



2015–16 President's Report

National Recognition, July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016:

- *U.S. News & World Report's* 2016 "Best Colleges" edition once again ranked McKendree University in the top tier of Midwest regional universities. McKendree also made the 2016 list for least student debt load at graduation among regional universities in the Midwest.
- Online bachelor's, graduate education, MBA and graduate nursing degree programs were among the top 150 in four categories of U.S. News' "Best Online Programs" for 2016.
- McKendree was named a "College of Distinction" for excellence in student-focused higher education.
- The University was the only Illinois institution among "America's 100 Best College Buys" in 2015-2016 for providing the highest quality education at the lowest cost.
- Once again named a "Great College to Work For" by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, McKendree was one of 42 colleges and universities on the 2015 Honor Roll and the only Midwest institution in the medium-size enrollment category.
- Victory Media designated McKendree a "Military Friendly School" for embracing military students' educational needs and for dedicating resources to ensure their success in the classroom and after graduation.
- The human resource management concentration MBA program at the Radcliff, Ky., campus was ranked highly for affordability, according to the National Center for Education Statistics' College Navigator database.
- McKendree was once again named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Notable Highlights:

- The University partnered with the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN) to offer online RN-to-BSN and MSN degree programs to nursing staff at 53 critical access hospitals throughout the state.
- Historians and scholars presented their original research at the 37th Annual Mid-America Conference on History, hosted by the University on Sept. 10-12.
- The Hettenhausen Center for the Arts celebrated its 10th season. The Hett was the only Illinois partner in the 10-state Arts Midwest World Fest, hosting Turkish folk singer Aysenur

Kolivar in October 2015 and Baladino, a Mediterranean musical group from Israel, in April 2016.

- In October 2015, the University announced it would phase relocation of the Louisville, Ky., campus to the College and Career Center at Bullitt Central High School in Shepherdsville, Ky.
- A crowd gathered for the Oct. 15 groundbreaking of the McKendree Metro Rec Plex in O'Fallon, Ill. The future home of Bearcat hockey and water sports will feature two NHL-sized ice rinks, an aquatic center, fitness area and other amenities.
- The Center for Racial Harmony presented an ELITE (Extraordinary Leaders Impacting Today's Environment) Award to the University for making significant contributions to the local community.
- On Dec. 1, students, faculty, staff, alumni and other supporters united in philanthropy to make Annual Fund gifts totaling \$100,983 on Giving Tuesday, a worldwide day of charitable giving.
- On Feb. 6, men's basketball coach **Harry Statham '60** became college basketball's all-time wins leader at the four-year level—men's or women's—when the Bearcats recorded a 92-84 win over Maryville University. In his 50th season at the helm of McKendree's program, Coach Statham earned career win No. 1,099 to pass former University of Tennessee women's coach the late Pat Summitt on the list.
- McKendree University was designated a national historic site by the United Methodist Church, joining several notable congregations, campgrounds, buildings and locations on the United Methodist historic registry.
- An informational booklet about the planned renovation of Voigt Science Building earned a Gold Award in the 31st Annual Educational Advertising Awards, the nation's largest education advertising competition.
- McKendree's Beta chapter of Sigma Zeta hosted the science, mathematics and computer science honor society's 2016 national convention, March 31-April 2. Over 130 members from 16 chapters attended the conference.
- The Radcliff, Ky., campus celebrated the completion of its renovated building at 1615 W. Lincoln Trail Blvd., with a ribbon cutting and open house on April 20, hosted by the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce.
- On May 7, McKendree launched the public phase of "**FORWARD**—The Campaign for McKendree University." The \$40 million capital campaign to support the renovation

of Voigt Science Hall and Holman Library is the most ambitious fundraising goal in McKendree's 188-year history.

- The 176th commencement exercises were held on May 14 at the Lebanon, Ill., campus and on June 4 at the First Christian Church in Elizabethtown, Ky. Over 800 degrees were conferred—four doctorates, 18 education specialists, 219 master's, 566 bachelor's and nine associate degrees.

