



A message from

Dr. Natalie Harder
President of Coker University

Dear Coker Community,

I find it hard to believe we are nearing the end of November! Since welcoming our new and returning students to campus in August, Coker has been filled with academics, arts, and athletics. It seems there is always something exciting to experience on campus. Our University is thriving with a sense of energy and enthusiasm that has been a delight to be a part of each and every day.

In October, we held a wonderful Homecoming and Family Weekend celebration as many alums returned to campus to visit with their fellow classmates, participate in campus activities, and cheer on our athletic teams as they competed. I am thankful for our generous alumni and all that each of you does to bring out the best in each other so that we can bring out the best in our current student body. Your continued support, through engagement and financial assistance, is critical to our growth and continued success.

I am likewise grateful to our faculty and staff for their continued dedication and support of our students and strategic plan. At Coker, we are educating leaders, and we are committed to providing every Coker student with an outstanding first-class education while promoting a strong sense of community. You will find examples of Coker's excellence throughout this issue in student achievement, alumni success, and university development.

I continue to believe in the greatness that is Coker University and look forward to the ongoing journey with our entire Cobra Family. Our students, alums, faculty/staff, and friends are each a significant component to enriching Coker's future.

Thank you, and Go Cobras!

Natalie Harder

EDITORIAL

Winter 2022

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COKER Athletics

South Atlantic Conference Preseason All-Conference

Jasper Rump | Men's Soccer | First Team
Gabin Guillou | Men's Soccer | Second Team
Gustavo Palmieri | Men's Soccer | Second Team
Matty Tricker | Men's Soccer | Third Team
Britt Kabo | Field Hockey | First Team
Indy Ehteld | Field Hockey | Second Team
Coda Fisher | Field Hockey | Second Team
Kelsey Sithole | Field Hockey | Second Team

SPC Credit Union Student-Athlete of the Month

Nour Noujaim | Women's Soccer | August 2022
Sarah Swaim | Women's Soccer | September 2022

National Field Hockey Coaches Association Collegiate Watch List

Kaiya Sabur
Britt Kabo
Amba Brown

South Atlantic Conference Team of the Week

Coker Women's Soccer | Sept. 22, 2022

NCAA Division II Super Region II Rankings

Coker Men's Soccer | Under Consideration | Oct. 20, 2022
Coker Men's Soccer | #7 | Oct. 26, 2022

National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division II Senior Game

Britt Kabo | Field Hockey

South Atlantic Conference Player of the Week

Jasper Rump | Men's Soccer | Defensive Player of the Week | Aug. 30, 2022
Kaiya Sabur | Field Hockey | Offensive Player of the Week | Sept. 13, 2022
Gustavo Palmieri | Men's Soccer | Defensive Player of the Week | Oct. 4, 2022
Gustavo Palmieri | Men's Soccer | Defensive Player of the Week | Oct. 18, 2022
Jonathan Hallinger | Men's Golf | Men's Golfer of the Week | Oct. 19, 2022

Regional Rankings

Men's Soccer | #10 | United Soccer Coaches Division II Southeast Region poll | Sept. 6, 2022
Men's Soccer | #10 | United Soccer Coaches Division II Southeast Region poll | Sept. 13, 2022
Men's Soccer | #9 | United Soccer Coaches Division II Southeast Region poll | Oct. 4, 2022
Men's Soccer | #5 | United Soccer Coaches Division II Southeast Region poll | Oct. 12, 2022
Men's Soccer | #5 | United Soccer Coaches Division II Southeast Region poll | Oct. 18, 2022

Community Service

Coker Athletics | #1 | NCAA Division II Helper Helper Community Service hours | Sept. 23, 2022
Coker Athletics | #1 | NCAA Division II Helper Helper Community Service hours | Sept. 30, 2022
Coker Athletics | #1 | NCAA Division II Helper Helper Community Service hours | Oct. 7, 2022
Coker Athletics | #1 | NCAA Division II Helper Helper Community Service hours | Oct. 21, 2022
Coker Athletics | #1 | NCAA Division II Helper Helper Community Service hours | Oct. 28, 2022

NEW COACH SPOTLIGHT



Michael Donald
Head Coach, Women's
Soccer



Jonathan McCants
Head Coach, Cross
Country/Track and Field



Fico Kondla '14, '16
Head Coach, Baseball



Brittany Bennett
Head Coach, Softball



Rob Pharland '17, '18
Head Coach, Wrestling

HOME COMING 2022

Homecoming and Family Weekend

This year's Homecoming and Family Weekend was a huge success! We would like to thank each and every alum who helped to make this year's celebration one to remember!



