

FAITH IN THE WORKPLACE

Arts and Sciences

ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES



Schedule

Nov. 2
7:30-8 p.m.

Location

Holland-Waller Center
Commons Area

Presenter

Michelle Goff

Nov. 3
12-1 p.m.

Location

Reynolds Recital Hall

Chorus concert

Honoring
Sylvia Rose

Nov. 3
1-2 p.m.

Location

Cone Chapel

Presenter

Ryan Cagle and
Jeff Mathes

Nov. 3
3-4 p.m.

Location

Pryor-England Science
Center
Room 113

Presenter

Keith Perry

Welcome!

This speaker series aims to foster meaningful conversations, spark curiosity and provide valuable career guidance to our students. It offers a unique opportunity for attendees to hear from our distinguished alumni, who have made their mark in various fields. From industry innovators to award-winning artists, our alumni have demonstrated the power of a Christian liberal arts education to shape critical thinkers, problem solvers and creative visionaries.

Mission

We, the College of Arts and Sciences, walk with our students, mentoring as we teach, using the best tools of the liberal arts and scientific inquiry — classical study and hands-on exploration. We seek to lead our students on the path to true thriving and faithful service in their lives, careers and continued studies.



FAITH AND ARTS AND SCIENCES

"... inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." — 1 Thessalonians 1:3



Michelle Goff

Topic: "Purposeful Communication across Cultures and Contexts"
2023 Outstanding Alumnus

Michelle Goff graduated from Harding in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders and Spanish. She also holds a master's degree in Spanish linguistics from Louisiana State University. Spending her entire career working for churches, some that began in her living room, Goff has helped start congregations in Colorado, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela. She has written six interactive women's Bible studies each in English and Spanish, and one was translated into Brazilian and African Portuguese. Goff founded Iron Rose Sister Ministries in 2013 to equip women to connect to God and one another more deeply in bilingual contexts. The organization has served thousands of women in all 19 Spanish-speaking countries, more than half of the United States and Portuguese-speaking Brazil, Angola and Mozambique.



Sylvia Rose

Chorus concert will honor Sylvia Rose
2023 Distinguished Alumna of the Year

Sylvia Rose attended Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, and completed her bachelor's degree in music at Harding in 1975. She began her career serving as instructor of music and director of the chorus at Southwestern Christian College. She also has taught at the elementary, junior high and high school levels in public, private and charter schools. Rose has lived most of her life in the Detroit metropolitan area teaching, writing, singing and publishing music. She has composed hundreds of songs, including 50 spirituals collected in *Songs of Faith*; owns two publishing companies, Rose Publishing and Great Heritage Publishing; and has authored two books: *A Guide to Effective Choral Singing* and *Rise Up — A Call to Leadership for African American Women*. An ordained minister and former hospital chaplain, Rose founded Great Heritage Ministries in 1997. The nonprofit organization is designed for the uplifting, enrichment and benefit of others and provides various services including senior care and bereavement support.



Ryan Cagle

Topic: "A Conversation with Heroes"
2023 Young Alumnus of the Year

Det. Ryan Cagle graduated from Harding with a bachelor's degree in public administration with minors in Spanish and Bible in 2015. He is a detective in a community field intelligence team with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, participating in covert operations to combat violent crime and narcotics trade. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with his wife, Kaitlyn; sons, Brooks and Dyllan; and daughter, Clara.



Jeff Mathes

Topic: "A Conversation with Heroes"
2023 Young Alumnus of the Year

Det. Sgt. Jeff Mathes graduated from Harding with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 2010. He serves as detective sergeant of a community field intelligence team with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, supervising covert operations to combat violent crime and narcotics trade. He and his wife, Sara Moon ('08), live in Nashville, Tennessee, and have a son, James.



Keith Perry

Topic: “Technology as a Tool to Improve Medicine”

2023 Outstanding Alumnus

Keith Perry graduated from Harding with a bachelor’s degree in computer science in 1989 and earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Houston in 1993. Since 2015 he has served as chief information officer at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, delivering technology strategies for clinical, research and administration teams. Previously he was associate vice president and deputy chief information officer at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. In 2022 Perry received a Tennessee CIO ORBIE award for exceptional leadership, innovation and vision. He also is a 2023 finalist for ORBIE National Healthcare CIO of the Year. He and his wife, Christy Howard (’91), live in Memphis, and have two children, Claire Evetts (’17) and Thomas.

