

THE PILLARS

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY / MARCH 2015



LEADERSHIP

DR. ROBERT B. SLOAN, JR.

CHAMPS

The 2014 Women's Soccer team lands HBU's first NCAA tournament championship in the Southland Conference.



Dear Friends,

In this space, I often preview what you may expect to see in the current issue of *HBU News* (now *The Pillars*). This column, however, is a response to a request for me to reflect upon leadership.

Books and articles on leadership have exploded in the last several decades. What started out as a cottage industry is now a booming market. Everything from business leaders writing about their experiences to technical analyses of leadership behaviors, to popular, almost self-help books on leadership has moved rapidly across the reading public in both print and electronic form. Everywhere we turn, people want to hear about the theories and practices of good leadership. A few years ago, I went to a large community breakfast here in Houston on the campus, where a very important city official was the advertised speaker. As it turned out, he was unable to attend, but no one knew that until 20 to 30 minutes before the event was to start. The chairperson for the event came to me as I sat in the audience and asked if I would be the keynote speaker. I gave him a rather startled look, and, before I could say "yes" or "no," he said, "Well, why don't you just talk about leadership?" So I did! I'm not vouching for what I said on such short notice, but I still find it interesting and amusing that, in a pinch, leadership was an obvious fallback topic that the sponsor turned to.

I'll admit that I have thought a lot about leadership, and, in my case, largely from the point of view of a practitioner. I have written a little on the topic as well, but my approach invariably has been based on my own experiences, trials, errors, and partial successes.

Leadership is the ability to have an influence on others. When others hear ideas or see examples from another person and decide to follow, they're following leadership. Leadership, of course, can be bad. There are people who have the ability to inspire and move others to action, but, sad to say, history has seen many leaders who promoted precisely the wrong kind of behavior. Being able to lead is no guarantee of moral leadership.

When I try to summarize my views on leadership, it comes down to just a few things. I think leaders have to have vision, that is, the ability to look into the future, see



what's desirable, and then try to move people and organizations toward that vision. It's one thing, however, to have vision—the ability to see some desired outcomes—but leadership involves the ability to develop strategies and steps that not only lead toward those desired outcomes but actually inspire others to join in the task. There are many different leadership models, but the best ones invariably involve inspiration, collegiality, community building, working with people, honest communication, and specific ideas as to how to move forward.

When I came to HBU in 2006, the first thing I did was spend many hours in small group sessions with all the faculty and staff to hear their views about the University, and to learn how they wanted to see things change. So, I think any leader has to start with reality. You have to know where you are in order to get to the desired future. Then, in 2007, we began a series of town hall meetings, and I asked a specific question: "What would you like HBU to look like in the year 2020?" The comments were amazing. I took massive amounts of notes, and, in the end, we all created a document called *The Ten Pillars*. We started with a shared vision, and for the last seven years we've been developing and implementing the steps, plans, and financial resources to move toward that vision.

Leadership depends completely on trust, and trust depends upon communication. When friends and colleagues work together, with honest communication as to how and where they want to go, it doesn't matter who the leader is, because everyone will join in to accomplish the goals and celebrate the outcome. That's what Sue and I have been so blessed to be a part of here at HBU; and I can't believe we've been here almost 10 years.

And we have a lot more yet to do!

Blessings,

Robert B. Sloan, Jr.

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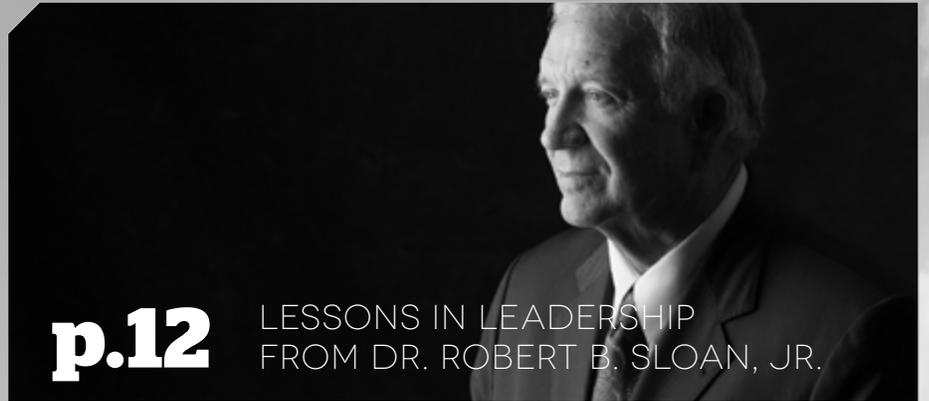
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THE MISSION OF HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

IS TO PROVIDE A LEARNING EXPERIENCE THAT INSTILLS IN STUDENTS A PASSION FOR ACADEMIC, SPIRITUAL, AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AS A RESULT OF OUR CENTRAL CONFESSION, "JESUS CHRIST IS LORD."

— UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, FEBRUARY 24, 2009



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Foundations of Freedom

UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES NEW CENTER,
PLANS ICONIC BUILDING

by Wesley Gant

AS THE UNIVERSITY TAGLINE MAKES CLEAR, HBU is dedicated to offering *A Higher Education*. While the national discussion around college may suggest that the sole purpose of a degree is to get started on a good career, HBU takes a decisively alternate position: the role of the Christian university is to prepare men and women to live productive, virtuous lives; to make them effective agents of Christ in the City of Man. This includes, but is not limited to one's vocation. Put another way, what is it worth to give a person knowledge without wisdom, or a set of tools without an understanding of their purpose?

The students who fill our classrooms are not just future professionals, they are also future husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, ministers, friends, and citizens. But what does it mean to be a citizen of America, and to inherit the Christian stewardship of a nation whose heritage has become so critical to peace and prosperity in the world?

Through the launch of the **CENTER FOR LAW & LIBERTY**, HBU aims to train young people in the principles of the American Found-

ing, to help ensure that the Rule of Law, limited constitutional government, free markets, and individual rights continue to flourish for generations to come.

Dr. Christopher Hammons, dean of the School of Humanities, has led the initiative and explains the project as one that will help make HBU a destination university. The Center's educational events and programs will attract students throughout Texas, and its academic setting provides the ideal location for a public policy think tank to attract scholars and public officials at the intersection of American government and Christian ethics.

But what is likely to draw the most attention is where these programs will be housed. Early plans have been approved to build a full-scale reconstruction of Independence Hall, where the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence were debated and signed, in a prominent location on the HBU campus. The building will add much needed office and classroom space to the campus, but will also provide a destination for field trips, mock-constitutional debates, lectures, and other educational events.



The building will also feature the Pressler Courtroom, modeled after the existing courtroom at Independence Hall, and named after Judge Paul Pressler and his wife Nancy, whose lead gift will help make these plans a reality.

The plans for the development of the Center for Law & Liberty serve to meet a critical need felt by those who believe that America's founding principles help us better understand the role of law and the moral limits of power. A study of the Constitution—not only the document itself, but its historical and literary context—demands

AMERICA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLES HELP US BETTER UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF LAW AND THE MORAL LIMITS OF POWER.

that students explore questions of justice, human nature, and the interplay between freedom and responsibility. These are, at the root, theological questions applied to the troubled realities of a fallen human society.

It is hoped that in coming years, the Center will become a backdrop for the creation of a Masters in Public Policy and possible HBU law school, but in the interim, students majoring in government, criminal justice, history or legal studies will enjoy the benefits that the Center will bring to the campus. Already, the Center has raised funds for scholarships, attracted speakers such as Ted Cruz and Steve Forbes, and hosted workshops and lectures for Houston-area students, teachers, and civic leaders.

“Our founders were deeply committed to liberty and virtue, but they were also committed to education,” says Hammons. “They understood that a society governed by free people could only last if the people themselves were educated in science, history, the arts, and law.” Today’s public education has fallen short in many respects, and a large percentage of American citizens have only a thin grasp of the foundations that made the nation exceptional. Initiatives like the Center for Law & Liberty will only become more important.

EARLY PLANS HAVE BEEN APPROVED TO BUILD A FULL-SCALE RECONSTRUCTION OF INDEPENDENCE HALL



Independence Hall - Supreme Court Room



Independence Hall - Assembly Room

STEVE Forbes

On January 6, HBU's Center for Law & Liberty partnered with AM 1070 The Answer to host renowned publisher, best-selling author, and former presidential candidate Steve Forbes in Dunham Theater.

Considered one of the brightest financial minds in the world, Forbes spoke on monetary policy and how the value of the U.S. dollar affects both the national and global economy—the subject of his latest book.

JAN 6
HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Finding Truth

Bestselling author **NANCY PEARCEY** is professor of apologetics and scholar-in-residence at HBU. Her **LATEST BOOK** *Finding Truth: 5 Principles for Unmasking Atheism, Secularism, and Other God Substitutes* just hit bookstores this month. We spoke with her about defending Christianity and why young people abandon the faith.



HOW IS THIS BOOK DIFFERENT FROM YOUR PREVIOUS BOOKS ON CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW AND DEFENDING THE FAITH (ALSO CALLED APOLOGETICS)?

My earlier book *Total Truth* made the case for bringing Christianity into the public square. *Finding Truth* gives people the tools to do it. It draws out five principles from Romans 1 that penetrate to the core of any worldview—secular or religious—to uncover its deepest motivations and weigh its claims.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE GOD SUBSTITUTES REFERENCED IN THE BOOK TITLE?

In Romans 1, Paul says that those who do not worship the Creator will make an idol out of some part of creation. An idol does not have to be a concrete thing like a statue or golden calf. It can also be something abstract. Think of matter: Is matter something in the created order? Sure it is. So materialism qualifies as an idol. It makes matter the first cause and source of all things—a substitute for God.

Can reason be an idol? Of course. The philosophy of rationalism elevates reason to the ultimate source and standard of truth. Among scientists, many embrace empiricism, which says the only source of knowledge is what we experience with our senses.

This allows us to apply Paul’s insight about idols to the many isms we encounter in today’s pluralistic, multicultural world.

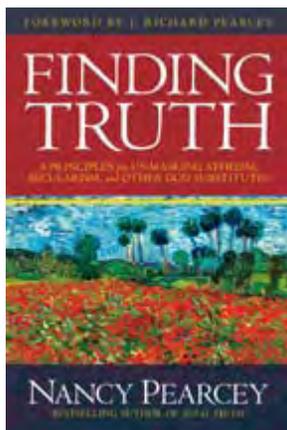
SAM HARRIS AND OTHER NEW ATHEISTS HAVE GOTTEN A HUGE RECEPTION FROM COLLEGE STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITIES ACROSS AMERICA. HOW DO WE COUNTER THAT?

The New Atheism benefits from an attitude in Christian circles of “Don’t Think, Just Believe.” In *Finding Truth* I tell the story of a woman who raised her children by the rule that you don’t need to read anything except the Bible. But when her son went to college, he promptly joined

a New Atheist group and abandoned his Christian background.

The mother thought that by not exposing her son to secular ideas, she was protecting him. Instead she had left him defenseless.

Finding Truth gives people a biblically based strategy to demonstrate that a robust Christian worldview matches reality—that it is not only true but attractive, granting higher dignity to the human person than any alternative.



HOW DO WE EXPLAIN DE-CONVERSIONS OF PEOPLE WHO AT ONE TIME HAD A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW?

Finding Truth describes several studies asking young people why they de-converted. Researchers expected the cause to be some kind of emotional wounding. To their surprise, the most frequent reason young people gave was that they did not get answers to their questions.

That was my own story, too. In high school, I started asking how we can know that Christianity is true. None of the adults in my life could give an answer—including highly educated Christians, like a university professor and a seminary dean. They did not even take my questions seriously.

As a result, I made an intentional decision to walk away from my Christian upbringing and embark on a search for truth.