Decades in the Den

New this year, Decades in the Cobra Den, celebrated the decades of Coker graduates in style as alums reminisced about their days on campus. It was great to see everyone enjoying the throwback photos, decor and menu while dancing to songs of the 70's, 80's, and 90's. Next year's event will be extended to allow our alums more time to catch up with their fellow Cobras.

Kiss on the Court

Another new event held was Kiss on the Court giving Coker couples an opportunity to come together and share their love story with the University. It was so much fun hearing how our alums met on campus and to see where their lives have taken them since graduation.



The Beer & BBQ Tailgate

The Beer & BBQ Tailgate proved to be yet another huge success! With over double the attendance of previous years, the tailgate was a celebration that included the entire Cobra Family. From alums, to parents, faculty/staff, and community members, all coming together to celebrate Coker's past, present, and future with pride.



*If you were able to attend, it was great seeing you and we hope that you enjoyed the weekend's festivities.
If not, we missed you and look forward to seeing you next year on October 20-21, 2023.*

SAVE THE DATE
2022 & 2023



ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni Day

“Alumni Day is yet another great reminder of what Coker was and how it carries that legacy, that heartbeat, into its future evolutions.”

During the past 3 years, we’ve all had to learn to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like other institutions, Coker had to quickly adjust the way it conducted everything from classes to athletics to housing. Part of that adjustment included limitations on the way our alumni could come back home to campus. Homecoming 2021 was a joyous first step for our campus back toward “normalcy” for our alumni, and April’s Alumni Day was another exciting moment for our alumni to return to Coker.

Historically, Alumni Day is when Coker conducts its Golden Circle Celebration, a commemoration of a class’s 50th reunion. While all alumni are welcome, the class hosting its 50th reunion is in particular celebrated and honored.

In April 2020, the Class of 1970 was weeks away from hosting its Golden Circle Celebration when all campus activities shut down. The event was postponed, though no one knew for how long. Little did we know, in 2021 the Class of 1971’s 50th reunion would be postponed as well.

Despite these challenges, a unique opportunity for celebration was presented as the campus reopened to the public in 2022. Due to the diligent planning efforts of **Gayle Sawyer** ‘70, **Brenda Stewart** ‘70, **Sarah Jo Safrit** ‘71, **Janie Campbell** ‘72, and **Sarah Haarlow** ‘72, the classes decided to join forces and put on the first Alumni Day celebrating the 50th reunion of multiple classes. Planning such a joint reunion just made sense, seeing as these classes shared deep bonds across the years going all the way back to their time as students at Coker.

The festivities began on Friday evening, April 1st, as Dr. George Sawyer returned to campus to give a guided tour of Kalmia Gardens. On Saturday, April 2nd, alumni had a filled schedule to reconnect with Coker and classmates. Alumni shared meals with classmates, took customary class reunion photos, and got to hear from and meet President Harder. Coker alumni spanning multiple generations attended, with graduates from classes as early as the ‘60s all the way up to 2020. The day ended with a tour of campus to see sights both familiar and new.

There was added significance to the joint celebration, as the Class of 1970 was Coker’s last all female class before beginning to admit men in 1971. Gayle Sawyer ‘70 reflected on the unique intersection of being the last all-female class, the meaning of that legacy, and the reunion celebration:

“Kudos go to the Coker Class of 1970 for continuing our legacy of commitment to Coker students by endowing a scholarship as our fiftieth reunion gift to the University. Legacy is an accurate description because

in May 1970, our class, as one of our senior class gifts, established the Dr. Elizabeth Davidson Student Emergency Loan Fund which still exists and was utilized several times during the 2021-2022 academic year by students with various financial needs.