Faculty, Staff and Alumni Highlights:

- The Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics presented Assistant Professor of Education, Emeritus, Martha Eggers with the Max Beberman Award for Leadership and Excellence in Mathematics Teacher Education. Dr. Eggers taught at McKendree from 1984 to 2012 and continues to teach math education classes part-time.
- Outstanding alumni were honored at the annual awards dinner on Oct. 3. Retired educator-administrator **Joan (Weber) Barnes '53** received the Peter Akers Award for professional success, outstanding service and loyalty. **D. "Brant" Harper '73** received the Loyal Service Award. Entering the Academy of Excellence were history teacher **Kyle Gordon '98, M.A.Ed. '08**; **Rev. Lisa (Jones) Williams '84**, a UMC pastor; and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* public relations executive **Tracy Rouch '88**. Accountant **Adam Prest '05**, attorney **Rebecca (Lindstrom) Wohltmann '09**, and **Dr. Adam Biggs '06**, a U.S. Navy research psychologist, were chosen as young alumni Rising Stars.
- Entering the McKendree Bearcat Sports Hall of Fame in 2015 were **Derwood (Woody) Derickson '60**, baseball and basketball; **Darrell Flake '05**, basketball; **Kayla (White) Moll '09**, softball; and **Rebekah (Diers) VanScoyk '10**, women's bowling.
- Michelle Magnussen, associate professor of theatre, received the 2015 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award for her creativity and dedication to her students in the classroom, on stage and beyond.
- **Dr. Michele (Mickey) Schutzenhofer '03**, chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics and an associate professor of biology, received the 2016 Exemplary Teacher Award, given by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church.
- Associate Faculty Awards for Excellence in Teaching were presented to two part-time faculty members, psychology instructor **Melanie (Smith) Jenkins '00**, and former principal Rob Sainz, who teaches graduate education courses.
- **Scott Billhartz '85**, director of donor and prospect management in the Development, Alumni and Parent

Relations Department, won the 2016 President's Award for Professional Excellence, one week after celebrating 15 years of employment at his alma mater.

- Professor Emeritus status was awarded to two retiring faculty members for outstanding service, dedication and leadership. Dr. Frank Spreng, professor of economics, taught at McKendree for 29 years, chaired the Business Division for 12 years, developed the MBA program and served as director until 2015. David Ottinger, professor of art, joined the faculty in 1978 and became synonymous with McKendree's art program, teaching nearly every course in the department.
- Dr. John Watters, associate professor of economics and School of Business chair, accepted the 2016 William Norman Grandy Award during undergraduate commencement.
- Outstanding Faculty Awards were presented at the Kentucky campuses' commencement to John Seldomridge, instructor at the Radcliff campus and Greg Bailey, instructor at the Louisville campus.

Student Highlights:

- The 2015 Student Lincoln Laureate for excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities was **Kenny O'Dell, Jr., '16**, an honors program scholar majoring in pre-professional chemistry and minoring in creative writing, biology and sociology.
- A highly competitive and prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, sponsored by the State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, enabled **Lauren Craft**, a senior history major, to study at Universidad de Granada in Spain from January to June 2016.
- Sophomore outside-hitter **Arela Williams** was named the 2015 Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Player of the Year and Fall Scholar-Athlete of the Year for women's volleyball, and was selected for the All-GLVC First Team.
- Senior quarterback **Isaac Fisher '16** was named the 2015 GLVC Offensive Player of the Year, becoming the first Bearcat football player to grab the conference's top offensive award since McKendree joined the NCAA Division II in 2012.
- The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Awards honored **Shaquille Armstrong**, a sophomore sociology-criminal justice major, and Mitch Nasser, former director of residence life, for their outstanding efforts to promote understanding and diversity. Shaquille was also one of 218 inspirational college students nationwide recognized by Campus Compact as a Newman Civic Fellow for his motivation, involvement and commitment to social change.

