

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY / DECEMBER 2016

THE PILLARS



THE MCNAIR CENTER
for ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND FREE ENTERPRISE
AT HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Houston is an international city, but I've often noticed that unlike many highly diverse, deeply business oriented cities – with commerce, energy, healthcare, banking, and shipping – our great city also has some of the most outstanding churches of every Christian denomination in America. It is an unusual mix for which we are deeply thankful.

Doing business on the foundation of Christian values makes a huge difference. It makes a difference in the customers who relate to that business, and, of course, we believe it makes a huge difference in how the business is run and how, or whether, it pleases the Lord and has His blessing.

One of the amazing features of Houston is how many of our businesses and business men and women have deep Christian commitments and try to live both their private and business lives in keeping with those commitments.

I've always been persuaded that, while faith and risk-taking are not the same thing, there is a relationship between the two. The first parable in Matthew 25 points to 10 bridal attendants – five who are wise and five who are foolish. Unlike the foolish bridal attendants, the five wise ones had foresight and were prepared for a sudden change in the circumstances. They were ultimately rewarded for their adaptability and foresight. Adaptability is an important feature of the wise person, no matter one's walk of life.

Then, there's the parable, also in Matthew 25 and paralleled in Luke 19, of the master who entrusts his servants with various amounts of money while he goes on a journey. They do different things with the master's money, and when he returns, he is pleased with the first two, who cause it to increase for his purposes. The one servant who receives harsh criticism is the servant who refused to take any risk at all, the one who just hoarded the master's money and didn't even allow it to grow with interest.

At HBU, thanks to the generosity of Janice and Bob McNair, we have started the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise. We believe that the kind of prudent risk-taking and business ingenuity that produces entrepreneurs has a certain amount of overlap with Christian commitments of faith, honesty, and wisdom.

We look forward to seeing the results of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise in coming years – it will surely benefit not only HBU students, but also the Houston community as a whole. As our students learn more of what it means to live their lives in the business world with wisdom, and as they engage in the great marketplace of life, ideas, and commerce in keeping with the great values and truths of the Christian faith, I know that they will have a great impact on the world.

Blessings,



Robert B. Sloan, Jr.