Eventually I ended up at L’Abri in Switzerland, when Francis Schaeffer was there, and that’s where I first started getting answers.

YOU VIEWED FRANCIS SCHAEFFER UP CLOSE DURING YOUR MONTHS AT L’ABRI. WHAT LEADERSHIP QUALITIES DID YOU SEE IN HIM?

What I saw in Schaeffer was authenticity. The reason he was so successful in reaching young people was that he really listened to their doubts and questions. Schaeffer was not a scholarly person. He grew up in a blue collar home. But he learned about philosophies like existentialism, which was the big trend in the 1960s and 70s, by listening to the young people who were absorbing those philosophies and living them out.

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS LOOK FOR WHEN HELPING THEIR CHILD SELECT A UNIVERSITY? IS IT ENOUGH TO CHOOSE A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY?

The opening story in *Finding Truth* tells about a congressional chief of staff who heard me give a lecture on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. After my talk, he stood up and said to everyone there, “I lost my faith at an evangelical college.” He explained that his professors taught the dominant theories in their field, but did not offer any Christian alternative. He even met privately with them, asking how they related their Christian convictions to what they taught in the classroom. Not one could give him an answer.

The problem is that most professors earn advanced degrees at secular graduate schools, where they have no realistic opportunity to develop a biblical perspective on their field. As a result, parents need to investigate whether a Christian university actually teaches a Christian perspective on the disciplines. You want professors who are prepared to give arguments to support a Christian worldview within their field.

A House United

ROBERT SLOAN ON SPIRITUAL
LEADERSHIP IN THE FAMILY.

In a culture where secular voices constantly compete with the instruction of Christian parents, how can mothers and fathers effectively lead their children to live out the faith? As parents of seven and grandparents of 18, Robert and Sue Sloan have a lot of practice. We asked Dr. Sloan to tell us about his children and to share some of the wisdom he and his wife Sue have gleaned over the years.



SUE AND I ARE VERY BLESSED that all seven of our adult children are walking with the Lord and are married to Christian men and women. We are very proud of them all.

In different ways our children are all living out their faith. One daughter is an attorney, seeking justice for those who have been harmed. One son is an entrepreneur par excellence; he feels led to make money to give to Christian causes. Another son teaches classics at Wake Forest University, and another is a doctoral student at the University of

St Andrews, studying New Testament theology. One of our daughters worked on a church staff, and another worked for a worldwide ministry to orphans. Another daughter, with a master's degree in literature and work as an editor, is raising two sons at home and teaching them a Christian worldview. Our sons- and daughters-in-law are equally amazing: a doctor, an educator, two attorneys who are executive leaders, a mom with a master's degree in international relations, a businessman, and a nurse practitioner with multiple specializations. All of them serve significant

roles in their churches and are great parents, aunts, and uncles.

When people ask me what Sue and I did to nurture faith in our children, the basic answer is that we helped them develop habits of faith. We talked about the Lord a lot. When things came up in their lives, we would try to help them frame the situation with respect to Christ and the Scriptures. We prayed at meals, but also at other times. For example, when Michael was headed off to school or somewhere, I would hug him close and whisper a very short prayer. I might say, "Lord, please bless Michael today." Even if his friends were around, only Michael and I could hear it. It was a reminder of the bond between us, and a reminder to Michael that he is living for the Lord. I can still do that with my kids today, even as adults.

I also think **IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE CONSISTENT, TO BE LOVING, AND TO LET YOUR WORDS TO YOUR CHILDREN COUNT.** It's hard for children to trust God's word if they can't trust our word as parents. We also need to model submission for our kids. We have to get on our knees and submit to God in prayer. These are habits of faith. We teach our kids faith when we teach them to trust our word and to submit to us and to God.

We also taught our kids that we all need a lot of spiritual resources in life, especially in tough times. We try to be faithful day by day, to spend time in prayer, weekly worship, and studying the scriptures. It's easy to think, well, is this really doing anything? But it's like going to the gym and being built up for the day when your strength will be tested. They saw how Sue and I found strength in worship, in commitment to the lordship of Jesus Christ and the scriptures, and in having Christian friends who stood with us when we were tested. It's so critical. Those are the kinds of things we did with our kids while they were growing up, and we are grateful that the Lord used our imperfect efforts to draw our children to Himself.

Edited by Kim Andrews





Lessons in Leadership

Q: DR. SLOAN, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE LEADERSHIP?

A: I think leadership is the ability to imagine how things could be, and then inspire others to move toward that future. Leaders by definition are those who inspire others to join in the pilgrimage toward that future.

TAKE US BACK TO THE FIRST DAY WHEN YOU CAME TO HBU IN 2006. WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PRIORITY AS THE NEW LEADER OF THE UNIVERSITY?

My first task was to get to know the people. If I had just come in and said, "Here is where we're going," we'd never get there. People wouldn't have a sense of participation, and their distinctive gifts and calling aren't drawn out that way. So the first thing I did was to plan a lot of small-group listening sessions with the entire University family of faculty, staff, and alumni. I had one simple question for them: "What do you want me to know about HBU? It can be the good, the bad, or the ugly." These sessions built a lot of collegiality and helped me enormously. I learned people. I learned departments. I learned about the University and its rich traditions and impressive history. On the other hand, when several groups said, "You know we've got a problem here with XYZ," I knew I had some pretty hard data.

Afterward I reported back to everyone on a half dozen items we would work on immediately to help people do their jobs better. That thrilled everybody because they felt they had been heard, and it gave me some easy leadership victories. So **LISTENING WAS THE FIRST PRIORITY.**

YOU PUT FORTH A 12-YEAR VISION CALLED THE TEN PILLARS IN 2008. HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT AND WHAT IS THE HEART OF THAT VISION?

About a year after I came here, we started the envisioning process with faculty, staff, and alumni. We held numerous large town hall meetings where I asked people one question: "What do you want HBU to look like in 2020? Tell me your big dreams for the

"Our country is in
desperate need
of national and state
leadership
right now."

—Dr. Robert Sloan, Jr.

University." I told them I had some ideas of my own, but I really wanted to hear from them. The early listening sessions really paid off here, because people were now willing to participate in building a new vision.

People had tremendous ideas. They talked about new academic programs, new facilities, rejoining the NCAA, and having more students live on campus. But the most repeated theme was "We must be a solidly committed Christian school." HBU always has been. That was never in question. But they wanted to be sure we never lose sight of our Christian identity.

So *The Ten Pillars* came out of clusters of ideas that we put into a narrative that holds them all together. The essence of the narrative is that the great American universities were founded by committed Christians. Many of these institutions became academically famous but gave up their scriptural commitments and theological moorings in the process. They lost their first love. On the other hand, there are Christian schools that remain faithful, but have stopped trying to engage the world. Those schools have become short-term shelters from the incursions of secularism, but aren't bringing the Kingdom into the world. In contrast, the heart of *The Ten Pillars* is a vision for academic excellence under the Lordship of Christ. We want to research, discover, synthesize, teach, and inculcate the knowledge of God and His word within the human heart. The goal is to be transformed by that knowledge for the sake of God's world.

Now *The Ten Pillars* inspires scholars from all over. In fact, we get applications from

Christian scholars around the world who want to teach at HBU.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, INSPIRED BY YOUR LEADERSHIP, IS SOON TO EMBARK UPON A SEIZE THE MOMENT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN THAT WILL INCLUDE NEW FACILITIES AND INITIATIVES TO ENHANCE ACADEMICS AND STUDENT LIFE. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE IMPACT OF THIS DYNAMIC EXPANSION OF HBU WILL HAVE ON THE CITY OF HOUSTON AND ON THE NATION?

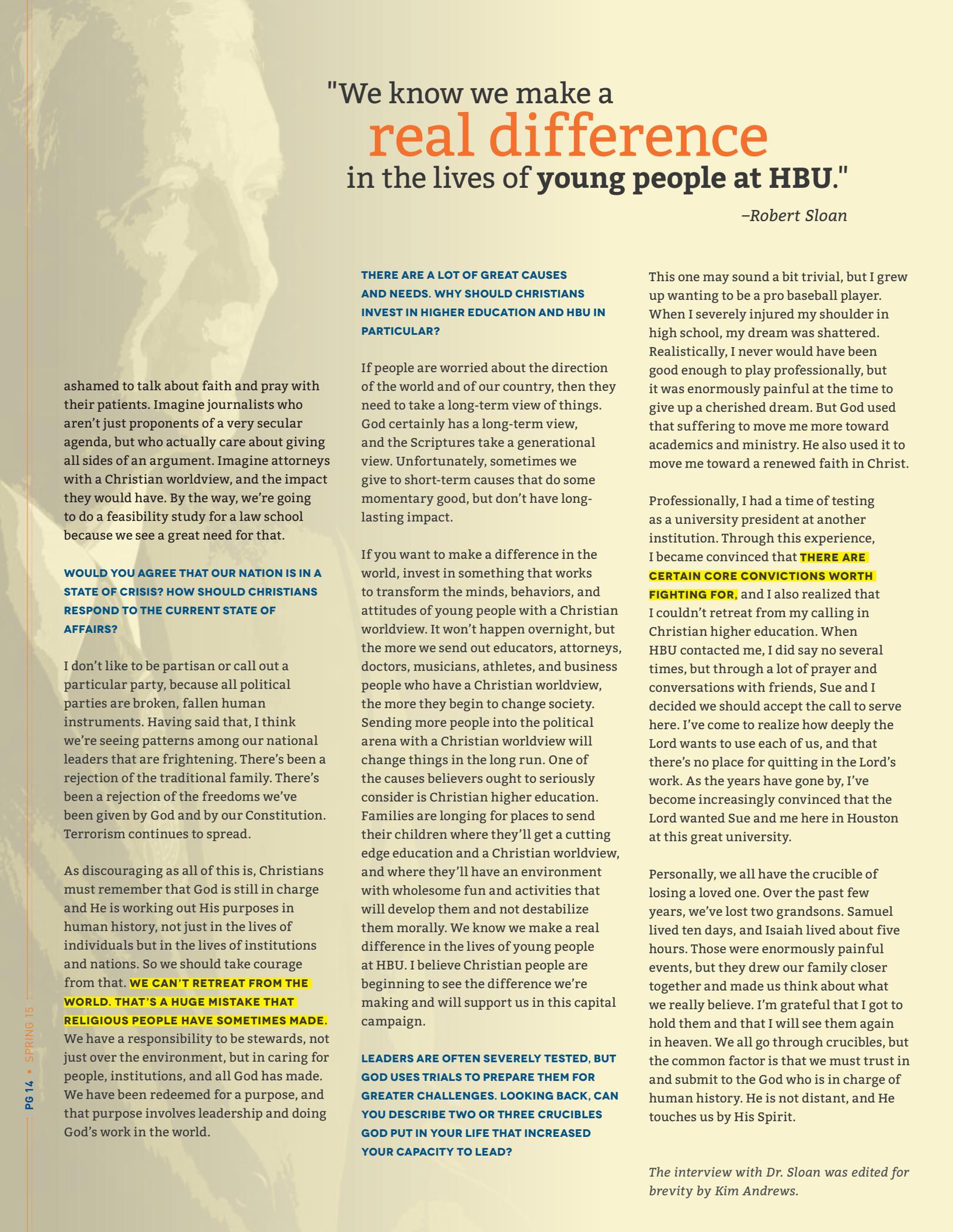
I have to say that we are blessed to have such terrific trustees. They have never been a rubberstamp board. They have always been committed, and they give me and other University leadership tremendous support. The trustees have approved a \$130 million capital campaign that will provide the fuel to finish out *The Ten Pillars* vision.

If people will join in and participate in this \$130 million capital campaign, it will be transformative. It will be physically and economically transformative for Sharpstown. The retail shops will flourish and the schools will be better.