- Sophomore men's wrestler **Darren Wynn** was crowned NCAA Division II Wrestling National Champion at 141 pounds on March 12.
- Political science major **Christin Austin '16**, received the 2016 Technos International Prize for academic achievement and commitment to multicultural understanding.
- Student leaders and organizations were commended at the third annual Leadership and Service Awards Banquet on April 10. Entering the Student Hall of Fame were **Rhoda Warner '16**, a religious studies major; **Lindsay Winkeler '16**, a history education major; and **Krystin Major '16**, a business administration major, who was also named Outstanding Student Intern.
- ACES (Active Collegians Engaged in Service) Awards for 400 or more hours of volunteer service, sponsored by the Lyn Huxford Center for Community Service, went to **Taylor Cope '16**, an economics and finance major; **Taylor Simmons '16**, an athletic training major; and **Rhoda Warner '16**, a religious studies major.
- Track and field had a successful season, as sophomore **Ryan Pearce** was named GLVC Field Athlete of the Year for a second consecutive year and **Demontez McCray** earned the Men's Freshman of the Year Award.
- The men's bowling team showed a flair for the dramatic as it captured its first-ever national championship on April 23 by winning the 2016 Intercollegiate Team Championships, held in Wichita, Kan. Senior **Riley Smith '16** and sophomore **Greg Young** were named to the All-Tournament team.
- On the women's bowling team, **Lauren Pate** was the NCAA Division II Rookie of the Year, freshman **Ashley Dunn** rolled her way onto the 10-member Junior Team USA in 2016, and head coach Shannon O'Keefe was named NTCA Division II/III Coach of the Year and earned her 12th consecutive Team USA roster spot.
- Sophomore women's wrestler **Alexis Porter** claimed a spot on the U.S. Junior National Team with her performance at the Body Bar Nationals held in Irving, Texas, in May 2016.
- **Chloe Thies**, a sophomore biology major, and **Andrew Wagner**, a sophomore international relations major, traveled to Japan in June 2016 with Dr. Melissa Barfield-Works, assistant professor of sociology, as guests of Technos International College in Tokyo.
- **Howard Gleason '16**, an accounting major at the Radcliff campus, and **Charlotte Eldridge '16**, a business administration major at the Louisville campus, received the "Spirit of McKendree Award" for academic excellence, character and community mindedness at the Kentucky campuses' commencement on June 4.

FY '16 By The Numbers



100%

of graduate students and 96% of undergraduate students had full-time jobs in their field of study or went on to graduate school within six months of graduation.



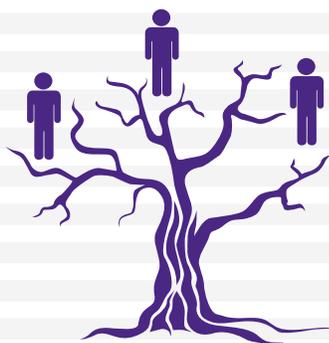
750+

student athletes competed in 27 sports.



473

students presented their research during the Academic Excellence Celebration.



13%

of first-year students have a parent, grandparent or sibling who attended McKendree.