Many members of the class, the last all-female one at Coker College for Women, have expressed the impact Coker had on our personal growth and careers. Therefore, we opted to designate the Class of 1970 Scholarship for the support and encouragement of students who demonstrate leadership at Coker.

In addition, we have acknowledged since 1970 that the continuous involvement of Coker’s alumni is essential for future generations to have the opportunity we did for a unique Coker education. Our hope is that current and future Coker students will appreciate that opportunity, will develop the love for the Coker experience that we have, and will pay it forward with a legacy for students who follow them.”

In the 1970s, Coker evolved from a campus of women to a coeducational institution. In the 2010s, the school transitioned from being a College to a University. And today, in response to a world changed by necessity due to a pandemic, Coker has adapted in totally unexpected ways from the way it conducts classes to the way it hosts treasured traditions like Alumni Day.

Alumni Day is yet another great reminder of what Coker was and how it carries that legacy, that heartbeat, into its future evolutions. While Coker is always changing in response to the needs of today’s students, it continues to stand on the legacy of those who came before. And of course, that includes the trailblazing classes of 1970, 1971, and 1972.

Alumni Day 2023, celebrating the Golden Circle reunion of the class of 1973, will be in Spring of 2023. Details will be announced in this newsletter. Alumni seeking to reconnect with Coker can save the date for Homecoming 2022, which will be October 14-15, 2022.

Calendar of Events

December 13, 2022	at 6pm Women’s Alumni Zoom Call-Mid-Season Review with Coach DeVore
January 24, 2023	at 7pm Baseball Alumni Zoom Call - Pre-Season Highlights with Coach Kondla
March 17, 2023	Class News Due
April 15, 2023	Alumni Day
May 6, 2023	Spring Commencement
August 1, 2023	Alumni Award Nominations Due
October 20-21, 2023	Homecoming & Family Weekend

Regional Socials

Coker University is committed to engaging alumni through regional social events throughout the year. Please be on the lookout for invitations when we are in your area. Social events will be posted on the Coker Alumni website as well as listed in the monthly e-newsletters.

Tentative events being planned for:

Asheville
Sumter
Hartsville

As well as Athletic alumni sport specific Zoom chats and alumni games

Visit www.coker.edu/resources/alumni/ for information on upcoming events.

Alumni Awards

It is an honor to recognize this year’s Alumni Award recipients. Every year, we see Coker University alumni put our institution’s core values and passion for lifelong learning into action in new, innovative ways. Former Cobras have pursued impressive career paths, engaged in extraordinary adventures personally and professionally, dedicated themselves to the

service of their country and their communities, and committed themselves to lives of purpose through a variety of means.

As always, we received a number of outstanding nominations this year, all who would have been worthy alumni award recipients. Thank you to the many alumni and friends who submitted these amazing nominations. We would like to thank each of our nominees for their contributions to Coker and their communities. You are all an inspiration to future generations of Cobras.

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award is presented to an individual who is a graduate of the past 20 years and/or 45 years of age or younger; recognition is given based on one or a combination of the following: vocation, position, or choice of field with consideration given to the competition involved or importance of work; personal development in research, writing, or graduate work; community involvement in church, school and local organizations; recognition of and exceptional service to Coker University. There was a tie for this year’s Outstanding Young Alumni Award. We will be presenting this honor to two deserving alumni.

Jessica Dellinger, ‘16 & ‘18

The first recipient of the **Outstanding Young Alumni Award** is Jessica Dellinger, from the classes of 2016 and 2018. JD holds both a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, minoring in Criminology and a Master of Science degree in Applied Criminology. While at Coker, JD was a member of the women’s soccer team, and made friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. During graduate school, she interned with Hartsville Police Department’s detective division. After completing her internship, JD was hired by Hartsville Police Department, and attended training through the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy, graduating in 2020, with honors.