But more than that, **OUR COUNTRY IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF NATIONAL AND STATE LEADERSHIP RIGHT NOW.** We need people who have a Christian worldview who will go into all the fields of endeavor. We believe students who come here and drink deeply from a Christian worldview and apply it to their professional fields will have a transformative effect on Houston, on Texas, on the nation, and on the world as they go out. Imagine seeing more and more nurses go into our hospitals who have a deep commitment to Jesus Christ. Imagine excellent doctors who are not

Dr. Sloan's Leadership Initiatives

- Development and ongoing implementation of *The Ten Pillars*, HBU's 12-year vision
- Record high undergraduate and graduate enrollment last two academic years
- Added five new graduate programs, with more to come
- Returned to NCAA Division I athletics, joined Southland Conference, started football program
- Completed campus improvements including new and renovated facilities, with a Master Plan underway for overall campus renewal
- Added new academic centers including the Center for Law & Liberty; Francis Schaeffer Center for Worldview and Culture; C.S. Lewis Centre in Oxford, England; and the Center for American Evangelism
- Launched Honors College in 2008
- Introduced weekday radio program, *A Higher Education*, in 2013 (KKHT 100.7 FM)



"We know we make a
real difference
in the lives of young people at HBU."

—Robert Sloan

ashamed to talk about faith and pray with their patients. Imagine journalists who aren't just proponents of a very secular agenda, but who actually care about giving all sides of an argument. Imagine attorneys with a Christian worldview, and the impact they would have. By the way, we're going to do a feasibility study for a law school because we see a great need for that.

WOULD YOU AGREE THAT OUR NATION IS IN A STATE OF CRISIS? HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS RESPOND TO THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS?

I don't like to be partisan or call out a particular party, because all political parties are broken, fallen human instruments. Having said that, I think we're seeing patterns among our national leaders that are frightening. There's been a rejection of the traditional family. There's been a rejection of the freedoms we've been given by God and by our Constitution. Terrorism continues to spread.

As discouraging as all of this is, Christians must remember that God is still in charge and He is working out His purposes in human history, not just in the lives of individuals but in the lives of institutions and nations. So we should take courage from that. **WE CAN'T RETREAT FROM THE WORLD. THAT'S A HUGE MISTAKE THAT RELIGIOUS PEOPLE HAVE SOMETIMES MADE.** We have a responsibility to be stewards, not just over the environment, but in caring for people, institutions, and all God has made. We have been redeemed for a purpose, and that purpose involves leadership and doing God's work in the world.

THERE ARE A LOT OF GREAT CAUSES AND NEEDS. WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS INVEST IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND HBU IN PARTICULAR?

If people are worried about the direction of the world and of our country, then they need to take a long-term view of things. God certainly has a long-term view, and the Scriptures take a generational view. Unfortunately, sometimes we give to short-term causes that do some momentary good, but don't have long-lasting impact.

If you want to make a difference in the world, invest in something that works to transform the minds, behaviors, and attitudes of young people with a Christian worldview. It won't happen overnight, but the more we send out educators, attorneys, doctors, musicians, athletes, and business people who have a Christian worldview, the more they begin to change society. Sending more people into the political arena with a Christian worldview will change things in the long run. One of the causes believers ought to seriously consider is Christian higher education. Families are longing for places to send their children where they'll get a cutting edge education and a Christian worldview, and where they'll have an environment with wholesome fun and activities that will develop them and not destabilize them morally. We know we make a real difference in the lives of young people at HBU. I believe Christian people are beginning to see the difference we're making and will support us in this capital campaign.

LEADERS ARE OFTEN SEVERELY TESTED, BUT GOD USES TRIALS TO PREPARE THEM FOR GREATER CHALLENGES. LOOKING BACK, CAN YOU DESCRIBE TWO OR THREE CRUCIBLES GOD PUT IN YOUR LIFE THAT INCREASED YOUR CAPACITY TO LEAD?

This one may sound a bit trivial, but I grew up wanting to be a pro baseball player. When I severely injured my shoulder in high school, my dream was shattered. Realistically, I never would have been good enough to play professionally, but it was enormously painful at the time to give up a cherished dream. But God used that suffering to move me more toward academics and ministry. He also used it to move me toward a renewed faith in Christ.

Professionally, I had a time of testing as a university president at another institution. Through this experience, I became convinced that **THERE ARE CERTAIN CORE CONVICTIONS WORTH FIGHTING FOR**, and I also realized that I couldn't retreat from my calling in Christian higher education. When HBU contacted me, I did say no several times, but through a lot of prayer and conversations with friends, Sue and I decided we should accept the call to serve here. I've come to realize how deeply the Lord wants to use each of us, and that there's no place for quitting in the Lord's work. As the years have gone by, I've become increasingly convinced that the Lord wanted Sue and me here in Houston at this great university.

Personally, we all have the crucible of losing a loved one. Over the past few years, we've lost two grandsons. Samuel lived ten days, and Isaiah lived about five hours. Those were enormously painful events, but they drew our family closer together and made us think about what we really believe. I'm grateful that I got to hold them and that I will see them again in heaven. We all go through crucibles, but the common factor is that we must trust in and submit to the God who is in charge of human history. He is not distant, and He touches us by His Spirit.

The interview with Dr. Sloan was edited for brevity by Kim Andrews.



LEE STROBEL
AND HBU LAUNCH
THE CENTER FOR
**American
Evangelism**

*In response to rising skepticism and an increasingly secular culture, HBU is partnering with author and Christian apologist **Lee Strobel** to launch the **Center for American Evangelism**.*

“We have reached a point of crisis,” said Strobel. “Too many young people are leaving the faith. Few Christians are able to effectively share Jesus with others. At many churches, reaching spiritually lost people falls to the bottom of their priorities.”

Strobel will be joined by two other veteran leaders in evangelism, Mark Mittelberg and Gary Poole. Mittelberg, a bestselling author and one of the most astute evangelism strategists in the country, will serve as executive director of the Center. Poole is the nation’s primary innovator of “conversational evangelism” and using small groups to reach spiritual seekers with the gospel. He will serve as one of the Center’s directors, along with Strobel.

“We believe the Center can become an influential force in bringing the Gospel to America in unique and relevant ways,” said Strobel. “North America has its own special challenges as a mission field, and we want to help crack the code of how we can share Jesus in a culture that’s increasingly skeptical and secular.”

The Center will spearhead numerous strategic efforts: forums for pastors; classes for students; conferences and seminars for church leaders; simulcasts to churches; newsletters and social media; and new curricula that will bring fresh vision and training to Christians and churches all over America.

“We also want the Center to be an influence for the Gospel on HBU’s campus as we offer classes, training, and outreach events specifically geared toward raising the evangelistic temperature of the school,” said Strobel. As part of that effort, Strobel is teaching a class on evangelism each fall and spring semester, working with students to encourage and equip them for personal evangelism. Interested community members may also register for these classes, which are held on campus on Thursday nights, Friday nights, and Saturdays to accommodate working adults. The next class is November 5-7. You can register online at WWW.HBU.EDU/EVANGELISMLCLASS.

HBU is already considered a premiere institution for apologetics because students have the opportunity to study with highly regarded professors such as William Lane Craig, Nancy Pearcey, and Michael Ward. Soon, said Strobel, people will also think of HBU as the leader in evangelism.



“The Case for Grace is Lee Strobel’s most personal book yet. He makes the case for the work and presence of Jesus from the inside out. This book will not only feed your mind—it will heal your heart.” – Pastor and bestselling author John Ortberg



ON STABLE G

"IN THE END, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT WE CANNOT BECOME WHAT WE NEED TO BE BY REMAINING WHAT WE ARE," business veteran of Herman Miller, Inc., and author Max DePree wrote in *The Art of Leadership*. This is precisely why the late Donald McGannon said, "Leadership is an action, not a position." Innately, we feel the impact, motivation, and attraction of an effective leader in any situation: a family, a business, a church, and a University. On September 1, 2006, the Lord sent such a visionary leader and scholar to Houston Baptist University to lead as President. He is a tested and trusted man. His life has been about leadership and innovation from his birth in Coleman, TX to when he earned the Doktor der Theologie insigni cum laude from the University of Basel Switzerland, and the fruitful career that followed. Dr. Sloan came ready to inspire and mentor fellow leaders at HBU to make an astounding mark on Houston, the nation, and world. Every step of progress, of which there have been many, only signals that something much greater is yet to come!

Difficult times call for strong, effective, compassionate leadership. America is in crisis where leadership is essential. Leadership is necessary for the nation's survival and to regain the strength characteristic of her founding. As the 2016 elections approach and as institutions of higher learning struggle to navigate in a morally degenerating culture, we need resilient leaders who will guide us with

integrity through the many obstacles our nation faces both at home, and abroad. We need **POWERFUL, EFFECTIVE LEADERS WHOSE ACTIONS AND DECISIONS ARE INFORMED BY A ROBUSTLY CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW**, and who are not afraid to charge forward in times of difficulty. Under God's gracious providence and guidance, Houston Baptist University is blessed to have such a leader in our president, Dr. Robert Sloan.

Why has God used him so effectively? Dr. Sloan has committed himself to servant leadership and reminds us of the secret of true leaders who will submit themselves to the authority of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

The truth, the gift of salvation, the word of God, the Spirit of God, moral integrity, purity, honesty, love, kindness – these are... the ways that God has called us to do His work in the world, to do whatever it takes with moral, theological, and spiritual integrity.

Do you want to be a leader? Leave that to God. If He puts you in a formal leadership role... use whatever gifts you have. Above all, do whatever God tells you to do. Know God, know His will, and obey Him, no matter what that obedience may cost you.

HBU's commitment to the highest caliber of scholarship and Christian worldview

training produces students who are uniquely trained to lead in these distinctive ways. Programs like the Center for Law and Liberty, the Center for Christianity and Business, Smith College of Liberal Arts, the College of Humanities, the Schools of Fine Arts, Christian Thought, Business, Education, Nursing and Allied Health, and the Center for American Evangelism are creatively working to mentor exactly the kind of discerning, winsome, educated, Spirit-led leaders our nation and world need.

We can inspire these future leaders because our faculty and administration are committed, gifted leaders. While many universities nationwide have endured plummeting enrollments coupled with an unstable economy, HBU is expanding and flourishing thanks to God's providence, rock-solid Christian principles, and a commitment to living out faith and reason in a great city.

LEADING THE WAY THROUGH CRISIS

For many universities, past decades of prosperity and enrollment growth are at an end. Popular blogger (InstaPundit.com) and University of Tennessee law professor Glenn Reynolds predicted in 2012 that today's "higher education bubble" will inevitably burst, just as the housing bubble burst with such disastrous personal and economic consequences a few years ago. "Bubbles



HBU'S LEADERS ARE PREPARING TODAY FOR A STRONG FUTURE

By Rachel Motte

ROUND

form when too many people expect values to go up forever," he wrote in *The Higher Education Bubble*:

Bubbles burst when there are no longer enough excessively optimistic and ignorant folks to fuel them. And there are signs that this is beginning to happen already where education is concerned... bubbles burst when people catch on, and there's some evidence that people are beginning to catch on.

It is notable that there are other educational leaders who challenge the concept of a presumed "educational bubble." What we do know is that many schools are stagnant or experiencing a decrease in enrollment. Regardless of divergent opinions, the solution is to deliver quality education that is characteristic of HBU.

