

The Chamber Scene

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

40 E. Franklin Street • Huntington, Indiana 46750 • (260) 356-5300 • www.huntington-chamber.com • February 2022

Heritage Days: Huntington University at 125 years

Huntington University at 125 years will be the theme of Heritage Days 2022. The rich history of our local university and its contributions to our area and the world will be celebrated Wednesday, June 15 to Sunday, June 19 throughout the community. Huntington University is also the sponsor of Heritage Days 2022.

Huntington University, 2303 College Avenue, had its beginning as Central College. The college began with the dedication of one building on September 21, 1897. That building, known then as the Administration Building, still stands, and today is known as Becker Hall. Classes began at the college the next day.

Huntington University is among the top Indiana Christian liberal arts colleges with a strong historic and ongoing relationship with the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. As explained in the mission statement, "With the conviction that all truth is God's truth, the University exists to carry out the mission of Christ in higher education. Through a curriculum of demonstrated academic excellence, students are educated in the liberal arts and their chosen disciplines, always seeking to examine the relationship between the disciplines and God's revelation in Jesus Christ."

The university is a private, four-year, Christ-centered institution committed to developing the "whole person" by assisting students to understand all areas of human knowledge from the perspective of a Christian worldview. Each year, Huntington sends out hundreds of men and women with associate, bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees "to impact their world for Christ."

It all began in 1896 when the Huntington Land Association, a group of developers in Huntington, wanted to develop an area north of Huntington where the university is now located. There would be 262 lots in what would be called the College Park Addition. One of the individuals in the group was a United Brethren minister, and an agreement was made that if the church would sell 102 lots, the Huntington Land



Association would donate land for a college and spend at least \$35,000 to erect the future Administration Building.

A contract was signed March 11, 1896 and lots were sold. The Administration Building cornerstone was laid by Bishop Milton Wright August 18, 1896. Wright was the father of Wilbur and Orville Wright, credited with the design and build of the world's first viable flying machine. The building was completed in June 1897, and Bishop Wright gave the prayer of dedication. When classes started the next day, it was also a new beginning for students transferring from Hartsville College in Ohio, a United Brethren school that had burned.

Homes were built in the area that would help to house faculty, staff and students. There were no dormitories in the beginning. Daily chapel services were held in the chapel which occupied the west end of the first floor of the Administration Building, and Davis Hall, third floor, named after former Bishop Lewis Davis, was used for large gatherings.

The first year 85 students would enroll for classes. By the fall of 1900, 102 were enrolled. There were no graduates the first year and three students graduated in 1899. Dr. Charles Kiracofe, an ordained United Brethren minister, was the college president for the first five years. Today the fall enrollment at Huntington University for 2021 was 1,363 and Dr. Sherilyn Emberton has been the president since 2013. Locations include

the Huntington campus, Carew Street in Fort Wayne and Peoria, Arizona.

A basketball program began in Davis Hall in 1909 at Central College and the original gym was built in 1920. An agricultural experiment station was established in 1915, and Central College became Huntington College in 1917. In the 1920's ministerial preparation was offered, a musical conservatory and a training school for teachers were opened. The name became Huntington University in 2005 with the first graduating class under that name being 2006.

The Huntington College (now University) Foundation was begun in 1938, which throughout the years has led industries, businesses, civic leaders and individuals to contribute to scholarships and development of the campus. The original board included Jacob L. Brenn (Huntington Laboratories now Ecolab) who together with Professor Fred A. Loew helped to develop an agricultural program at the college concerned with the growing of soybeans. The first project the foundation helped to fund included the building of the original library in 1953.

Major developments continued including the first men's dormitory built in 1947 and Milton Wright Memorial Hall for women built in 1948. In 1958 the original Science Hall was constructed, the Loew-Alumni Library in 1959, the college became accredited June 26, 1961, in 1963 the J.L Brenn Hall of Science was built, Hardy Hall in 1966 and the Student Union Building.

Programs in all areas of sports developed and made the college attractive to the ever-growing student population. Eight-acre Lake Sno-Tip was made possible through the efforts of the late Gene Snowden and F.L. Tipmore, for whom the lake is named, in 1966.