JD began her career as a basic patrol officer, soon realizing that her passion was working traffic, focusing on impaired driving and driving under the influence cases. After her first year, JD was named SC Rookie of the Year, by the SC Law Enforcement Network and recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving as a MADD Hero. In under two years as an officer, JD qualified as a Drug Recognition Expert, a certification that less than 1/10 of 1% of officers obtain. During her second year, she was recognized by the SC Law Enforcement Network as Officer of the Year. JD recently completed training through the SCCJA to become an instructor for other officers in the area of DUI detection and Field Sobriety Testing. Her goal as an officer is to continue to grow in the impaired driving enforcement, as well as aid other officers around her in detecting and enforcing impaired driving laws.

In recognition of Jessica’s outstanding career achievements and for her exceptional spirit of commitment to her community and her alma mater, we are pleased to present Jessica this award.

Sharod “Miami” Williams, ‘13 & ‘15

The second recipient for the **Outstanding Young Alumni Award** is Sharod “Miami” Williams, from the classes of 2013 and 2015. Sharod holds both a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education with a concentration in Sport Communication and a Master of Science in Collegiate Athletic Administration. As a member of the men’s basketball team during his time at Coker, Sharod was a three-year captain, four-year letterwinner, and was named to the All-Time Coker Men’s Basketball Team in December 2016.

How serving as the Associate Athletics Director of Operations and Competitive Excellence within Lion Athletics at Texas A&M University - Commerce, Sharod initially joined Lion Athletics as Director of External Relations in 2019. Prior to A&M - Commerce, Sharod served as the Assistant Commissioner for External Operations at the Conference Carolinas Office, as well as the Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Communications, while also serving as the liaison for the Faculty Athletic Representative and Sports Information Director groups.

Over the years, Sharod has held multiple professional and committee positions, helping to implement numerous instrumental initiatives for sport conferences, minority, women’s, diversity, and enhancement services. He has also participated in several professional development opportunities.

We would like to recognize Miami for his outstanding career achievements and for his exceptional spirit of commitment to his community and his alma mater.

Tullius Pate, ‘95

Next, the **Distinguished Alumni Service Award** is presented to a Coker graduate considered to be most outstanding in any or all of the following areas: volunteer and community contributions, exceptional service to Coker University, and exceptional service to state or nation.

This year’s Distinguished Alumni Service Award goes to Tullius Pate, from the class of 1995. Tullius is the owner of Pate Financial Coaching where he helps individuals and families navigate their financial situation. He has combined his two decades of financial experience and his ten plus years as an education administrator to provide knowledge and resources to his clients in an effort to reach their financial goals. Tullius has an amazing ability to communicate with a diverse audience and provide comfort to those he engages. He is inspired by his wife and her unconditional support. In his free time, Tullius likes to play golf, watch sports, and travel.

In recognition of Tully’s inspiring spirit of exceptional commitment to service of his community and his alma mater, we are pleased to present Tully this award.

Renay Sellers, ‘98

And, finally, the **Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award** which is presented to a Coker graduate wherein recognition is given to an alum considered most outstanding in career achievement.

This year’s Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award goes to Renay Sellers, class of 1998.

Renay is a Sunday school teacher, Bible study teacher, greeter and Youth Director at Charity Community Church of Christ, and enjoys working with and mentoring youth. Her love to help people led her to seek a career as a social worker, working for the Department of Social Services for over 20 years while also serving her Country for over 19 years in the United States Air Force Reserve. Currently working as a Child Protective Service Investigator, Renay’s goal is to make life better for Chesterfield County residents, keeping children safe and working toward keeping families together. Her work as a Foster Care Case Manager for 18 years was her greatest accomplishment, making it possible for children to find forever homes. As a lifelong desire to serve her country, Renay also joined the USAFR at 34 and has risen to the ranks of Senior Master Sergeant. She finds it extremely rewarding to serve her country while also fulfilling her dream. Renay lives by the Air Force motto: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all she does.

the DIVE (Dancers Inspiring Visual Entertainment) tour back to Hartsville, SC in the future.

2012 Dr. Jackie Monique Brown: I successfully defended my dissertation for the doctoral degree in educational leadership at Wingate University on July 2, 2021.