Harvard Business School professor Clayton Christensen has predicted that as many as

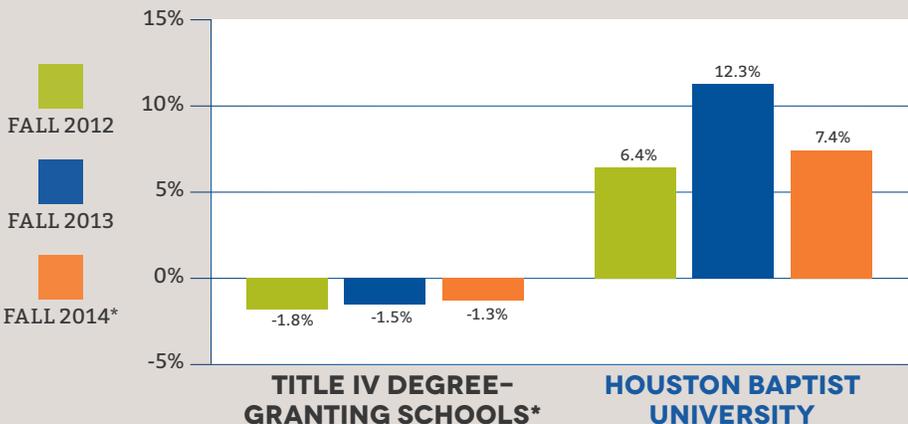
half of the more than 4,000 universities and colleges in the U.S. may fail in the next 15 years. Adding to future calculations, the growing acceptance of online learning means higher education is ripe for technological upheaval according to Dr. Christensen.

HBU's leadership team is preparing now for the future! While dozens of schools have seen drops of more than 10% in enrollment, according to Moody's Investors Service in New York, **HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO CLIMB.** Ambitious, carefully researched plans and hard work by our team, with God's blessing, will ensure record-setting enrollment for future years, HBU's fulfillment of itself as a national university, and a trans media innovation in education.

Questions regarding higher education are understandable when academia is separated from a Christian worldview, the bedrock of historic America. President Sloan is leading the vision that guarantees education reminiscent of the Christian leaders who established Harvard, Princeton, and Yale—Universities which at one time were committed to premiere education reinforced by the wisdom of the Christian faith.

National Student Clearinghouse reported a 1.3% drop in Fall 2014 enrollments (their sixth consecutive semester drop). In comparison, interest and demand for an HBU undergraduate degree continues to grow.

TERM ENROLLMENT (Percent Change from Previous Year)



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CONTINUED ▶



At a time when many schools are responding to financial difficulties by lowering religious and academic standards in an effort to attract a greater number of students, Dr. Sloan has chosen instead to expand HBU's already robust Christian curriculum and programs.

Students are taking notice. HBU MA Apologetics student Elizabeth Kendrex said in an interview,

HBU students are here because we really want to be here; we want high standards, and we want to make a difference in our communities. My last university had moved away from its Christian roots in the past few decades, and I felt that that had really affected the quality of education, the quality of leadership, and the school's whole environment as well. I wanted to come to a school that would challenge me.

Kendrex's comments are representative of a large wave of students who are dissatisfied with the educational status quo. In 2014 the National Student Clearinghouse reported that college and university enrollments have dropped for five consecutive semesters.

Concern is growing; a September report by audit, tax, and advisory firm KPMG found that 85% of education leaders surveyed are "very" or "somewhat" concerned about enrollment levels. This percentage has increased 14% since 2013. The percentage of education leaders surveyed who said

they were "not at all concerned" dropped to just 11%, down nearly 20% in two years.

Both undergraduate and graduate schools nationwide report lagging enrollment numbers; the *Philadelphia Business Journal* reports, for example, that Philadelphia-area law schools today can expect 34.6% fewer students than just five years ago. New York-area law schools have seen similar drops in enrollment, leading them to shed 11% of their faculty since 2013.

THE SOLUTION

While numerous institutions of higher learning have seen noticeable drops in enrollment in recent years, HBU has instead seen significant growth. Graduate enrollment has grown 38% since 2012, despite the fact that enrollments nationwide are lowest among students aged 24 years and older. Although first year enrollment has declined nationally by two percent at four-year private institutions, and is down one percent in Christian colleges and universities, HBU experienced an eight percent increase in first time freshmen in the fall of 2014.

HBU Vice President for Enrollment Management James Steen commented,

Interest and demand for an HBU undergraduate degree continues to grow as evidenced by applications that have risen by 58% in the past five years. Currently, freshmen applications for fall 2015 are 13% ahead of the record pace set in 2014.

Under Dr. Sloan's leadership, HBU is engaged in a comprehensive student success effort to grow enrollment by retaining more students who enroll at HBU. In 2014, Houston Baptist University was awarded a Title V Grant (for Hispanic serving institutions) worth \$2.5M to support student success and engagement. So, in addition to enrolling more new students, we are also being more intentional about helping them succeed and persist to graduation.

As a scholar himself, **DR. SLOAN HAS LED HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY TO BE REGARDED AS A LEADER IN A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT AREAS.** He understands the value and attraction of NCAA Division I sports, which builds enrollment, excitement, and enjoyment on our campus.

In addition, he launched academic programs that have distinguished HBU nationally with its one-of-a-kind faculty. Students come to HBU for nursing, business, education, the Honors College, and cinema and new media arts, in addition to the substantial courses offered in our School of Christian Thought led by renowned Christian scholars, authors, and recognized culture influencers. *The Ten Pillars* vision is clearly articulated and embraced by all our faculty and makes HBU a school you can trust as a student, a parent, or grandparent. Top-notch professors want to join HBU's faculty because of the combination of these components.

Dr. Sloan and the Trustees are moving HBU to the next level of higher education with



Strengths OF HBU

- Entrepreneurial
- Adaptive
- High Profile Hires
- Doctoral Programs
- NCAA Division I
- Houston
- Diversity
- Honors College
- Renowned Programs
- Campus Edge Project
- Support from Grants
- Improved Operations
- Increased Giving
- More Alumni Involvement
- Growing Enrollment
- Maximum Occupancy
- Christian Worldview
- The Ten Pillars
- Faculty Leadership

doctoral programs, which will build upon our graduate programs as we continue to fulfill *The Ten Pillars* vision.

THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

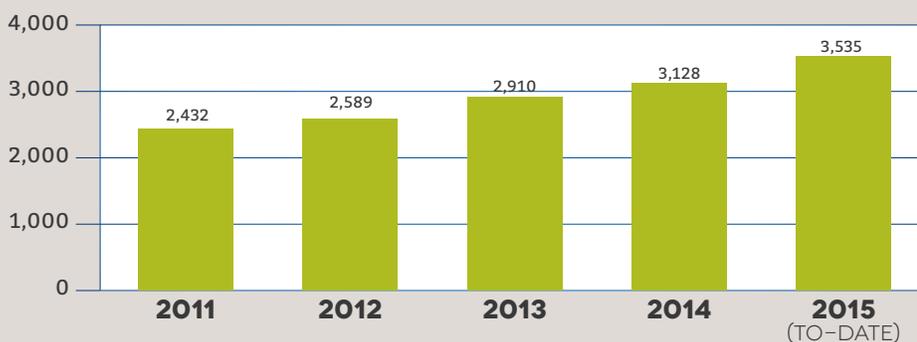
God put HBU in the right place at the right time; we are in a unique position to exercise national and international leadership from Houston, Texas. *Business Insider* recently referred to Houston as “the Best City in America.” It is by far the country’s #1 job creator and home to 26 Fortune 500 companies. But, there is more, much more. Houston is a medical mecca with the world’s largest concentration of healthcare organizations and scientists working together to find a cure to cancer. Houston’s port is the largest in terms of international tonnage handled, and third in terms of trade value—and that means even more jobs. NASA and Houston are almost

synonymous, a significant research center and employer, and Mission Control emanates from Houston. *Business Insider* documents, “When you adjust for cost of living, Houston has the highest pay in the country at \$73,418 ahead of places like the San Jose area,” with the notable distinction of high wages but extremely low costs. Housing is more affordable here. A degree from Houston Baptist University in Houston, Texas is a promise for the future. And, as is illustrated on our campus, and one of our sources of pride, Houston recently passed New York to become the most ethnically and racially diverse city in the U.S.

Dr. Billy Graham’s dedicatory sermon at Houston Baptist University takes on a whole new significance when you reflect that God has raised up HBU “at such a time as this and for this very reason.”

Currently, freshmen applications for fall 2015 are 13% ahead of the record pace set in 2014.

HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY TOTAL ENROLLMENT





The Search for **LEADERS**

*No one from the east or the west
or from the desert can exalt a man.
But it is God who judges:
He brings one down, he exalts another.*

Psalm 75:6-7

REAL LEADERS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. Constantly people and groups search for them. Throughout the Bible, God searches for leaders, too.

“The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people” (1 Samuel 13:14).

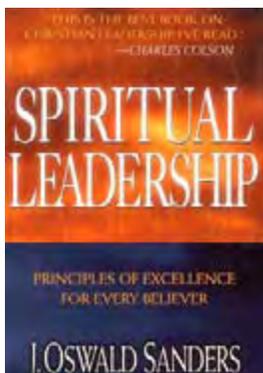
“Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and speaks the truth, I will forgive this city” (Jeremiah 5:1).

“I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall” (Ezekiel 22:30).

The Bible show us that when God does find

a person who is ready to lead, to commit to full discipleship and take on responsibility for others, that person is used to the limit. Such leaders still have shortcomings and flaws, but despite them, they become spiritual leaders. Such were Moses, Gideon, and David. And in the history of the church, Martin Luther, John Wesley, Adoniram Judson, William Carey, and many others.

To be a leader in the church has always required strength and faith beyond the merely human. Why is our need for leaders so great, and candidates for leadership so few? Every generation faces the stringent demands of spiritual leadership, and welcomes the few who come forward to serve.



Give me a man of God—one man
One mighty prophet of the Lord,
And I will give you peace on earth,
Bought with a prayer
and not a sword.

—George Liddell

“The church is painfully in need of leaders,” lamented the English Methodist preacher William Sangster. “I wait to hear a voice and no voice comes ... I would rather listen than speak—but there is no clarion voice to listen to.”

If the world is to hear the church’s voice today, leaders are needed who are authoritative, spiritual, and sacrificial. Authoritative, because people desire leaders who know where they are going and are confident of getting there. Spiritual, because without a strong relationship to God, even the most attractive and competent person cannot lead people to God. Sacrificial, because this follows the model of Jesus, who gave himself for the whole world and who calls us to follow in His steps.

Churches grow in every way when they are guided by strong, spiritual leaders with the touch of the supernatural radiating in their service. The church sinks into confusion and malaise without such leadership. Today those who preach with majesty and spiritual power are few, and the booming voice of the church has become a pathetic whisper. Leaders today—those who are truly spiritual—must pass on the torch to younger people as a first-line duty.

Many people regard leaders as naturally gifted with intellect, personal forcefulness, and enthusiasm. Such qualities certainly enhance leadership potential, but they do not define the spiritual leader. True leaders must be willing to suffer for the sake of objectives great enough to demand their wholehearted obedience.

Spiritual leaders are not elected, appointed, or created by synods or churchly assemblies. God alone makes them. One does not become a spiritual leader by merely filling an office, taking course work in the subject, or resolving in one’s own will to do this task. A person must qualify to be a spiritual leader.

Often truly authoritative leadership falls on someone who years earlier sought to practice the discipline of seeking first the kingdom of God. Then, as that person matures, God confers a leadership role, and the Spirit of God goes to work through him. When God’s searching eye finds a person qualified to lead, God anoints that person with the Holy Spirit and calls him or her to a special ministry (Acts 9:17; 22:21).

Samuel Brengle, a gifted leader who served for many years in the Salvation Army, outlined the road to spiritual authority and leadership:

It is not won by promotion, but by many prayers and tears. It is attained by confession of sin, and much heartsearching and humbling before God; by self-surrender, a courageous sacrifice of every idol, a bold uncomplaining embrace of the cross, and by an eternal, unfaltering looking unto Jesus crucified. It is not gained by seeking great things for ourselves, but like Paul, by counting those things that are gain to us as loss for Christ. This is a great price, but it must be paid by the leader who would not be merely a nominal but a real spiritual leader of men, a leader whose power is recognized and felt in heaven, on earth, and in hell.