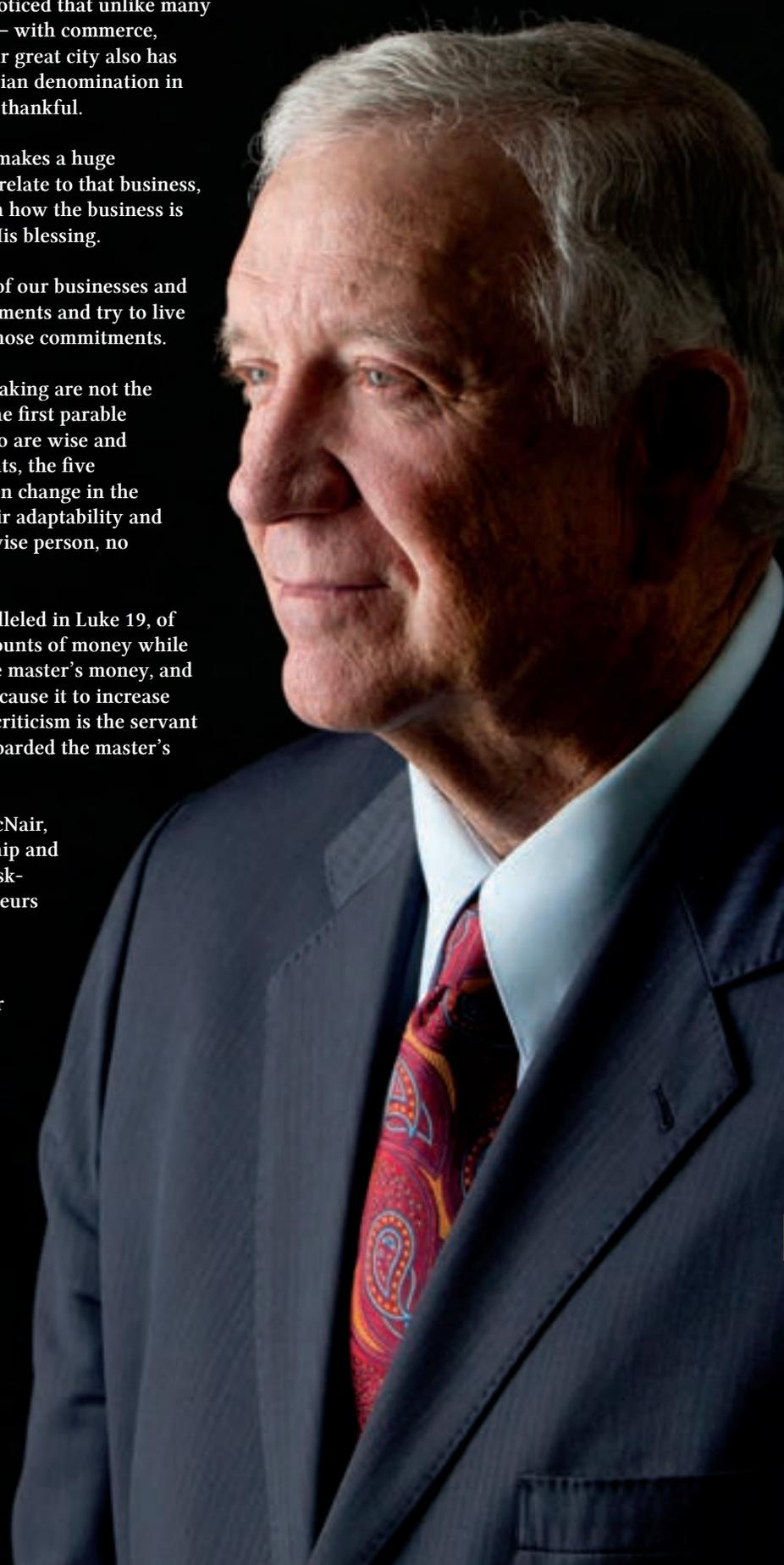


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THE MISSION OF HOUSTON

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.



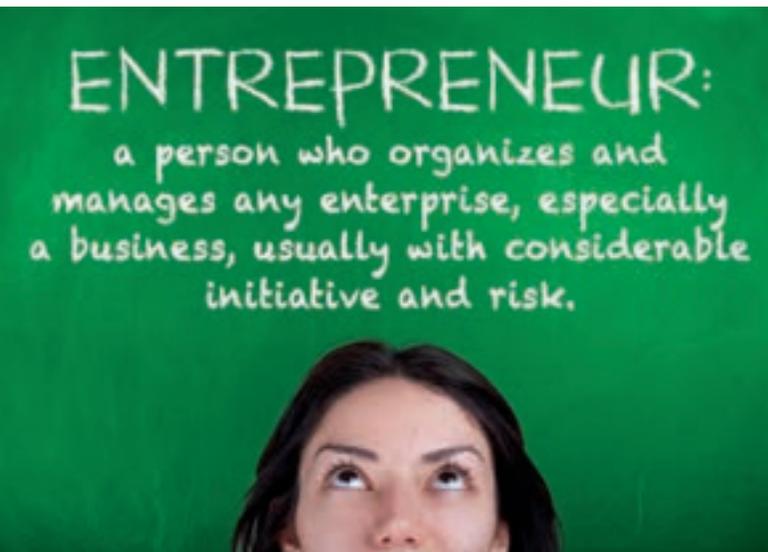
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FRESHMAN COUNCIL ENHANCING the COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

For many freshmen, the fall semester at college is the first time when decisions about going to bed, studying, eating and attending class are truly in their own hands. These formative few months of freshman year often shape a student's entire college experience.

Freshman Council is the student leadership organization designed specifically for the needs of Houston Baptist University freshmen. This Council works to improve the freshmen

experience. Each year in September, the organization takes applications, interviews students and accepts members for the year. Then, officers are voted into positions and meetings are scheduled.

This year's 12 members want to emphasize the importance of traditions, such as Welcome Week's tug-of-war competition and the beanie ceremony. Council President Ja'Lynn Manson also hopes to get more freshmen involved in campus events. "We want to get freshmen so active that they want to stay."

The Council has received more than 100 suggestions from fellow students about ways that the freshmen experience could be enhanced. They hosted an ice cream social and heard



ideas such as a Sadie Hawkins Dance, a slip-n-slide and a giant kickball game.