In Huntington the '70s were formative years toward the modern history of Huntington College. The college received its first gift from Ruth and Orville Merillat, a \$1 million donation to help build a new physi-

(Story Continued on Page 2)

Heritage Days: HU at 125 years continued

(Story Continued From Page 1)

cal education, athletics and recreation facility. Over the next twenty years, the college benefitted greatly from the philanthropic efforts of the Merillat family as the campus expanded and new buildings appeared to serve a growing student body. Key facilities bearing the Merillat family name include the Merillat Complex, the Merillat Centre for the Arts and the RichLyn Library. The Theological Seminary evolved into the Graduate School of Christian Ministries also during this time.

Projects between 1980 and 1990 included Forester Village apartments, tennis courts, the physical plant and maintenance building, Baker Hall, Wright Hall, Brenn-Loew Academic Complex, Dining Commons and more. Since 1990 continual improvements to facilities and new programs have taken place at Huntington University.

The state-of-the-art Dowden Science Hall was opened in 2002 and a nursing program began in 2007. Other programs and improvements include Becker Hall, Digital Media Arts, Studio Art Center, Enterprise Resource Center, Center for Spiritual Formation and Multicultural Enrichment, social work and psychology programs, MBA degrees, Klopfenstein Tennis Courts, King Stadium, HU Cross Country area, Habecker Dining Commons and HUB renovations, the UB Launch, residence halls and a new agricultural program launched in 2015 in a farm-like setting along U.S. Highway 24. Over 90 minors and majors are offered, and the Huntington campus encompasses 170 acres.

Sports teams at Huntington University are called Foresters. The name originated in 1928 with then local sports writer for the Huntington Herald and Huntington College *Huntingtonian*, "Cash" Keller. Keller attended a Huntington College basketball game with the players wearing Lincoln green and scarlet. This reminded him of "Robin Hood" and his Foresters and Keller coined the name. Huntington's yearbook, the *Mnemosyne*, was the first place a team was called Foresters in 1931.

A Forester has been the mascot at Huntington University since 1966, the result of a contest conducted by then dean of students, Richard Hassan. The mascot was first known as the Huntington College Forester with a different appearance. In a later contest in 1993 the Forester received a new look and the name "Norm."

Baseball began in the 1940s on Farah Field at Huntington College. In 1961 Forest Glen Baseball Park was built in the wooded area where it is still nestled today. The park was renovated and rededicated in 2015 after \$500,000 in funds were received in a capital campaign held by Forester baseball alumni and supporters of the program.

Over its 125 years, the leadership of Huntington University has helped to develop many educational opportunities for its students, has laid the foundations for character and culture, promoted Christian teachings and standards of life, facilitated a relationship with the Huntington community and provided opportunities for young men and women to be prepared for Christian service, all according to the original plan. Visit huntington.edu for more information.

The Heritage Days Parade will celebrate Huntington University Saturday, June 18 beginning at 10 a.m. Huntington University's 125 year history can be carried through on parade entries in the form of representations of the events that took place or individuals who have contributed to Huntington University over the years.

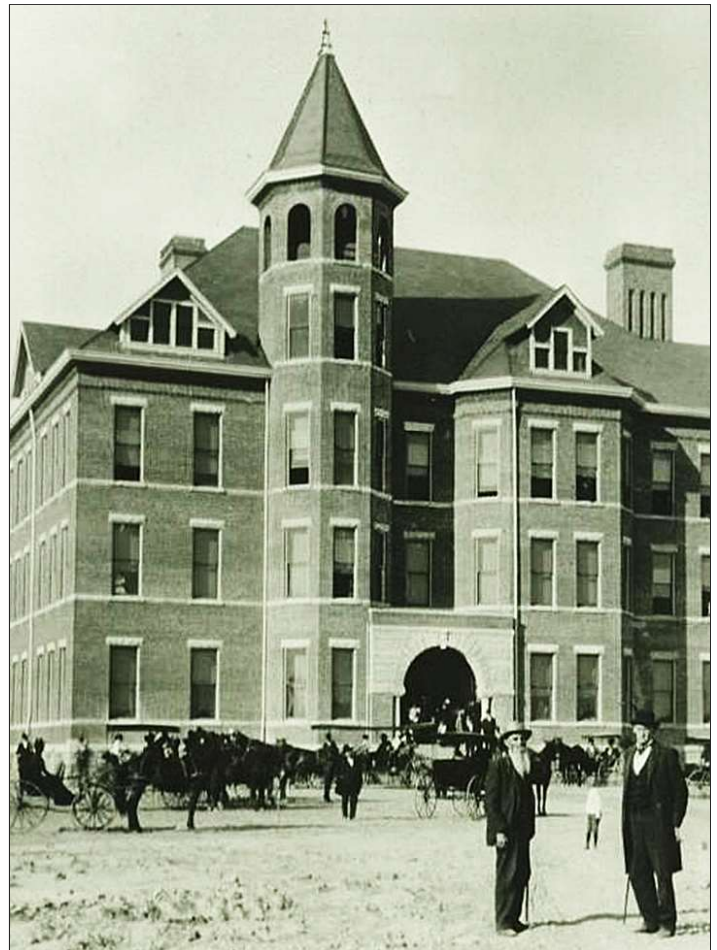
Activities that will be a part of this year's Heritage Days festivities include the traditional Chief of the Flint Springs Tribe breakfast Thursday morning and the annual Rotary Strawberry Feed on Thursday evening. A car, truck, bike and motorcycle show will take place on Friday evening in downtown Huntington.