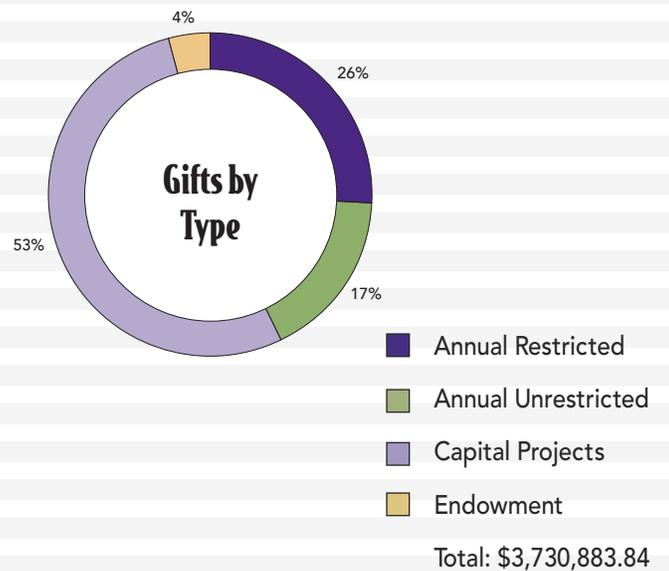
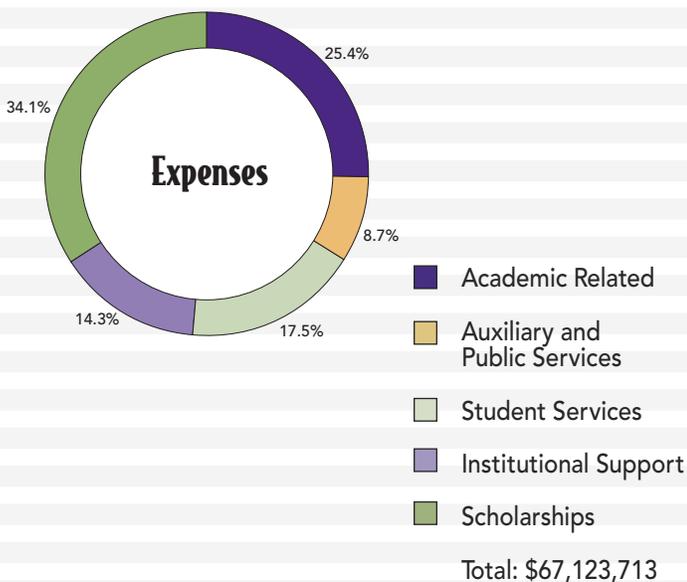
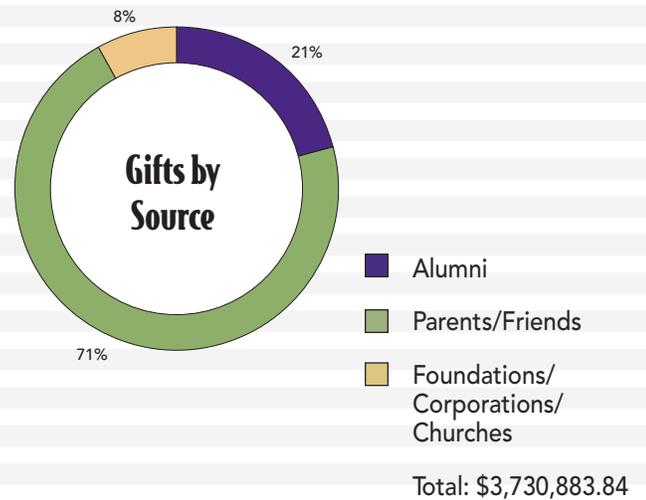
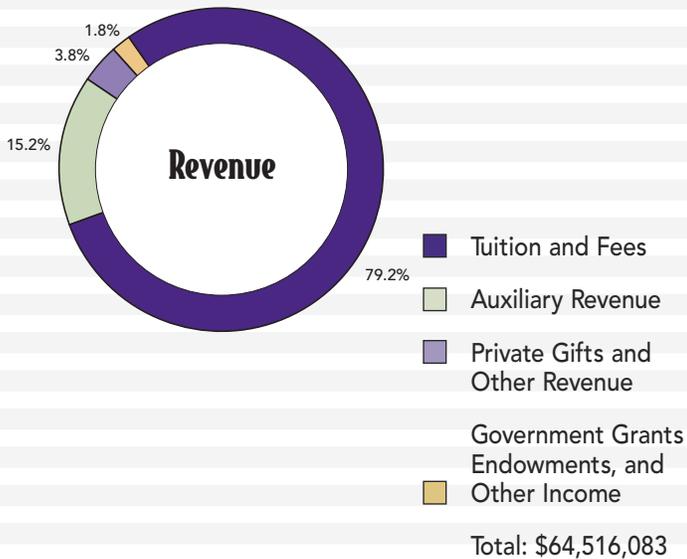
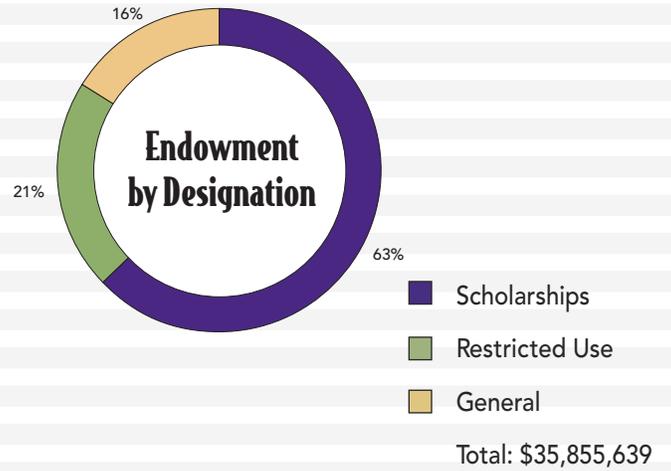
450+

students volunteered during "Into the Streets" at 30 sites throughout the region.