God wants to show such people how strong He really is (2 Chronicles 16:9). But not all who aspire to leadership are willing to pay such a high personal price. Yet there is no compromise here: in the secret reaches of the heart this price is paid, before any public office or honor. Our Lord made clear to James and John that high position in the kingdom of God is reserved for those whose hearts—even the secret places where no one else probes—are qualified. God’s sovereign searching of our hearts, and then His call to leadership, are awesome to behold. And they make a person very humble.

One last thing must be said, a kind of warning. If those who hold influence over others fail to lead toward the spiritual uplands, then surely the path to the lowlands will be well worn. People travel together; no one lives detached and alone.



*This chapter is excerpted from
J. Oswald Sanders’ classic work
Spiritual Leadership,
© 1994. Used with permission
of Moody Publishers.*



Family Firsts

By Kim Andrews

With a multitude of cousins and two older brothers who never graduated from high school, earning a college degree was not a path Thalia San Roman could simply assume for her life.

“Coming from a Hispanic family of mostly single mothers, more emphasis is placed on working and providing than going to college,” explained Thalia. But despite losing everything in Hurricane Katrina and being diagnosed with an autoimmune disease called lupus, Thalia overcame her family background and is now thriving at HBU, in part because of a new campus initiative called the Gen1 Success Program.

Like Thalia, first-generation college students (FGCS) are often highly motivated, hard working, and academically qualified. Yet national studies find these students are less likely to complete their college education, for several reasons. Even if FGCS manage to navigate the unfamiliar and sometimes tricky path of college admissions, they are often derailed by a lack of financial options. Just completing the required Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for financial aid can be a daunting task, particularly if parents are unsupportive or unable to provide practical assistance.

Once on campus, FGCS find themselves in a new world with its own jargon and rules. “There are a lot of things about the

university system that are unfamiliar and can be intimidating to FGCS,” said Megan Mueller, director of HBU’s Academic Success Center. “For instance, we throw around titles like Registrar and Dean, and we talk about course numbers and degree programs.” Feeling disoriented by things others take for granted at the same time they are worried about finding a peer group can exacerbate fears many FGCS have that maybe they don’t belong on a college campus.

Many FGCS come from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and financial concerns weigh heavily on them. They tend to work more hours than other students, which can keep them from participating in campus activities that are strongly



cerns, test anxiety, and adjusting to greater academic rigor—those challenges are exacerbated for FGCS because they typically don't have the benefit of social capital or family support to work through them.

Approximately 25% of HBU students are FGCS, and the University is committed to helping these students flourish. After researching effective strategies, a pilot program with 26 first-generation freshmen was launched in the fall of 2013. Despite very limited funding, and therefore limited programming, the results for that initial cohort were quite successful: 77% of program participants came back for their sophomore year in the fall of 2014, which was the same fall-to-fall retention rate as for non-FGCS over the same period.

The positive results of the pilot program led to the implementation of a comprehensive Gen1 Success Program for 2014-2015. The program is based on best practices for helping FGCS survive and thrive in the crucial freshman year. Components include:

- A weeklong **SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM** that immerses students in the college experience and helps them develop friend groups before classes even begin
- **ACADEMIC SKILL-BUILDING SEMINARS**, and a tutoring requirement to help build strong study habits
- **MENTORING** by faculty, staff, and successful first-generation upperclassmen
- **LIFE SKILL WORKSHOPS** on topics such as financial responsibility, career and calling, and student employment opportunities

A pilot program with 26 first-generation freshmen was launched in the fall of 2013.

Each element of the program is designed to address the most common difficulties faced by FGCS. For example, the Summer Bridge component provides an early opportunity to acclimate to college life. Last July, Gen1 program participants lived on campus for five days, made friends, heard talks about transitioning from high school to college, and met peer mentors who would guide them through their freshman year. They also met faculty and staff who answered questions about financial aid, registration, and opportunities to get involved in campus organizations. Some sessions were designed to address concerns and build confidence, including one where students were asked to write down fears they had about college on Post-it notes and place them on a wall. First generation students who were returning as sophomores each chose a Post-it note and told the incoming freshmen how they had addressed that anxiety

associated with student success (study groups, social clubs, university-sponsored events).

Like the broader freshman population, FGCS find college more academically challenging than high school. The difference is that FGCS are more likely to harbor doubts about their academic abilities and be more easily discouraged by a disappointing grade on a paper or test. FGCS usually cannot turn to their parents for academic help and may be too embarrassed to utilize campus resources such as tutoring even if they know about them.

Though many of the challenges FGCS face are common throughout the student body—social integration, financial con-

GREGORY JONES, JR.



Major:
Psychology

Career aspiration:
high school counselor and football coach

Extracurricular activities:
Husky football defensive lineman

Quote: I was feeling down after the first semester. Balancing football, finances, and everything else was rough. I didn't know if I was coming back. But the staff and peers I met through Gen1 helped me realize everything I had been working so hard for is worth it.

Advice to other Gen1 students: Don't be afraid to talk to other students, professors, and people on staff. That network will help you a lot and make things go much smoother.

successfully. Such modeling by peers from a similar background has proven to be a simple yet powerful way to encourage FGCS to persevere.

The Summer Bridge program also served to set parents of these FGCS at ease. Parents were invited to join their students for a welcome dinner followed by a session where they could ask questions. Spanish-speaking staff were on hand to speak to parents who needed translation.

During the fall and spring semesters, Gen1 Success students attend monthly lunch and learn workshops that cover topics such as test-taking strategies and how to write a research paper. Workshops also address life skills such as building an effective résumé and how to be financially responsible with credit cards and student loans. Tutoring and study hall requirements help students build habits of consistency and normalize reaching out for help before they reach a point of academic desperation.

Mentoring has proven to be a critical component of support for FGCS. For the pilot program, each student was paired with a staff member. Thalia San Roman said her staff mentor, Pam Netter, helped her in many ways: "Pam got me connected to people and activities on campus. I wasn't pursuing God when I came to HBU, and she encouraged me to develop my spiritual walk and put God first. Anytime I was struggling or had questions about a Bible verse, she guided me through it."

Gen1 Success student Christian Wiggins also expressed appreciation for her staff mentor, Megan Mueller. Christian has a difficult family background that includes witnessing drug addiction and physical and emotional abuse. After years of feeling like she was "alone in the fight" to

make something of her life, she says, "It's really nice to have someone who will make time to talk when you're going through trying times. Now I have people fighting alongside me. I can't even begin to describe how much of a comfort that is."

So far, Gen1 Success is exceeding all expectations. An impressive 92% of Fall 2014 Gen1 program freshman returned to campus for the Spring 2015 semester. That ratio is 11% better than the fall-to-spring retention rate for first-generation freshmen who weren't part of the Gen1 Success Program. Most surprisingly, the Gen1 participant retention rate surpassed that of non-FGCS, which stands at 88% for the same time period.

Beyond helping these students persevere until graduation, the Gen1 program is turning at-risk students into leaders. Christian and Thalia, now sophomores, serve as peer mentors to freshmen Gen1 students. Both young women say they are motivated by the positive impact mentoring has had on their lives. "**I WANT GEN1 FRESHMEN TO KNOW THEY HAVE A SUPPORT SYSTEM** and people who genuinely care about where they're headed. I want them to know others believe they can do good, true, and beautiful things with their lives," said Christian. Thalia said being a Gen1 peer mentor is one of her proudest accomplishments and that she feels like a "mother hen" to the freshmen Gen1 students. Fellow Gen1 mentor

25%

of HBU students are the first in their families to attend college



Fall-Spring retention rate of "Gen1" students

CHRISTIAN WIGGINS



Major:
Cinema & New Media Arts, Spanish minor (HBU Honors College)

Career aspiration:
documentary film producer, making films that show truth and make people think

Extracurricular activities:
Gen1 Mentor, works at HBU's Bradshaw Fitness Center

Quote: Being the first one in my family to earn a college degree is both inspiring and intimidating; however, with a program like Gen1, the task doesn't seem nearly as impossible.

Advice to other Gen1 students: Don't quit because it's hard at first and everything isn't working out immediately. Give it some time. It may take more than one semester to figure out where you belong.

RICHARD VILLATORO



Major:
Cinema & New Media Arts, Biology minor

Career aspiration:
emergency medicine doctor

Extracurricular activities:
Gen1 peer mentor, student orientation leader, Alpha Epsilon Delta (pre-med society), Filipino Student Association historian, HBU Collective blogger, part-time photographer and videographer for HBU

Quote: I want to say thank you to donors who made the Gen1 program possible. You are an answer to my prayers. The Gen1 Success Program is making a huge impact on first generation students and their families.

Advice to other Gen1 students: One way college is different from high school is that you can actually have a relationship with the staff and your professors. Don't be afraid to ask them questions. Here at HBU, they all have a relationship with Christ, and having that kind of support has been awesome.

Beyond helping these students persevere until graduation, the Gen1 program is turning at-risk students into leaders.

Richard Villatoro said, "I was nervous at first because I didn't think I'd be much help to freshmen FGCS. But they had lots of questions I could answer, and I helped their Spanish-speaking parents with questions about financial aid."

The son of Hispanic laborers, Richard is now a student orientation leader and writer for the HBU Collective, a student blog. He and Thalia are largely responsible for organizing monthly activities for the Gen1 students in their roles as co-chairs of the Gen1 Peer Mentor program. Gen1 Success **STUDENTS ARE ALSO BECOMING LEADERS IN THEIR IMMEDIATE AND EXTENDED FAMILIES.** Many speak of positively influencing siblings or cousins to set their sights on completing high school and

getting a college degree. Thalia's mother jokes that she "wants to be like Thalia" when she grows up.

Football player and Gen1 pilot program participant Greg Jones is the second oldest of nine siblings. "I want to set an example for my younger brothers and sisters," he said. They are definitely watching him and some are already talking about going to college at HBU. Yet Greg, like many of his peers, might not have made it through his freshman year without the support he found through Gen1. "Gen1 made me feel like I didn't have to walk this path alone," he explained. "There are others who also need guidance and this program helped us make the transition."

For now, the program is limited to around 20% of first-generation students. Because the program has proven so effective, administrators want to make it available to all FGCS who desire to participate as funding allows.

Though the Gen1 Success Program is still in its early stages, the relational care and program resources invested in these students are already bearing good fruit. "HBU is a place of growth and opportunity, and I have been incredibly blessed by my time here," said Christian. "I am a different person now." Furthermore, Christian and her peers seem to understand that God is blessing them in order to make them a blessing to others. Helping these students change the course of their lives is also changing the trajectory of generations that follow. "I know it will be different for my kids," said Richard.

For more information about how you can help with program expenses or scholarships for deserving first generation students, please contact Charles Bacarisse at CBacarisse@hbu.edu or (281) 649-3428.

THALIA SAN ROMAN



Major:
Psychology

Career aspiration:
speech pathologist

Extracurricular activities:
Gen1 peer mentor, American Red Cross, Best Buddies

Quote: Even though statistics say I'm at high risk to drop out of college, I'm really motivated to keep on striving and succeeding because I know my family members and the freshman Gen1 students I mentor are watching me.

Advice to other Gen1 students: Take advantage of the resources offered by the Academic Success Center (ASC). Without the required study hours and tutoring that are part of the Gen1 program I would have tried to figure everything out on my own, but the ASC really helped me do well academically.

Spirit of 2014 *Excellence*

By Kim Andrews

ON NOVEMBER 11, more than 500 faculty, staff, and friends of HBU gathered at the Hilton Houston Post Oak Hotel to celebrate the 2014 Spirit of Excellence Gala. ESPN college football analyst Lou Holtz mesmerized guests with humorous stories and an amazing magic trick, even as he inspired them with leadership insights gleaned from his career as one of the most successful college football coaches of all time.