Saturday afternoon following the parade, the Fun Zone at Huntington North High School will be full of children's activities, which will include bounce houses, free pony rides and a petting zoo, games provided by the library and more. A car show and hot air balloon festival at Huntington North High School will begin mid-day on Saturday and a balloon glow will take place on Saturday evening.

JeFFFest will take place on Sunday evening, June 19, on Franklin Street across from the Courthouse completing the Heritage Days festivities.

Poor Jack Amusements will provide the midway and carnival rides for 2022. Rides and activities will be located in the Cherry Street area from Wednesday, June 15 through Sunday, June 19. Streets involved with the carnival will close on Monday, June 13 at 3 p.m. to allow for set-up.

Heritage Days are coordinated by a Steering Committee of the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce. For more information contact the Chamber at (260) 356-5300 or visit the website at www.huntington-chamber.com.



The original Administration Building in 1897.



Shown on the photo is John Garrott, 2022 Chairman, presenting the 2021 chair plaque to outgoing 2021 Chair Darlene Stanley.

Chamber leadership transitions January 10

The transition of leadership of the Huntington County Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors took place Monday, January 10 at the January board meeting. The new directors assumed their roles on the board at the meeting held at Huntington University.

The 2022 board leadership includes John Garrott, Beacon Credit Union, as chairman of the board. Other board members on the executive committee are Brock Zehr, Huntington University, chairman-elect; Todd Latta, Parkview Huntington Family YMCA, treasurer and Bob Caley, Bob Caley Realtor – Century 21 Bradley, assistant treasurer.

Darlene Stanley, 2021 Chair of the Board, JJ's, was honored by receiving her chair plaque from Garrott. The Chamber thanks Stanley for her service and leadership as chair of the board for 2021, and her dedication to the Chamber's activities over the years.

Stanley recognized the outgoing members of the board to include Sonya Foraker, Parkview Huntington Hospital, and Erin Covey, MetroNet.

New to the board of directors for 2022 include Doug Selig, Parkview Huntington Hospital, and Heather Eash, Pro Resources Staffing Services.

The Chamber board wishes to express their appreciation to the many entities that provided service to the community for 2021. Heartfelt thanks go to front-line workers such as hospital employees, emergency service workers, truck drivers and essential business employees. Teachers are especially thanked for adapting to a new way of teaching and caring for students.

Clergy, elected officials of city and county government, city and county employees, the health department employees and others deserve praise for making the difficult decisions that keep the community safe. The board also appreciates industry and the changes that were made in the way business was accomplished.

The Chamber also recognizes our not-for-profit community. Not-for-profits survive on the generosity and gifts they receive from the community. Without the capability of holding meetings and/or events, we are sure it was difficult making budgets this past year, but they continued and survived during 2021.

When faced with challenges, the business community of Huntington County always rallies around our communities and supports each other to find a way to get through tough times.



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Shown in the photo, from left, are Charles Chapman, City Council, 1st District; Damon Kuhlenbeck, Derek Allen and Trish Marks, all from State Farm Insurance; Eileen McMillan, owner, State Farm Insurance – Eileen McMillan; Erin Mongosa, State Farm Insurance; Brock Zehr, Huntington University and Chamber board of directors; Ralph Mongosa; Bob Caley Realtor Century 21 Bradley and Chamber board of directors; Steve Godfroy, Perfection Wheel and Chamber Ambassador and Mayor Richard Strick.

