CARTHAGE
COLLEGE

Synod Assembly Report 2022

This is the third academic year we have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A large percentage of the Carthage community is vaccinated, so we are back in the classroom. Students were able to participate in a few study abroad programs during January Term to places like Peru and Spain, and most of the chapel programs have returned to "normal." We are back to having chapel on Tuesday, Interfaith Lunch on Thursdays, and Roman Catholic Mass on Sunday evenings. Masks are required in all indoor spaces, and that is keeping everyone as safe as can be during this time of pandemic.

Other highlights of the past year at Carthage:

- The Christmas Festival was held in person and streamed online. The crowd in the chapel was small, but it was wonderful to be able to light candles and to lift them up in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.
- A major change at Carthage was our new team name and mascot. We are now the Firebirds, and Ember is our new mascot.
- Shortly after the name change, the men's volleyball team won Carthage's first team national championship in May 2021. The team went undefeated. Way to go, team!
- In celebration of the company's establishment of a major scholarship fund, the College dedicated the HARIBO Pool.
- Esports came to campus as our first coed varsity athletic team.
- Academically, we launched an engineering science major and a Bachelor of Music program in music education.
- Michele Hancock was named vice president of college culture for inclusion.

So, even in the midst of our third academic year in a pandemic, we continue to innovate and keep moving forward. Students are hungry to be together and are finding ways to continue to make a difference. Blood drives and other ways of volunteering continue to take place.

One of the exciting changes for the Center for Faith and Spirituality is a shared staff person with our Aspire Center. The new purposeful life and leadership coordinator creates programs that help students with undecided majors think about what their calling or vocation(s) may be. This person also helps to create programs that develop leadership skills in the student body. This is all a work in progress, but it is full of potential and possibility.

Thank you for your support of Carthage College and the work being done here. We continue to do the work we are called to do, which is to live out our mission of Seeking Truth, Building Strength, and Inspiring Service – Together.

In Christ,

Pastor Kara F. Baylor