During the event, chaired by Dr. Diane and Stanley Williams with honorary chairs Janice and Robert McNair, HBU honored Linda Davis and Bruce Williams, Sharon and William Morris, and The Cullen Trust for Higher Education with its highest tribute, the Spirit of Excellence Award. In addition, President Sloan recognized Dr. Archie and Linda Dunham and Janice and Robert McNair with the President's Award. Each of these honorees is to



be commended for their commitment to Christian higher education and their outstanding leadership, which have been instrumental to the academic and spiritual strength of Houston Baptist University.

Honorees were surprised by a montage of video tributes from select friends and colleagues who attested to their strength of character, generosity, and remarkable leadership. One of the video tributes featured George W. Bush, 43rd president of the United States, who made a special appearance to honor Janice and Bob McNair.

The biennial event raised \$535,475 to provide scholarships for undergraduate students attending HBU.

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SPECIAL THANKS

Hilton Houston Post Oak Hotel

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Master of Ceremonies Spencer Tillman addresses the Gala audience at the beautiful Hilton Houston Post Oak Hotel



Dr. Sloan with award recipients Sharon & William Morris



Dr. Sloan with award recipients Linda Davis & Bruce Williams



Corbin Robertson accepts award for Cullen Trust for Higher Education



Dr. Sloan with award recipients Robert and Janice McNair



Cyndi & Keith Jacobson



Kelly & Gregg Matte



Dr. Robert & Sue Sloan with Lou Holtz



Dr. Barbara Taylor-Cox & Ray Cox



Michael Collins, Stewart Morris III & Stewart Morris, Jr.



Sherry & Jim Smith



Stephen & Star Smith



Scott & Soraya McClelland with Janice & Robert McNair



Randy McIlvoy with Lou Holtz



Dr. Sloan, Spencer Tillman, Lou Holtz, Vic Shealy & Robert McNair



Lisa & Jerry Simon with Lou Holtz



Diane & Stanley Williams



A Generous Invitation

MORRIS EXTENDS OPPORTUNITY TO WHARTON STUDENTS

By Kim Andrews

HBU FOUNDING FATHER STEWART MORRIS announced he will endow a \$1M scholarship. The Stewart Morris Endowed Scholarship will enable transfer students from Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) and high school graduates of Wharton Independent School District (ISD) and surrounding small towns to pursue an undergraduate degree at Houston Baptist University. Preference will be given to first-generation college students.

“Stewart Morris is a truly great and generous man,” said HBU President Sloan, noting that Morris has supported Christian higher education for almost 60 years. “He has been a champion for students since the 1950s when he and others laid the philosophical and financial foundation for what would become HBU. Now this scholarship will enable many more young people from small towns like Wharton to receive the academically rigorous and distinctively Christian education we offer.”

Dr. Morris said he was inspired to endow the scholarships by the former superintendent of the Wharton ISD, Dr. Maria Kay Shoppa,

whose lifelong career has been dedicated to education of youth in the Wharton area. In his inimitable style, Dr. Morris summed up the importance of a great education this way, “If you go bankrupt, they can take your car and your house. But no one can take away your education.”

King Davis, current superintendent of Wharton ISD, expressed excitement for students in his district. “These generous scholarships will afford selected students a world-class education close to their hometown,” he said. The president of Wharton County Junior College, Betty McCrohan, is also enthusiastic about this new opportunity for WCJC students. “Many Wharton County Junior College students continue on to a four-year institution, but this scholarship will enable them to attend a very prestigious university,” she said.

Many thanks to Dr. Morris, who continues to change the lives of many young men and women through his support of Christian higher education at HBU.

Culture Influencers

HBU FACULTY are devoted to their students, but they are also committed to excellence in their fields and to impacting our culture for Christ. Here is just a sampling of what they are up to beyond the campus gates.

MICHAEL R. COLLINS, artist-in-residence (painter) and director of the MFA program, was invited to participate in a group exhibition in Dallas at the McKinney Avenue Contemporary (MAC) for an important survey entitled MAC@20 Part II in November 2014. The exhibit celebrated the diversity and quality of Texas contemporary art that has been shown in previous years at the MAC.

DR. DAVID J. DAVIS, director of the Master of Liberal Arts and assistant professor in history, published the chapter "Godly Visions and Idolatrous Sights: Images of Divine Revelation in Early English Bibles" in *Crosscurrents in Illustrated Religious Texts in Northern Europe, 1500-1800*. He also published "Putting the Newspaper in Its Place: The Long History of News Media" in the July/ August 2014 edition of *Books & Culture*.



DR. CHARLOTTE FONTENOT, assistant professor of special education in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, was elected to serve on the board of the Texas Division for Early Childhood (DEC). She will serve as the division's secretary from 2014 - 2016. DEC is one of seventeen divisions of the Council for Exceptional Children, the largest professional organization

dedicated to improving the educational success of individuals with disabilities and/or gifts and talents.



DR. COLLIN GARBARINO, assistant professor of history, published several online articles, including: "The Foolishness of an Ebola Doctor" at *First Things*, "Moral Relativists in the University: They Aren't Who You Think They Are" at *Canon & Culture*, and "Apocalypse Now and Then: America, Rome, and the City of God" at *Fare Forward, a Christian Review of Ideas*.

DR. CHRIS HAMMONS, dean of the School of Humanities and professor of government, spoke about the "Voyage of the Mayflower Pilgrims" at the Descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims annual Houston colony luncheon on November 23, 2014.

DR. JEREMIAH JOHNSTON, associate professor of early Christianity and director of the Christian Thinkers Society, a resident institute of HBU, will film segments for a six-week Bible study called *How Do You Explain That?* for Lifeway Publishing in Houston during the month of April.

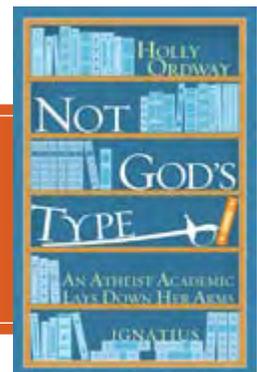
DR. MICAH MATTIX, assistant professor of writing and literature, published numerous essays and reviews, including: "A Master of Poetic Deadpan" in *The City*, "The Dark Lady of Letters" in *The Wall Street Journal*, and "Go Down Swinging" in *The Weekly Standard*.

PRESIDENT ROBERT B. SLOAN, JR., served as a panelist at the 2014 National Conference of The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, on October 27, 2014. The topic was "The State of Marriage in American Culture." Dr. Sloan also filmed a course on Philippians for Logos Mobile Ed on location in Bellingham, Washington in January 2015. The study will be available at www.logos.com.

LEE STROBEL, professor of Christian thought, was featured in an article in the *Houston Chronicle* on February 9, 2015. The piece discussed Lee's relationship with his father and his conversion story, and mentioned that he is an HBU faculty member and teaching pastor at the Woodlands Church in the Woodlands, Texas.

DR. YURI YATSENKO, professor in business, co-authored "Sustainable Strategies of Environmental Protection: Modeling and Optimization," presented at the Annual Mathematical Society's Special Session on Mathematics in Natural Resource Modeling in San Antonio in January 2015. The meeting had more than 6,000 participants from the U.S. and abroad.

DR. HOLLY ORDWAY, director of the MA in Apologetics, recently re-published her memoir of conversion, *Not God's Type: An Atheist Academic Lays Down Her Arms*. This second edition from publisher Ignatius is revised and expanded, with much more on imaginative and literary apologetics. Dr. Ordway appeared on *Fox & Friends* to discuss the book on October 19, 2014.





Meet the New Dean of Business

The HBU family extends a warm welcome to Dr. Michael Weeks, new dean of the School of Business. The former Air Force pilot comes to us from the University of Tampa, where he served as an associate professor and Senior Associate Director for the TECO Energy Center for Leadership. Though Dr. Weeks won't be joining us on campus until July 1, 2015, he is already strategizing and making plans with HBU's excellent business school faculty.

Dr. Weeks' research and teaching have focused on innovation management, organizational theory, leadership in crisis situations, and issues involving technology and the organization. We asked him to share some findings from his research.

Leading in Crisis

by Michael R. Weeks



I am honored that Dr. Sloan has given me the opportunity to serve HBU's faculty and students as the next Dean of the School of Business. HBU's Christ-centered mission puts us in a strong position to build innovative leaders of character who will positively impact the business world.

During the next few years we will grow and become stronger as we seek AACSB accreditation—the highest level of accreditation for business schools worldwide. The accreditation process demands that we think deeply about our mission and our outcomes, and the result should be a tightly focused and effective curriculum that prepares our students for the challenges ahead.

We will also review our research efforts as we move through the accreditation process. As a teaching-focused institution, our research should be relevant to practitioners, students, and academics. We want to balance the relevance and rigor of our research to engage the business community and our students with practical outcomes.

During the past few years, I have been working with a colleague, Deirdre Dixon, on a project that illustrates this balance. Dr. Dixon and I are both retired military officers and have an interest in how military leaders perform under the extreme pressure of combat environments. Our research project explores how leaders make sense of *in extremis* situations and lead others in dire circumstances. Specifically, *in extremis* refers to situations in which the leader's life is in peril. To look at what happens in these dynamic environments, we began by interviewing military officers who had recently returned from combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. From those interviews we developed and distributed a survey to a larger group of combat veterans. As the research has progressed, we have also surveyed first responders (police and firefighters).

Our research has found that leaders' sensemaking processes are tied to their team members' identity construction and situational awareness. Team members in combat groups tend to have strong identification with their jobs and this sometimes constrains them in a crisis. Crises require adapt-

ability and team members often fail to perform new roles when the environment shifts. For example, combat soldiers may need to provide medical aid to wounded comrades, but they are reluctant to drop their weapons and stop engaging the enemy due to their identities as riflemen. We have found that teaching leaders to articulate roles rather than tasks sometimes clarifies the situation for team members. An army leader may need to say, "I need a [medical] corpsman or a litter bearer," rather than "I need someone to render aid." Corpsman and litter bearer are roles with expectations that soldiers understand. Speaking in roles rather than tasks is a more efficient way to communicate under stress.

In extremis environments are leadership situations that most of us will never encounter—thankfully. Nevertheless, I have found a great deal of interest in this topic from business leaders. Many business leaders recognize that, while lives are not threatened in their organizations, they frequently face crisis situations that raise similar issues. For example, mergers and acquisitions are stressful settings that require adaptability from leaders and team members alike. Will the new structure require a new identity for workers? Can leaders shape their change message around roles and identities rather than tasks?

WE WANT THE RESEARCH PROJECTS FROM THE HBU SCHOOL OF BUSINESS TO PROVIDE VALUE TO OUR STUDENTS AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

The scholars in our business school need the support of the business community to produce useful research. If you have a question about how a research project designed for your organization might provide value, please reach out to us. Conversely, if you would like the faculty to present their latest research to your group, we are happy to provide executive education opportunities. We want to engage with the local and regional business communities for the benefit of our stakeholders.

I look forward to meeting many alumni and the other members of the HBU community when I arrive in July. In the meantime, I can be reached at mweeks@hbu.edu.

Recruiting for National Influence



DR. PHILIP NATION

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LEADERSHIP
AND BIBLICAL STUDIES

Dr. Nation is the Director of Content Development with the Resources Division of LifeWay Christian Resources. He also serves as a Teaching Pastor for The Fellowship, a multisite church in Nashville, Tennessee. Philip holds a Master of Divinity from Beeson Divinity School and Doctor of Ministry from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Philip has written and edited numerous books and articles, and is a frequent

speaker in churches and conferences. He has served as a pastor, minister of education, and church planter. From 2010 to 2012, Philip served as the national spokesperson for the “National Back to Church Sunday” campaign from Outreach, Inc.