Finance

McKendree University's 2016 fiscal year reflected the impact of the economic challenges experienced across the state and globally. With a pragmatic fiscal approach fueled by committed leadership, we were able to withstand exterior factors and position ourselves well for the coming year.

While tuition revenue and the endowment were down slightly, overall gifts were up. Parent/friend giving was up by \$2 million, annual restricted giving was up by \$200,000, and alumni participation was up by nearly 200 people. It is through the generosity of donors, that McKendree continues to be able to serve as a strong investment for its students and the region.



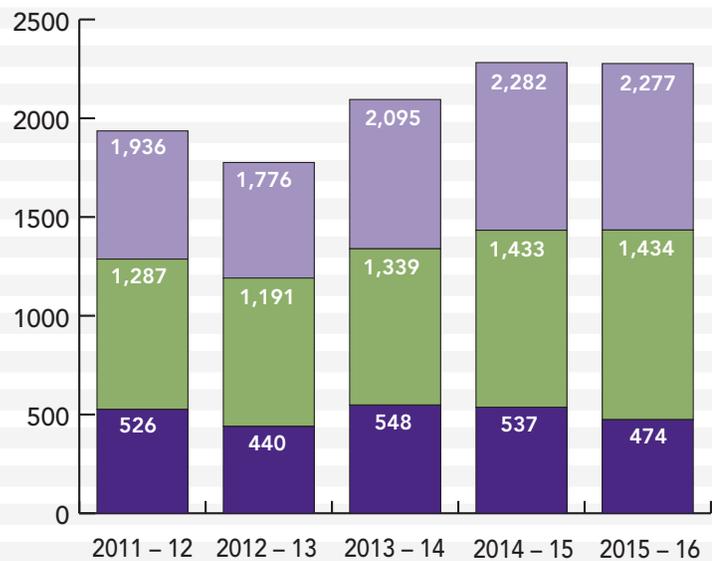
2015 Fall Enrollment Breakdown

The University welcomed 362 first-year students and 112 transfer students in 2015. The majority of the incoming class—69 percent—came from Illinois, while 25 other states were represented coast to coast. International first-year students came from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and United Kingdom.

All shared a common trait as academic achievers, with an average grade point average of 3.3 and an average ACT score of 22. Half graduated in the top 20 percent of their high school graduating class and 73 percent received an academic scholarship. Of the new first-year and transfer students, 93 percent resided in campus housing.

Incoming Student Enrollment

- Applied
- Admitted
- Enrolled



Student Enrollment Statistics

- Graduate
- Undergraduate
- Total



mck

alumni mentors

career inspire, leadership coaching, help learn, method improve, people skills, seminars program goals, motivate practice, develop work, training workshops, direction success

by Stephanie (Coartney) Dulaney '10

From the first campus tour to the excitement and culmination of commencement, McKendree students are surrounded by a close-knit community of mentors and encouragers, people who stretch your mind and show you just how much you're capable of achieving. For many students, it's a faculty member who took the time to know them on a personal level and offer guidance that changed the course of their future. For others, it's the Career Services staff whose endless resources and one-on-one assistance opened up job opportunities they never knew existed. And for some, it's an alum whose support and advice transformed them from a mentor to colleague to friend.

No matter how they received it, McKendree graduates understand the rich value of having a mentor in their life. "One of the things our graduates routinely say is that it feels like a family here because faculty and staff truly care about students," said University Provost Christine Bahr. "They form strong bonds with their instructors, and many faculty keep in contact with them long after they've graduated." It's through these connections students not only gain a quality education in the classroom, but also countless networking, internship, and job opportunities with professionals in the community. Whether it's bringing working alumni back to campus to speak to a class or connecting students with local internships, McKendree faculty often play a pivotal role in their students' first steps in a career.