Organizations like Freshman Council exist to serve and to create an atmosphere of fun and friendship for students, but they also develop leadership skills, train in conflict resolution and teach students how to work as a team within a budget. HBU has more than 45 student organizations designed to enhance the college experience where a holistic approach to education,

including spiritual, emotional and academic growth is integral to student success.

Visit HBU.edu/studentlife to learn more about campus organizations and HBU traditions, especially if you have never heard of the beanie ceremony or the tug-of-war!

The tug-of-war is a battle between freshmen and upper classmen after opening convocation. This year, for the first time in 30 years, the freshmen won!



BUILDING LEADERS DOCTORAL PROGRAM BEGINS!

The Ten Pillars vision calls Houston Baptist University to “Embrace the Challenge of Christian Graduate Education” and “Move to the Next Level as an Institution.” While HBU has previously embraced the challenge of Christian higher education, The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences (COEBS) further answered the call with the introduction of the Doctor of Education (EdD) in Executive Educational Leadership program. In the fall of 2016, HBU’s first cohort of 20 doctoral students began classes. When these students graduate, they will be qualified to sit for the superintendent exam, to step into positions at community colleges and universities, or to fill leadership roles across the educational system.

The doctoral program has been in the works for nearly three years. Before the program could begin, it had to be submitted for approval to the Southern Association of Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), HBU’s accreditation organization. Dr. Cynthia Simpson, provost at HBU, served as dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences during the planning of the program curriculum and preparation of the SACSCOC materials. The planning

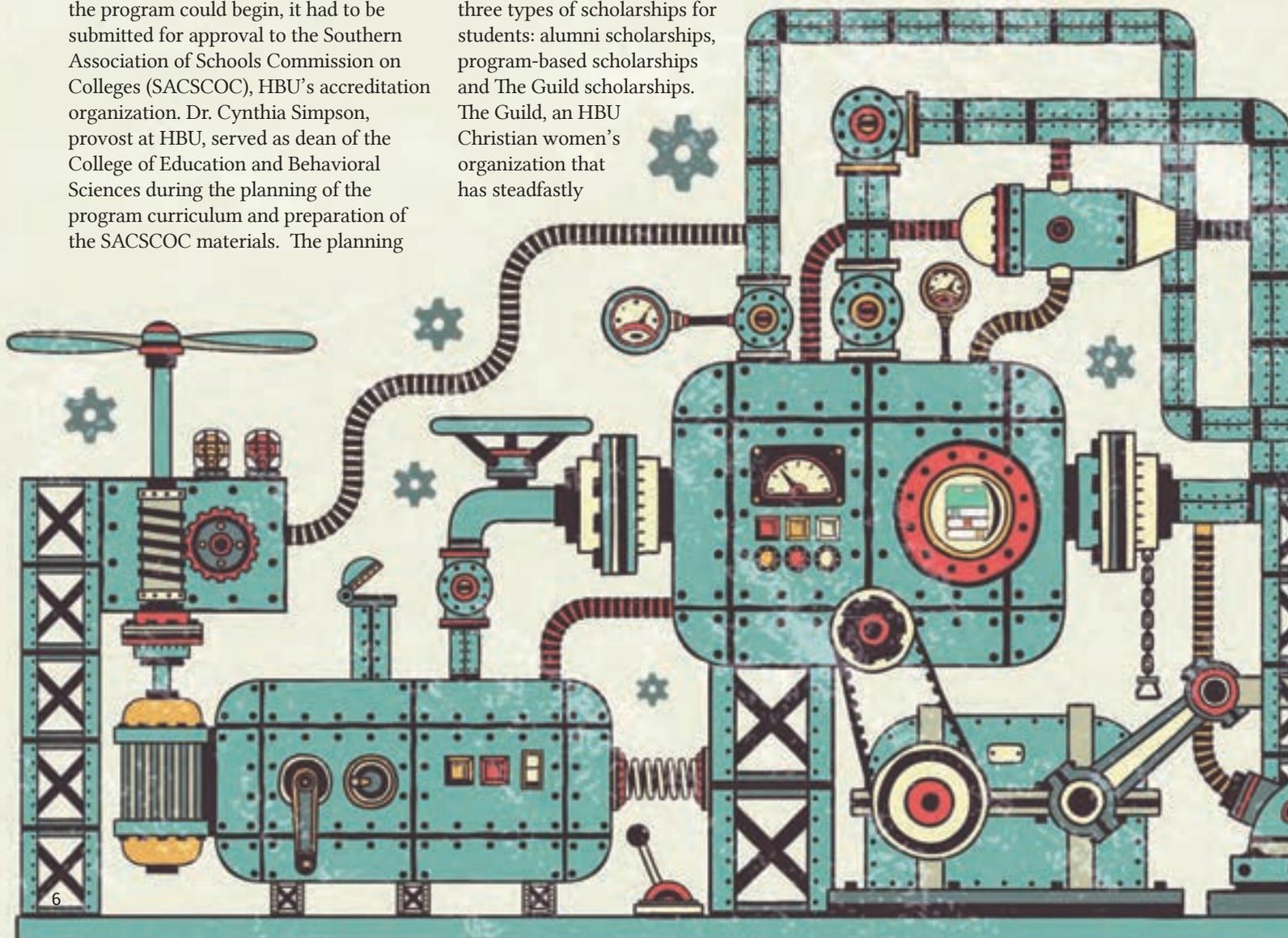
for the doctoral program included market analysis, budget development, curriculum development, college and department reorganization and an expansion in faculty and staff. “The process to submit for a move to the next level as an institution is extensive and the faculty and staff worked collaboratively to achieve this success,” stated Dr. Simpson. SACSCOC granted approval in December of 2015. Additionally, the COEBS was required to submit extensive documentation in order to receive Texas Education Agency (TEA) approval to certify students who plan to sit for the superintendent exam.