Philip and his wife, Angie, make their home in Tennessee, with their two sons, Andrew and Chris.



JORDAN SEKULOW

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Mr. Sekulow is the Executive Director of the American Center for Law and Justice. He is host of Jay Sekulow Live!, a syndicated radio program providing cutting analysis of today’s political and legal landscape with elected officials and conservative leaders, as well as the host of *Sekulow*, the ACLJ’s weekly television broadcast.

Jordan Sekulow oversees much of the ACLJ’s international work, engaging with government officials and international leaders on human rights issues around the world.

Jordan Sekulow has extensive background as a conservative grassroots political organizer. He served as the National Youth Director for the Bush-Cheney 2004 presidential campaign and as a consultant to former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney’s 2008 presidential campaign.



Jordan Sekulow regularly appears as a guest commentator on Fox News, MSNBC, CNN, and other national media outlets, where he is chosen for his expert analysis of complex legal issues and his conservative political savvy. He was a contributor to the *Washington Post*’s “On Faith” section with his own *Washington Post* blog entitled “Religious Right Now” from 2010-2013, where he covered social conservatives’ involvement in shaping America’s legal, political, and cultural landscape. He also publishes articles for various nationally renowned conservative and mainstream publications such as the *Washington Times*, *The Daily Caller*, *Human Events*, and the *National Review Online*.

In 2014, Jordan was appointed a Visiting Fellow of Oxford University at Harris Manchester College. He also serves as a member of the Summer Research Institute at Oxford from 2014 to 2016.

Sekulow is a graduate of Regent University School of Law in Virginia Beach, VA, where he served as co-founder and Editor-in-Chief of the *Regent Journal of Law and Public Policy*. Sekulow is also a graduate of George Washington University and earned his Master of Laws degree (LL.M.) in International Human Rights from the Georgetown Law Center.

PROFESSORSHIP BEGINS AFTER THE
2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Alumna *Katie Kuhlman* Receives Coveted Award

By Kim Andrews

2014 HBU graduate Katie Kuhlman was recently honored as the **SECONDARY STUDENT TEACHER OF THE YEAR** by the Texas Directors of Field Experience. Each year student teachers across the state are evaluated based on a written lesson plan, their reflections on teaching, and a video of them delivering a lesson to a class. Katie was selected for the prestigious award because of her strengths in classroom management, varied instructional strategies, effective interpersonal skills, and implementation of teaching and learning methodologies.

The composite social studies education major completed her student teaching practicum at Hastings High School (Alief Independent School District), where she taught world history to tenth-graders. She attributes her love for teaching social studies to her experience living abroad as a child. During the four-and-a-half years her family lived in Germany, Katie became fluent in German and was able to visit more than 20 countries with her parents. "I developed a passion for other cultures and for world history," said Katie. "My firsthand experiences help me to enhance my teaching with personal stories and fun facts that make the lessons more interesting.



I've found that when a teacher is passionate about the subject matter, students care about what they are learning just a little bit more."

Katie grew up around many elementary school teachers, including her mother and grandmother, and had considered teaching as one of several career options. But it was her "amazing professors" who inspired her to actively pursue teaching, specifically at the secondary level. "Many people couldn't understand why I'd want to teach high school, because they think high-schoolers are scary," said Katie. "But high-schoolers can also be inspiring. They are able to think critically and they care about social injustices. High school students are capable of really making a difference in the world," she explained, "and I consider having an influence on them a true privilege."

Since her graduation, Katie has been hired by Hastings High School to teach world history fulltime. Congratulations to Katie, and to our College of Education and Behavioral Science professors for equipping HBU graduates to be outstanding teachers.

"No matter how many times I might want to rip my hair out because I'm overwhelmed, all it takes is just **one student** doing **their best** and **succeeding** to make it all worthwhile. There is nothing **more rewarding** than **seeing my students grow.**"

—Katie Kuhlman



HBU
HOME COMING
2014



Colin Montgomerie

among 25 **All-Time Best Athletes**
from Christian Colleges

Houston Baptist alum Colin Montgomerie is a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame. He graduated from HBU in 1987 and helped lead the Huskies to three straight NCAA Tournament appearances in 1985, 1986 and 1987. While at HBU, he was the Trans America Athletic Conference Player of the Year in 1985 and set the conference tournament record that season with an 11-under 205. Montgomerie was a member of the first HBU Sports Hall of Honor class in 1997.

Montgomerie, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, captained the Europeans to victory at the 2010 Ryder Cup and was one of the most accomplished players in the history of the event. In the four major championships, Montgomerie had 10 top-10 finishes with runner-up showings at the 1994, 1997 and 2006 U.S. Opens, the 1995 and 2005 Open Championships, as well as the 1995 PGA Championship. His best finish at The Masters was a tie for eighth in 1998.



HBU tops Southland Conference in Graduation Success Rate

HBU recorded an overall score of 87, the highest score among Southland Conference institutions, in the latest Graduation Success Rate (GSR) report released by the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association), which reflects the 2006-12 time period.

The Huskies had six programs register **PERFECT 100 SCORES**: men's and women's golf, men's and women's track and field, volleyball and softball. HBU was also able to record a high score, despite the period reflecting its time during its transition back to NCAA Division I status.

"We are proud of our student-athletes for what they have achieved and are achieving in the classroom," said director of Athletics Steve Moniaci. "This report underscores the expectation of each student-athlete, that if they come to HBU, the vast majority of them will leave with their degree."



BIBBINS

FEATURED IN

COLLEGE GRIDIRON SHOWCASE

HBU SENIOR TIGHT END KENNETH BIBBINS was selected by a panel of football experts to compete in the College Gridiron Showcase Saturday, Jan. 31 at UT Arlington's Maverick Stadium.

The 6-foot-5, 242-pound Sugar Land, Texas, native and Kemper High School graduate displayed his talents in front of scouts and executives from the National Football League, Canadian Football League and Arena Football League.

The Guild

Dr. Sloan presented Martha Turner with a rare, framed Bible page with a verse specifically chosen to honor her career: Proverbs 31:16 "She considers a field and buys it."



10 Action Steps for Walking in Faith

by Martha Turner

1. Put God first.
2. Believe in yourself.
3. Be flexible.
4. Be prepared for opportunities.
5. Love what you do.
6. Have unlimited imagination.
7. Open yourself to change.
8. Enjoy EVERY day.
9. Learn to forgive.
10. Take charge of your life.



HBU trustee Martha Turner of Sotheby's International Realty delighted guests with her keynote speech, which was full of humorous and touching personal anecdotes. She shared how faith in Christ has carried her through the most difficult and the most joyful times in her remarkable life, and challenged guests with ten specific action steps for walking in faith.



Deany Meinke, Cheryl Kaminski, and Judy Craig



Jan Witham, Anne Roper, Shelby Hooper, Sharon Saunders

MEMBERS OF THE GUILD SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS STUDENTS by raising funds for graduate scholarships in education and theology. On Dec. 5, 2014, event co-chairs Deany Meinke, Cheryl Kaminski, and Judy Craig hosted a beautiful and inspirational Guild Christmas Luncheon at River Oaks Country Club. One of the graduate scholarship beneficiaries, Shelby Hooper, addressed luncheon guests to express her appreciation to The Guild for enabling her to pursue her degree at HBU. Shelby is the 2014 recipient of the Sharon Saunders Endowed Scholarship.

The Guild also sponsors projects to strengthen the Christian family through teaching, research, and outreach. During the luncheon, Guild President Jan Witham presented Dr. Sloan with a gift of \$10,000 for The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies Endowment to support that mission.



Beverly Boykin, Mary Margaret Mann, and Madeline Collier

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM SOCIETY (AMS) supports HBU's Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts through fundraising and a series of events and activities that promote the museum to the community. Led this year by President **Dana Grigsby**, the group holds regular meetings featuring historical presentations relevant to the Museum's offerings. On February 9, 2015, AMS held its annual Museum Day Luncheon, chaired by Beverly Boykin. Members and guests were delighted by actress and author Mary Margaret Mann's presentation "Love is Eternal," a theatrical portrait of President Abraham Lincoln's wife, Mary Todd Lincoln.

70s

DIANNA GARCIA SMITH '73 returned to Texas after 35 years in Arizona to teach in the online RN-BSN program for the University of Texas (UT). She also continued her Nursing Informatics research in clinical information systems at UT. "I have been busy as a Faculty Senate officer planning for the new UT- Rio Grande Valley. However, I will be retiring next year so I recently moved to NYC with my daughter's family. This will be my new life adventure!"

80s

In his latest book, *Dirty Faith*, former Texas Baptist pastor **DAVID NOWELL '81** shares his passion for ministry to millions of nameless, faceless children.

90s

TIM HALL '96 is pastoring the Community Bible Church in Butterfield, Minnesota. He and wife Mary will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary this coming August. His daughter is in her freshman year of college and his son is a freshman in high school.

00s

LANCE HOLLIS '01 was recently promoted to assistant vice president of database architecture at Woodforest National Bank.

JESS ROGERS '00, MED '02 is founder, president, and CEO of TutorVille, a homegrown tutoring company. After graduating from HBU, Jess taught sixth-grade math at St. Francis Episcopal Day School for seven years. She launched TutorVille in 2009; the company now boasts a brand new 4000 sq. ft. office, employs over 250 tutors, and services over 750 students in grades pre-k through college.

BRADLEY D. HARVEY MBA '03 is the president of Nerdies/Arties, Inc., an alternative learning company in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

BILL HARVEY '04 serves as director of Funeral Service Technology at Mississippi

Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston, Mississippi.

CHRIS CHESNEY MBA '07 is vice president, senior credit review officer in the Enterprise Risk Management department at Cadence Bank.

LESLEY KENDALL PEREZ '08 and husband Said have been married 10 years this year. They have a four-year-old son, Yeshua, and a two-year-old daughter, Bethsaida. Said and Lesley work for Young Life and do ministry together. Lesley has started homeschooling her kids using Classical Conversations. "The LORD has been good to us. I miss my fellow Huskies and hope to slow down enough to re-connect with them soon. Thank you, HBU Family, for all you did to help us become who we are. Dawgs up!"

RACHEL O'SHIELDS DAVID '09 is a stakeholder relations advisor at Conoco Phillips.

10s

CANDICE BRASHER '11 is a 2nd-grade teacher. "It has been three years since I graduated from HBU and there isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about all my adventures there. I am very blessed that the Lord led me to a job where I am needed and making a difference. My kids are growing up way too fast, but I do look forward to sending my son to HBU, where I learned so much."

Congratulations to **MIRANDA MARTIN FREITAG '11** on her marriage in July 2014.

CHRISTA HALL '11 was engaged this past fall to Timothy Langolf. They are planning a November wedding.

ANGEL RIVERA '12 is serving with Now Missions as a campus missionary at the University of Houston.

GRACE PARMER ROSALES '12 married Paul Rosales on October 11, 2014 in Belin Chapel on the HBU campus. Grace is a recipient of the HBU President's Award. She was part of the first graduating class of the Honors College and received the very first Honors College award. The newlyweds live in Stafford, Texas.

BEN DANIELS '14 is an operations support analyst at Shell Trading.

CHRISTOPHER ESPINOZA '14, a recent BFA graduate, has been awarded an internship with the Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

HUSKY PUPS

Andrew Joseph Beames was born on July 31, 2014 to Stephanie and **CALEB BEAMES '09**.



BRYCE BURCH '02, his wife Jennifer, and their son Bryce welcomed baby girl Brynna Margaret Burch on November 10, 2014. Bryce serves on HBU's Alumni Board of Directors.