Similarly, the Career Services staff are dedicated to mentoring students through individual guidance and the multitude of opportunities they create for students to connect directly with alumni professionals in their field. The University's annual Career Conference attracts a host of McKendree alums, who speak to students about topics such as networking and job searching while also leading mock interview sessions. An online mentoring network system provides an easy way for alumni to seek an intern, review a resume, and offer professional tips to current students. "Our department also organizes a career fair each year and hosts on-campus interviews with employers seeking students for internships and full-time jobs," said **Jennifer (Harris) Pickerell '99**, director of career services. "Some alums who don't typically serve as recruiters come back to campus just to recruit at our career fair."

With so many opportunities for growth and guidance as students, it's no wonder that many McKendree alumni find themselves giving back and mentoring others later in life, especially those who share the same alma mater. Their university experience has taught them that they have more than a McKendree diploma in common; they share the desire to use their talents to help others succeed.

Nestlé Purina is a **Learning Organization** where all associates pursue functional exc
life long skill development and constant professional growth.

Our expectation is that **every associate**, regardless of career stage, will
continuously increase their knowledge, skills and abilities to
assist the organization in achieving the results we desire.

Brook and Dana

We are **never** **d learning** her through
experiential **mentoring** ching, or
acquiring know **books, or** s or classes.
Everyone m **though** **ment plan.**



Psychology alum **Brook (Lashley) Lynch '00** may have found her doppelganger when she selected **Dana (Maedge) Suhre '08** as a student intern for her team at Nestle Purina. From academic interests to career goals and personality traits, these two McKendree grads share a wide range of qualities that not only inspired a mentoring relationship between them, but also led to their current work together as colleagues for the same company.

As McKendree students studying psychology, Brook and Dana were both initially interested in pursuing a career in family counseling, but soon discovered the clinical route was not the best fit for them. At the suggestion of a family friend, Brook began exploring careers in industrial/organizational psychology, where she could apply the concepts she learned in class to improve the experience of employees in the workplace environment. When Dana met Brook years later through her internship, she also realized her own passion for this area of psychology and found her niche in the same career. Now, they each have their master's degree in industrial psychology and work alongside one another as talent sourcing managers for Nestle Purina.

"We both think strategically and have similar ways of viewing things due to our time at McKendree."

"It was an ongoing joke around the office that Brook only recruits people like her because we've had such similar experiences," laughed Dana. "We both think strategically and have similar ways of viewing things due to our time at McKendree." Brook's work with Nestle Purina started, not surprisingly, with a student internship as well. She was a graduate student when she attended a conference presentation by a Purina employee and was immediately attracted to the company. It wasn't long before she was hired as a student intern, then a contractor, and finally a full-time employee in the talent sourcing department.

"I first met Dana when I contacted my former psychology professor Tami Eggleston as part of a Purina initiative to drive company awareness to local universities," said Brook. "We were seeking interns, and I wanted to make sure I was the one to contact McKendree." Knowing Dana would be perfect for the job, Dr. Eggleston passed along the internship opportunity to her, and she jumped into her first experience at Purina working with a fellow McKendree graduate.

Dana remembers her internship being unlike anything she had done before. She was on the ground floor helping to develop Purina's presence as a career team on social media and contributed to the strategies behind it. "I started off working on real world projects that full-time employees would otherwise be doing," said Dana. "After a couple of months, I was presenting to the leadership team about the millennial generation—how to hire them, how to market to them. It's what I ended up writing my graduate school thesis on." With Brook's encouragement, Dana followed in her footsteps, earning her master's in industrial psychology and eventually being hired as a permanent employee at Purina.

Today, Brook and Dana share the same job title of talent sourcing manager. Brook oversees the commercial side of marketing and sales, and Dana is in charge of product supply. Both manage Purina's strategies for recruiting the right kind of employees. The guidance and mentorship Dana received from Brook is something she knows has helped shape the course of her career, yet it happened so effortlessly neither of them could have predicted where it would lead. "Brook was my boss when I was an intern, so my mentoring relationship with her developed naturally. Our similar backgrounds made it easy," said Dana.

Although Brook has been one of Dana's biggest encouragers, challengers, and professional role models, she feels she gained much more from just being a witness as Dana's life path has unfolded. "It's interesting to look back on our relationship and how it has changed," said Brook. "Now we are co-workers and managers on the same team. Seeing people like Dana grow professionally is one of the really cool parts I get to experience in my role."