2013 Ashley West-Davis: My husband **Bill West-Davis '13** and I are serving on the production team for an Off-Broadway musical that opens on June 16 in New York City. Here There Be Dragons is an all new D&D themed musical. The show description reads: "The night before their college graduation, a tight-knit group of Dungeons and Dragons players embark on their final quest". Bill will be serving as the Lighting Designer for the production, and I am Vocal Director. This serves as an Off-Broadway debut for us both!

2014 Sara Atkinson Lum: Sara and Atticus Lum have moved to Chicago to pursue further job opportunities at Rush Orthopedics and Shirley Ryan Abilities Lab.

2015 Dylan Bates: I just got my PhD in applied math from NC State University!

2017 Cherish Thomas: I was recently featured as a "One To Watch" by the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC)! SEMC's "Ones To Watch" spotlight on up-and-coming museum talent making an impact across the Southeastern US.

2018 Charity Snelling: I just started my teaching career at Bunn middle school in Bunn NC this year. I teach Business and entrepreneurship as well as Computer science. I was an interdisciplinary studies major. I have my degree in Business and physical education.

2020 Stephen Bell: In January 2022, I was promoted to be the Director of Development & Alumni Relations at Florida Southern College, which is my undergraduate alma mater.

Brittany Cheek-Valdaliso has been offered and

has accepted a position with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health as an Intensive Community Treatment Specialist (ICT). Working in the north and middle regions of the state to help with mental health in the community.

Wanda Leggett: I started a new job at the Marion County Sheriff's Office and currently in school at Horry Georgetown Technical College.

2021 Sage Lilly: I graduated from Coker University, May 2021 with a B.A. in Physical Education with a concentration in exercise science. Upon graduation, I got accepted into Navy OCS in March 2022. After 13 long and rigorous weeks I graduated August 5th from Navy Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a naval officer. The rank of Ensign.

Very Respectfully,
Sage Lilly



Written In Memoriam by: Patricia Huff, Class of 1953 Elizabeth Du Bose Cottingham, Class of 1955

Two very excited but anxious freshmen waited to board the bus that would take them to Winthrop College where they would represent their Alma Mater at the state convention of Presbyterians. After a weekend of fun, learning and fellowship and the long ride back to Coker, two complete strangers, Beth DuBose Cottingham and I each felt we had become very good friends.

Upon our arrival on campus, Beth was greeted with news of her mother's critical illness. It was urgent she go home. Not long afterwards her mother sadly passed away. As if that wasn't bad enough, it wasn't too long before Beth was diagnosed with polio. She was unable to return to Coker. Our class really missed her.

Fast forward a few years and after Beth had been to Warm Springs, Georgia for therapy she with full braces on her legs and her car designed so she could drive, she came back to Coker. Although she had missed two years of classes and was behind, we claimed her as our classmate.

Perhaps there are others but I don't know of a more dedicated Cokernut. After she had graduated with another class and had become an alumni, she was attending every event the college held, working on committees, holding offices and planning events. It was no surprise at Alumni Day that she was presented the coveted Distinguished Service Award.

The years went by and when there was not room in Drengaalen for any more portraits of the award winners, so all portraits were taken down and stored. I was asked to go to Beth's home in Kingstree to return hers. What a delightful visit two Coker employees and I had with Beth.

She and I visited on the phone and corresponded by cards and letters. She often sent honorariums to Coker in honor of her Coker friends, including me. She and her husband endowed scholarships at Clemson, his Alma Mater, and Coker.

One morning Beth called to tell me she was writing a book about her life. The last thing I heard from her was that it was completed.

And then the dreaded call came that Beth had passed away. That lovely, precious Beth who had lived since 1949 with a disease that had left her body paralyzed from the waist down and had shortened her college life.

When our class had as its goal to endow first a \$10,000 scholarship, there Beth was making her contribution. -20, -30, -40, -50, until we reached \$60,000 with Beth helping us all the way. Then all of us and Beth reached the ripe 'ole age of 91. Life wasn't as easy in many ways. We don't drive, we have physical problems and most of us are using crutches, walkers and wheelchairs. And I think about Beth, how she endured but never complained.

To me Beth is the epitome of a beautiful Coker student whom we all admired. To have known her was to have loved her. Beth DuBose Cottingham, you are our hero. "Round the table you must go, you must go, you must go. Round the table you must go, Beth DuBose Cottingham!"