McMillan opens new State Farm office in Huntington

Eileen McMillan, the owner of a new State Farm Insurance business, which recently opened in Huntington. The new office is located at 2855 North Park Avenue, Suite 102.

After spending 27 years working for State Farm Insurance corporate office, McMillan found herself wanting something different and opening her own office was something she had always wanted to do.

Since opening her business, she has been working with those interested in learning more about the insurance business. She has also made connections with Dr. Brock Zehr, business professor at Huntington University, and has been utilizing university students as interns, and coaching and mentoring those that might like to know more about the insurance business.

McMillan feels that by collaborating with other local businesses in the community, it helps all businesses stay stronger and more relevant in today's business world. A cake used for the celebration that is shown on the Chamber website, was made by Bear & Beak Bakery, while iced pretzels presented to those in attendance were purchased at The Party Shop.

Those interested in receiving a quote for insurance can reach McMillan at (765) 469-1989.

Wendy Speakman

Director of Graduate and Professional Programs

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Shown in the photo, front row, from left, are Mayor Richard Strick; Heather DeLeGrange, EPCO Accounting & Tax Services; Tim Armstrong, owner, EPCO Accounting & Tax Services; Valerie Juillerat, owner, EPCO Accounting & Tax Services; Gwen Burns, TCU and Steve Godfroy, Perfection Wheel and both Chamber Ambassadors. Back row, from left, includes Sheriff Chris Newton; Ryan Bonbrake, EPCO Accounting & Tax Services and Charles Chapman, City Council, 1st District.

EPCO Accounting & Tax Services opens new office

EPCO Accounting & Tax Services recently opened in their new offices in Huntington. The office is located at 2812 Theater Avenue.

Tim Armstrong, owner of EPCO Accounting & Tax Services, said, "We purchased the building in June, but we have done extensive renovation to the inside of the building. The approximately 1,400 square foot office was completely remodeled by adding office space, new restrooms, lunch room and additional office space to grow."

Armstrong went on to say, "Business has been good in Huntington and he believes the trend will continue to improve."

Last year Armstrong prepared over 1,300 tax returns for individuals, small businesses and corporations.

According to EPCO's Facebook page, "the firm offers the following services to our clients: Bookkeeping services, data entry, accounting services, payroll preparation, printing checks, direct deposit, electronic payment of payroll taxes, preparation of Federal and State tax forms, W-2's and 1099's."

They also offer business set-up services to include: Secretary of State Articles of Incorporation, SS-4 application of Federal Identification Number, notary services, personal income tax preparation, both federal and state, electronic filing of tax forms, computer software installation, set-up and more.

You can reach EPCO Accounting & Tax Services by calling (260) 200-1013, or visiting their website at www.epcotax.com.

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'Blessings' looking for new home

The Huntington County Blessings in a Backpack program is now looking for space to house the ministry. Blessings in a Backpack provides food to over 300 Huntington County students each weekend during the school year.

According to the Blessing in a Backpack Facebook page, "it comes with a heavy heart that they were informed from the Huntington Life Church that the church has decided to enter into different ministries in the space they have so graciously allowed us to use over the past several years. Blessings in a Backpack has been given until the end of this school year or thereabouts to find a new home for the program."

Since the start in January 2011, the ministry has grown so much that the current facility was just about as small as they could function in. The program is in search of a new facility to host Blessings in a Backpack by June 2022 in order for all of the current supplies to be transferred to a new facility. They are in need of a facility that is about 50' x 50' with a ceiling height of at least 15 feet.

Please contact anyone on the search committee or message them through Facebook, or call (260) 433-9854. Please share this information so they can spread the word of the need.



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HC Coffee Connections

Wednesday, February 2, 2022
Habecker Dining Commons, Huntington University, 8 a.m.

State of the City

Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Mayor Richard Strick
Huntington Arts & Entrepreneurial Center, 9 a.m.

Huntington On Ice

Friday, February 19, Noon to 9 p.m.
Sunday, February 20, Noon to 4 p.m.
Rotary Centennial Park

HC Coffee Connections

Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Habecker Dining Commons, Huntington University, 8 a.m.

Heritage Days

Wednesday, June 15 to Sunday, June 19

For A Complete Calendar of Events

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