Ultimately, they both look to their McKendree roots when they think about how it all began. "My relationships with my professors were the most memorable part of my McKendree experience," recalls Dana. "I got my internship through a professor, and what I learned in class was transferrable to my work as an intern and later employee."

Those unique learning experiences are still influencing their lives and careers today. Brook says the research she conducted in her psychology classes as an undergrad helped prepare her for what she would later do in graduate school and in the workforce. "Dana and I still do a ton of research to drive the strategies we create for our customer groups. We use applied psychology on a daily basis to improve how our organization operates," she said. Whether it's the real world concepts they studied or the caring mentors they met along the way, Brook and Dana know they have their alma mater to thank for introducing them and transforming two would-be strangers into colleagues and friends.

Bud and Ryan



As one of the chief technology leaders for such major corporations as Disney, Ameritech, Getty Images, and Music Net, computer science alum **Bud Albers '86** knows what it takes to succeed in an industry that's always changing. It's one of the reasons he chose to seek out a McKendree graduate to join his team at the St. Louis start-up company Recursive Labs.

"I'm a big believer in having a firm foundation that you can build upon," Bud said. "If you don't learn multiplication and division, you have no chance of doing calculus one day. I know from experience that McKendree graduates get that strong grounding in the basics."

Ryan Vincent '12 had been a software developer for two years at DuPont Pioneer in Des Moines, Iowa, when he heard about the job opening from his former computing professor Jim Feher. Bud had returned to McKendree to give a guest lecture in one of Dr. Feher's classes and told him he was looking for a developer who could quickly pick up what they were doing at Recursive Labs. "Dr. Feher knew I wanted to move back to St. Louis to be around family and start a life with my new wife," said Ryan. "I applied for the position, and it has been a wonderful experience to work with Bud."

Bud's 30-year career in the technology industry has seen him take on major leadership roles in both large and small corporations across the country. After graduating from McKendree, he started out much like Ryan, a software developer for a local company in St. Louis. From there, he took a job in Colorado running the research and development/innovation department at another software company.

In the early 1990s, Bud transitioned to a brand new component of the tech world: e-commerce. He was the head of technology at Ameritech in Chicago when he decided to relocate to the west coast. "I interviewed with a company in Seattle and ended up living there for the next 13 years," he said. "I remember telling my wife, 'This silly company wants to sell books on the internet.'" Bud oversaw the original development of Getty Images, one of the first profitable online businesses, and went on to work as the chief technology officer for Music Net and later Disney. He led the launch of video and music on Yahoo, AOL, Microsoft, and Virgin and managed the start-up of Samsung Mobile. During his time at Disney, he was responsible for the websites of such behemoths as ABC, ESPN, and Disney.com.

Most recently, Bud returned to St. Louis and started work as a strategic consultant. It was then he became involved with the start-up community and took on the role of CEO at Recursive Labs. Bud acquired the funding, built the engineering and sales groups, and turned what was an idea into a fully functioning product company. He knew he needed to be selective when

hiring staff for the young, entrepreneurial business, and he trusted the faculty at McKendree to help him fill the need. "Dr. Feher gave Ryan a high recommendation, and I had confidence in him," said Bud. "Ryan has proven he is flexible, can wear multiple hats, and is good with customers."

A vital member of the engineering team at Recursive Labs, Ryan is responsible for creating innovative high-speed products, fixing website problems, and coming up with new features for the company. He has found the perfect mentor in Bud, not only because of his many accomplishments and years of experience in the computing field, but also due to his personality and ability to motivate and lead people. "Bud has absolutely been a mentor to me through his leadership and willingness to reach out and help develop others," said Ryan. "Some of the most important things I've learned from him are lessons in how to successfully run a small business and how to lead a group of people towards the same goals."

"It has been a tremendously rewarding experience to watch Ryan learn and grow, gain confidence..."

Bud also finds it fulfilling to work with Ryan and observe him rise to meet each new task. "It has been a tremendously rewarding experience to watch Ryan learn and grow, gain confidence, and take on more challenges. In computer science, you enjoy development and seeing your work come to life. When you get into management, you lose that, but you gain the ability to help others grow in their career."

