of refusal on the HST property and are in talks with them, but we plan to expand regardless of whether or not we purchase the property next door.
- We have a waitlist of over 75 families for our **infants and toddlers** at Little Harding. (Alumni are given priority after siblings of current families!)

We'd love to show you around campus and give you the chance to catch up with your favorite teachers. Reach out to me anytime at president@hardinglions.org.

REUNION SPOTLIGHT

There's nothing quite like the friendships formed in high school. Who else remembers your tight-rolled jeans or that time you ate four cheeseburgers for lunch? We love it when our alumni get together to reminisce and reconnect. Check out our upcoming reunions at hardinglions.org/alumni.



Cover: Alumni visit with staff members Jenna King and Dawn Gilreath after Alumni Chapel

Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

MATT RHODES

We were honored to present Matt Rhodes ('05) with our Distinguished Alumnus Award at Taste & Tunes 2023. This award recognizes alumni who have enhanced the reputation and advanced the mission of Harding Academy in their profession and community.

Matt serves as the Senior Coordinator of Financial Aid and Scholarship Outreach for the University of Memphis where he earned a B. A. in History and a Masters in Professional Studies for Human Resources Leadership.



Matt has gone above and beyond to help Harding Academy students. He speaks every year at Think College Night, helps parents fill out FAFSA forms, and advocates for students seeking scholarship money. He is pouring into the Harding Academy community and helping us to achieve our mission as a college preparatory school.

Matt has been married to Quinlan for nine years, and they are proud parents to two boys, John Kelly and Sammy Joe.

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

Our Black Alumni Association celebrated their third year of the Black Alumni Mentorship Program which supports students as they prepare to pursue their careers. In the fall of 2023, they started their third cohort of mentees and hosted a mental health seminar presented by Alexis Franklin ('14) to provide students with a space to destress and find things that bring them peace.



ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

In September 2023, we inducted our second round of athletes into the Harding Academy Athletics Hall of Fame. Check out the full list of inductees (and make a nomination) at hardinglions.org/halloffame.



2024 EVENTS



Taste & Tunes with Terrian and The Angel Street Choir

Saturday, April 6
hardinglions.org/taste



Athletics Hall of Fame Induction

Friday, August 23
hardinglions.org/halloffame



Homecoming

Friday, September 27

ALUMNI UPDATES

IN THE NEWS

Riley Earnest ('14) was named the 2023–2024 DeSoto County School District Teacher of the Year.

Micah Dempsey ('16) and Christopher Galbreath ('15) expanded Belltower to a new location at Shelby Farms.

Jason Shifflett ('94) was highlighted in The Daily Memphis for his philanthropic work.

BIRTHS

Mary Elizabeth Strange Bates ('09)—Emma Rose

Josh Brandon ('15)—Remi

Lindsey Copeland ('09)—Copeland Elizabeth

Chelsea Essary Dove ('10) and Houston Dove ('10)—Nolan O'Neil

Madison (Massey) Fadel ('12)—Josephine Marie

Daniel Farrar ('08)—twin boys, Anderson and Ellis

Scott ('07) and Ashley (05') Frizzell—Lucy

Charli Shelby Gonder ('08)—Linden

Sarah Phipps Holt ('06)—Parrish Elise

Caleb Miller ('16)—twin girls, Margot and Juniper

Daniel Phipps ('04)—Gideon

Ellie Arnett Shelby ('15) and Brayden Shelby ('14)—Jon David

Nathan Stanford ('13)—Nico

Nicole Wallace ('11)—Theo

Brandon Ward ('11)—Ozzie

MARRIAGES

Timothy Adkins ('12) to Ashley Lamascus

Robin Bailey ('91) to John Chrestman ('91)

Jackson Gilreath ('18) to Erin Young

Meagan Jordan ('16) to Eli Leonard

Sarah Luttrell ('17) to Aubrey Sharp

Jordan McBride ('10) to Parker Taylor

Garrett Peery ('12) to Reginald Ubaldo

Caroline Sisson ('16) to Justin Montoya

Nipun Utreja ('08) to Hannah Schraeder

Denise Viner ('13) to Sam Aguirre

Jordan Whitfield ('15) to Jack Porter

HAVE AN UPDATE?

Send us your news at hardinglions.org/alumniupdate.