Births

to August 31, 2022
Congratulations to:

Bill and Ashley West-Davis (c/o 2013) on the birth of their first child Oliver Alexander West-Davis on 8/9/22.

Deaths

to July 31, 2022
Condolences to the families of these Coker alumni and friends:

John J. Coslick '78 - 6/27/18
Annette Cooke Stokes '58 - 12/30/20
Shirley Lupfer '59 - 6/18/21
Linda Gibson, mother of **Amy Gibson '90** - 8/7/21

Sharon Bennett Gregory '59 - 12/3/21
Frances Gray Atkinson '61 - 2/15/22
Faith Fennegan Allen '55 - 2/18/22
Edward Davis "Mickey" McDowell, husband of **Anne Merck McDowell '53** - 4/3/22
Pat Cullum Yarbrough '61 - 5/13/22
Jayne Cannon '61 - 7/28/22
Michael Swygert-Smith, husband of **Regina Swygert-Smith '61** - 9/22/2022

Marriages

to October 31, 2022
Congratulations to these couples on their marriages:
Rachel Buchanan '14 to Daniel Dow, 4/5/21
Devin Jennings '12 to **John Shearer '11**, 6/12/21
Savannah Catoe '15 to Josh Fenner, 9/25/21

Cherish Thomas '17 to Nicholas Danne, 4/23/22
Jessie Sternberg '17 - May 2022
Lindsey Kelly Gollach '14 to Stephen Kelly, 9/24/22
Gabrielle Zito '16 to Michael Baller, 10/1/22



Know someone who's
interested in becoming a

COKER COBRA?

Give them a referral today!

Coker University offers **online Master's degrees** to anyone interested in furthering their education. Give the following link to a friend and they'll get **up to \$2000** if they enroll to Coker University's graduate program.

COKER.EDU/MASTERS-REFERRAL

Philanthropy Spotlight

Dr. Pamela Gill Franklin '79 Gives Back

"At Coker, I didn't have to choose between becoming an art teacher and pursuing my passion as an artist. I could do both."

From an early age, Dr. Pamela Gill Franklin's parents instilled values of service and giving into her and her siblings. A 1979 Coker graduate, Dr. Franklin's life has been characterized by these principles, which in large part have motivated her to stay actively involved with Coker long after commencement.

A native of York, South Carolina, Dr. Franklin first learned about Coker from her 9th grade English teacher, Mrs. Frances Williams, a 1954 Coker alumna. Though short in stature, Mrs. Williams was a big personality with a beloved classroom presence; she would often remind her students, "Dynamite comes in small packages."

Dr. Franklin got to know Mrs. Williams well through participation in the Futures Teachers Club, which Mrs. Williams advised. Mrs. Williams was quick to recommend Coker, and encouraged Dr. Franklin to consider her alma mater. During Dr. Franklin's senior year of high school, she was also visited by Johnie Dawkins '74, a Coker Admissions Officer. "As a recent graduate of Coker, [Johnie] shared with me why she had chosen Coker and the opportunities I would have there to excel in and out of the classroom," Dr. Franklin recalls.

With all of these Coker influences around her, it wasn't a big leap for Dr. Franklin to take an overnight visit to campus. That visit was the last convincing Dr. Franklin needed; she left that trip knowing Coker was the right place for her.

From the beginning, Dr. Franklin knew she wanted to be an art teacher. At the time, Coker was one of the few schools where you could major in art education. The fact that she did not have to choose either art or education was appealing, as she could combine her passions into one degree program, noting, "Coker prepared me to [be an art teacher] and more. At Coker, I didn't have to choose between becoming an art teacher and pursuing my passion as an artist. I could do both."

Beyond her academic studies, Dr. Franklin took major personal lessons from her time at Coker. Above all else, she learned to take ownership of her path in life. Reflecting on her experience, she says, "I learned in college that my parents' faith and values were MY faith and values. I learned to take ownership of the decisions I made about life, my education, relationships, etc., good or bad. I learned realizing my goals and dreams rested entirely on me. While my professors, friends, and family were there to offer help, guidance, and encouragement, ultimately, I had to do the heavy lifting."