Perrin Grace Childers was born to **ALLYN '06 & BRANDON '06 CHILDERS** on Oct 25, 2014. Big brothers Holden and Ender were excited to welcome their new baby sister.

RYAN YARRINGTON '05 and **ALYSSA JOHNS YARRINGTON '07** welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Emery Margaret Yarrington, on April 3, 2014.

PRESIDENT AND MRS. SLOAN are thrilled to announce the birth of their 18th grandchild, a granddaughter, Merrill (Mary) Carson Macfarlan, born on January 27, 2015. She was welcomed by her proud parents, Sophie and Mac Macfarlan, and siblings Sloan, Madden, and Milly. The whole family is praising God for this wonderful blessing!



In Memoriam

Former Students



Barbara Ann Walker Berryhill '82 passed away December 4, 2014. Barbara was very involved in her church and the Bellaire community and schools. She graduated magna cum laude from HBU in 1982, the same year her eldest child graduated from high school. Following graduation, she used

her degrees in psychology and social work in her real estate career.



Thomas E. (Tiemen) Hoolsema, Jr. '70 passed away February 6, 2015. He was born with a moderately severe case of cerebral palsy. In spite of this, God gave him the courage and strength to face each day. He was an honor graduate of San Jacinto High School and HBU. He was employed as a programmer/analyst and technical writer for the

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services in Austin. Upon his retirement, he volunteered at Easter Seals of Central Texas.

Tiemen Hoolsema was a delightful friend to all who knew him. In an era before wheelchair ramps, automatic door openers, and handicapped restrooms, Tiemen's cerebral palsy and wheelchair confinement never seemed to get him down. Always laughing, acing his academics, and joining in campus life, Tiemen was an inspiration to students and faculty alike. His career with the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services was testimony to his Christian faith and his commitment to dedicated service. What a gift to have walked the road at HBU with him!

— Don Looser, Vice President Emeritus, Houston Baptist University



Lambert "Bert" Millholland Macy MBA '81, passed away November 28, 2014. Lambert attended the University of Texas and graduated with a degree in geology before earning his MBA from HBU. He was awarded numerous medals for his honorable service in the Vietnam War, including the Bronze Star and the National Defense Service

Medal. He was an active member of numerous civic and charitable organizations throughout his life.



Wayne Webb '67 passed away January 8, 2015. Wayne was intensely proud to be a member, along with his wife Suzanne, of the first graduating class of Houston Baptist College in 1967. He completed his master's degree at Houston Baptist University in 2001. He was also intensely proud of his 42 years

as a classroom teacher. Beginning with science, he gradually moved to technology-oriented classes as computers became more available in schools. Wayne also served on various church committees and as a deacon at their beloved church, Tallowood Baptist.

University Friends



Doris Anderson passed away October 21, 2014. She was director of the Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts from 1981 to 1989. Doris was also a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and many historic organizations.

"It was my pleasure to work with Doris in her role of museum director. I appreciated her creative spirit, her desire for excellence, and her deep love of local and Texas history. Her many contributions to the museum will long be remembered."

— Don Looser, Vice President Emeritus, Houston Baptist University



Betty Blount Wood passed away October 30, 2014. In 1964, she established her own court reporting business, which she successfully managed for over 30 years, until her retirement in the 1990s. In later years, she became interested in, and a supporter of HBU.

George Shanks, Jr. passed away December 2, 2014, in McKinney, Texas. An active attorney in the Houston area, he is survived by his wife, Lois White Shanks, a member of The Guild at Houston Baptist University.

Barbara Ray passed away on December 2, 2014. She was a member of The Guild at Houston Baptist University. She worked full time at PEI, Inc. for 27 years.

"Barbara was a loving friend of many Guild members." — Carolyn Little

Edythe Tompson passed away January 24, 2015 at the age of 107. Edythe was HBU's oldest living donor. One of her favorite photos was taken with Dr. & Mrs. Sloan when she last visited our campus at age 105. HBU is blessed to have her legacy live



on through the Community Hospital Foundation managed by Dr. Gerald Cobb and Mrs. Kay Howard (Edythe's daughter). Edythe's granddaughter, Kathy Wynne Shelly (attended 1984) and her great-granddaughter, Alexis Shelly '12, are also part of the HBU family.

BILLY GRAHAM VISITS HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

On October 30, 1963 Billy Graham spoke to 5,500 people, most of them teenagers, in the quadrangle of Houston Baptist College. Looking back, it is clear that God answered this saint's prayers that the new school stand firm for Christ and remain committed to training both the minds and hearts of young people. A portion of his speech is reprinted below.

“

Dr. Hinton, members of the faculty, Board of Trustees, members of the student body, seniors, ladies and gentlemen: It is a great privilege for me to be here today and to participate in this historic occasion at the beginning of a great new Christian institution in the city of Houston.

Dr. Hinton has suggested today that I not give an academic address. I'm relieved because I hadn't planned on it anyway. He said to give an inspirational address to young people, which I hope this will be. I want to say a word about how delighted I am at this tremendous enterprise here in Houston. We're living in a day when secularism has overwhelmed education in various parts of the country. And there's nothing any more lost today or confused and bewildered than a student on a large university campus... Thank God for an institution that has purpose and meaning, and where there is a belief in God; where when you take a course in chemistry, or physics, or geology, or whatever course you're taking, it's within a

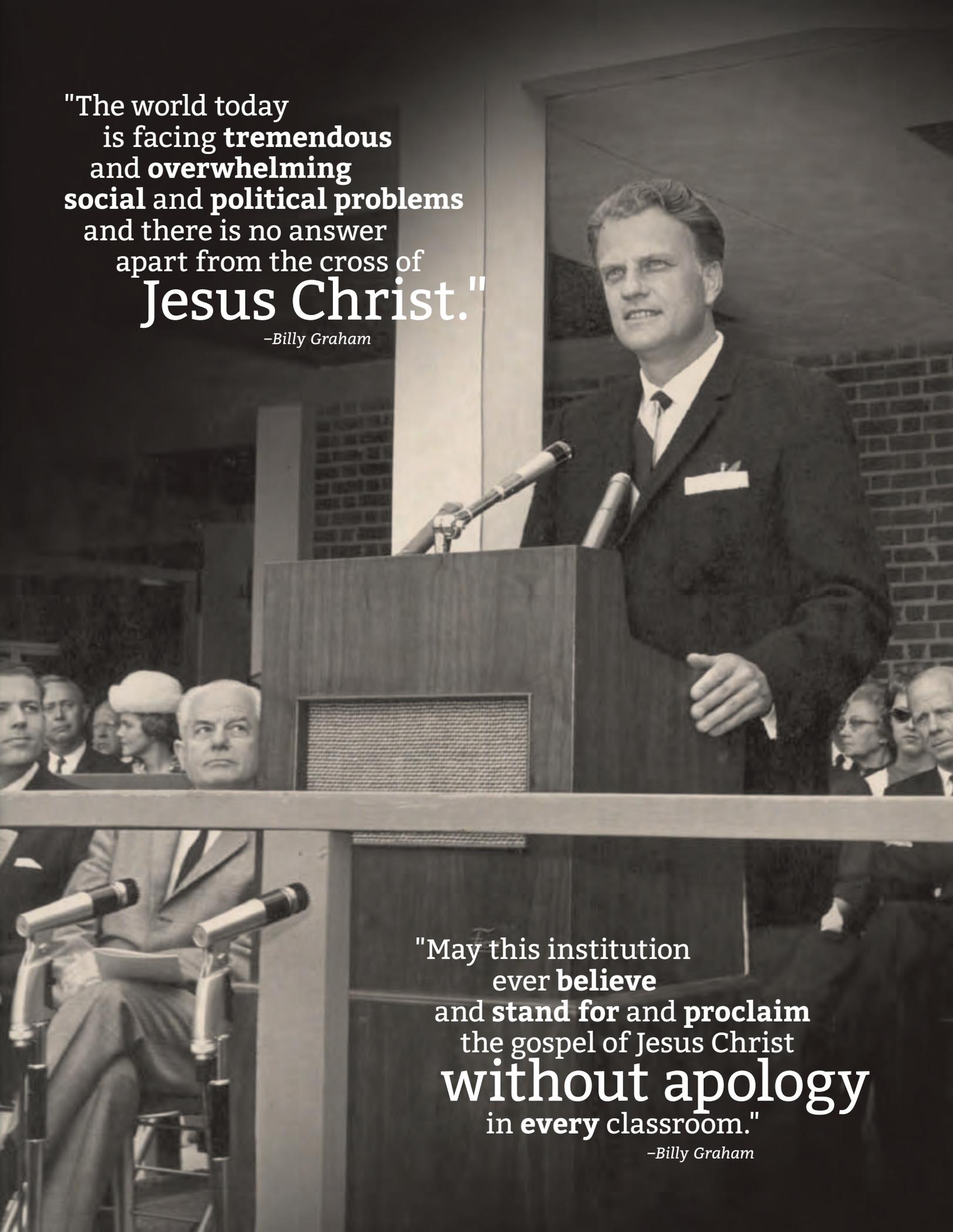
Christian framework, and we're told that back of this universe there is a supreme being that we call God; and for an institution that stands without any apology for a crucified redeemer who is the reconciler of the world. The world today is facing tremendous and overwhelming social and political problems and there is no answer apart from the cross of Jesus Christ... This institution is dedicated not only to training the mind but to converting the character and building splendid men and women who will go out with purpose and meaning in their lives... Our Father and our God, we thank thee for these young hearts that have been surrendered to thee. Give us the faith to believe. And Lord God we pray thy blessing upon Houston Baptist College... May this institution ever believe and stand for and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ without apology in every classroom. May this be one institution in the midst of an increasing secularism that stands for the kingdom of God and for faith in the Bible as the word of God.

RAPT LISTENER



Chronicle Photo by Gilles Swinkels

ORIGINAL CAPTION: Baptist evangelist Billy Graham, even in informal oratory, drew an enraptured audience here Tuesday night, including Mrs. Stewart Morris, 5 E. Rivercrest Dr., who peeked around a corner to listen. This was a scene at a reception honoring Graham at the home of Dr. W. H. Hinton, president of Houston Baptist College.



"The world today
is facing **tremendous**
and **overwhelming**
social and political problems
and there is no answer
apart from the cross of
Jesus Christ."

-Billy Graham

"May this institution
ever **believe**
and **stand for and proclaim**
the gospel of Jesus Christ
without apology
in every classroom."

-Billy Graham

For more information about Houston Baptist University, call 281-649-3000



**TUNE IN TO A HIGHER EDUCATION
WITH DR. ROBERT SLOAN, JR.**

- | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 3/9 | You Can Take It With You | 3/30 | He Set His Face Toward Jerusalem |
| 3/10 | Work and Worship: What Does it Mean to be Human? | 3/31-4/1 | Triumphal Entry |
| 3/11-12 | Lights in the Darkness | 4/2-3 | Death By Crucifixion |
| 3/13 | A Survey of the Early Chapters of Romans | 4/6 | Lee Strobel, Easter story |
| 3/16 | Psalm 44 Expository - Hard Questions | 4/7-8 | Defeating the Final Enemy |
| 3/17 | Psalm 44 Expository | 4/9-10 | The Meaning of the Resurrection |
| 3/18-19 | Barnabas: A Case Study | 4/13 | Intro to Isaiah |
| 3/20 | Refiner's Fire, Malachi 3 | 4/14 | The Holy One of Israel |
| 3/23 | The Great Commission | 4/15 | A People of Unclean Lips |
| 3/24-25 | Let the Others Decide; How to Avoid Being in a Cult | 4/16-17 | The Purging Fires of God: Messianic Suffering |
| 3/26 | But If Not: Unanswered Prayer | 4/20 | The Hope of Salvation |
| 3/27 | But If Not: Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and the Miracle of Dunkirk | 4/21-24 | Apocalypse of Isaiah |

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