Although the McKendree computing program has changed significantly from when Bud was a student, both he and Ryan took away values and concepts that continue to make a difference in their lives. For Bud, that strong foundation in the fundamentals gave him the ability to adapt and stay on the leading edge of technology's growing presence in the business world.

For Ryan, the real world learning experiences and genuine service attitude of McKendree professors, staff, and students gave him an important perspective on mentorship and what it means to be a good leader. "As a student, I witnessed people being responsible citizens by giving their time to organizations and ideals they believed in," he said. "I regularly saw professors engaging their students so thoroughly they would not get back to their homes until well after hours. This love of serving others is something I definitely took away from my McKendree experience."

Kevin and Katie



During her senior year, **Katie Dauphin '14** walked into an on-campus interview with accounting firm CliftonLarsonAllen not knowing she was meeting her future boss and fellow alum, **Kevin Meder '82**. Since that day, Katie has not only gained a full-time position as an associate at CliftonLarsonAllen, but she's also found a mentor and colleague who has taught her how life-changing it can be when you take the time to reach out to the next generation of McKendree graduates.

"When I was a senior at McKendree, I got an internship with a CPA firm in St. Louis and was offered a permanent position there when I graduated," recalls Kevin. "I remember being a graduating senior worried about where I would end up working, so I went back to my roots and have been helping to place folks from McKendree."

Today, Kevin serves as principal for CliftonLarsonAllen's Belleville office and works with a diverse range of clients in the manufacturing and distribution industries. His role rests heavily on communication and building relationships with businesses as he works to help them meet their own unique financial goals. That ability to connect with people continues to serve Kevin well as he returns to his alma mater each year to recruit student interns. Interviewing approximately 10-12 students per year, he leads CliftonLarsonAllen's on-campus interview sessions at McKendree, working closely with the Career Services Office to make it happen. Katie credits the faculty and staff with facilitating so many opportunities for student employment and career development on campus. "Jennifer Pickerell and Jill Smucker in Career Services are amazing and so good at letting students know about the companies that come for on-campus interviews," she said. "My accounting professors were really encouraging about going to the interviews too."

It didn't take long for Kevin to recognize Katie's high potential during their interview, and she soon found herself starting her first day as a student intern with a professional accounting group. She was purposely hired for the spring semester so she could gain valuable experience working in a wide variety of roles with tax returns, audits, and outsourcing during the busy tax season. "We try to give our interns exposure to all sides of the practice so they can get a definite idea of which areas they like and don't like," said Kevin. Under the philosophy of learning by doing, Katie discovered she was most interested in auditing and chose to pursue her career path in that direction.

After only four months as an intern, Katie received a job offer upon graduation and began her career working with the same people who guided and coached her through her first real world

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experience in accounting. Kevin praised Katie's "glowing reviews" from partners and managers in a roundtable discussion, as they provided feedback on student interns and evaluated who to select as an associate. "I have not been disappointed with Katie or any of our student interns from McKendree," said Kevin. "They're able to put what they learn into practice, and it's very neat to see them growing, learning, and becoming leaders. It's a win-win for everyone."

Currently, Katie spends most of her time traveling to meet with a different client every week and overseeing each auditing process from start to finish. During tax season, though, she still makes it a point to come into the office and assist Kevin with the multitude of tax returns. "Kevin is always checking in with me to make sure things are going well in my career," said Katie. "He shows he cares about my success, and his hard work is inspiring to me." One of the most fun parts of her job now is one that she knows came from Kevin and his emphasis on giving back. "Lately, I've been recruiting and working with Jennifer and Jill again to come out to McKendree's career fair, this time as an employee representative. I love meeting the new students. The campus has always had a lot of good, motivated people, and Kevin definitely fits that description too. McKendree is what brought us together."

Kevin feels a sense of pride when he meets and works with recent graduates like Katie, whom he calls "real people with good, solid thought processes, who are energetic and ready to further themselves and take on challenges." His time as a McKendree student also taught him the impact that a personal and professional mentor can have on the life of one person. To this day, he still keeps in contact with his former math professor **Paul Funkhouser '70**, who retired from teaching and is now a financial advisor. Kevin says his university experience gave him the confidence to interact with the diverse clients he helps today and connect with the recent graduates he mentors. As he and Katie have both discovered, the funny thing about having a mentor is it often inspires you to become one for others too.