These lessons, both academic and personal, laid a strong foundation for life after Coker. Dr. Franklin's Coker education prepared her to attend two of the top post-graduate programs in art education. She went on to earn a Master of Art degree from Miami University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from The Ohio State University. The knowledge and experiences Dr. Franklin gleaned from all three institutions allowed her to successfully launch a career as an art teacher and, later on, a college instructor.

GIVING BACK

Dr. Franklin traces this success back to her mentor, the late Kim Chalmers, who taught at Coker from 1973 to 1999. Of Professor Chalmers, Dr. Franklin fondly remembers, "I tried to emulate Kim's passion and love for art and his sincere desire to see every student succeed throughout my career."

Dr. Franklin has valued giving back and serving others since a young age, traits that were instilled by her parents and her Christian faith. This has manifested in numerous ways throughout her life, including service to church, taking meals to grieving families, supporting her many students throughout the years, or giving back to Coker. Her legacy of giving back to Coker began when she was a student, working as a Resident Assistant, Commissioner, and Student Government member.

One of her fondest memories of service at Coker was when she planned a Halloween Carnival to raise money for children at the Hartsville Developmental Center. She connects that early experience at the Halloween Carnival to her continued service to Coker today: "I can still picture the joy on the face of the child to whom I presented the check for the Hartsville Developmental Center. It was an exhilarating feeling to know that I, with the help of fellow Coker students, had made a difference. I want that for others, the opportunity to come to Coker and make a difference in other people's lives and their own."

That's a big part of why Dr. Franklin recently established The Kevin and Pamela Gill Franklin Scholarship. She knows from experience how life-changing a Coker education can be, and wants to provide that opportunity for others. The scholarship, established for a deserving African American high school senior from York County, reflects parts of her own personal journey in York County.

Dr. Franklin's father worked in a textile mill, which enabled him to send her and her siblings to college. But when the mill closed, a collegiate dream was uncertain for many African American families in the area. Similarly today, Dr. Franklin sees college costs increasing, making college dreams difficult for middle-class students. She hopes that this scholarship will provide opportunities like the one she had, for students to "learn as they grow and grow as they learn."

It's been a joy for Dr. Franklin, now retired, to give back to Coker over the years, and also to include her husband in her love of Coker; "I am not shy about expressing my love for Coker and the impact the college has had on my life. [My husband] Kevin has heard many, many times how special Coker is from the stories I've shared about my college experience. A few years ago, we were invited into the James D. Daniels Society, one of the seven societies that honors and recognizes lifetime giving. The gala, the recognition, and the expressed gratitude made Kevin feel like an honorary alum. Since then, at least once a year, he travels to Hartsville with me when I attend a board meeting. Kevin proudly wears his Coker paraphernalia."

Still actively involved with Coker through service on the Board of Trustees since 2009 and through giving, Dr. Franklin is always quick to share her love of the institution with others, the same as she has with her husband. You may have seen her mingling in-person during her many return trips to campus, or perhaps sharing all of the latest university updates in a Coker Facebook group. Now, she looks forward to the joy of sharing a Coker education with future Cobras who will be impacted by her scholarship. Of this joy, she says, "One of the greatest gifts you could ever give is impacting someone's life by giving your time, talents, and treasures to Coker. The best gift you could ever receive is seeing someone's life transformed through your giving."

Dr. Franklin will be speaking at Spring Commencement on Saturday, May 14th, at 10am.



GIVING BACK

TODAY'S KINDNESS IS TOMORROW'S BLESSING

Be a Part of Coker University's Future

When it comes to making a long-term impact on education at Coker University, there are many options to choose from besides simply writing a check. Two of the simplest options to set up are **bequests** and **beneficiary designations**.

If you are passionate about supporting the mission of Coker, making the school the beneficiary of some of your assets is an easy method of support. Both of these planned giving methods are flexible, versatile, and can be set up to benefit Coker students for years to come!

To learn more about your giving options, please visit coker.edu/planned-giving or contact Jessica Cloud at 843.383.8175 or jcloud@coker.edu.