Furthermore, approval for financial aid from the federal government was necessary for students to qualify for federal loans. In terms of financial assistance, the doctoral program offers three types of scholarships for students: alumni scholarships, program-based scholarships and The Guild scholarships. The Guild, an HBU Christian women’s organization that has steadfastly

supported graduate education at HBU through scholarships, generously donated funds to provide scholarships for students in the first doctoral cohort.

Dr. Dianne Reed, director of the EdD program, explained the application process to *The Pillars*: “It is intense, but it needs to be because we want to make sure we have chosen people who are dedicated and will finish. It is a rigorous program.” The program is a three-year commitment. “Our goal is for all students in the first cohort to graduate in 2019 with a dissertation completed.”

Dr. Simpson shared, “A unique feature of the program is the strong integration of faith into the curriculum. As with all of our HBU coursework, faculty are intentional in creating classes that bring Athens and Jerusalem together.



In addition, one specific course in the program is Christian Worldview for Educational Leaders.”

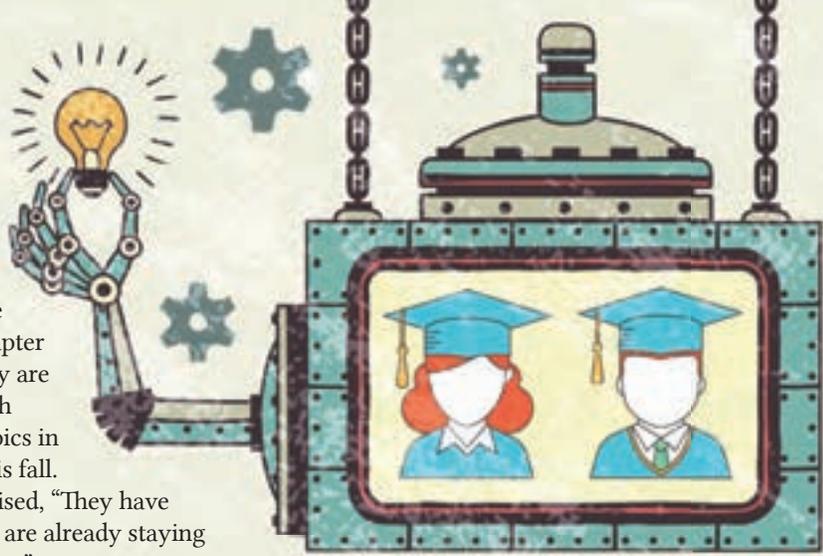
To be considered, a prospective student must be in a leadership position professionally; such a position may be in a public school, private school, community college or elsewhere. The student must have a Master’s degree with a 3.0 GPA, as well as a GRE score of 291 or higher. They must also participate in an hour-long interview with a committee of faculty interviewers and complete a writing sample.

Though more than 80 students showed interest in the program, only 20 who met or exceeded the criteria were accepted. “We are very excited about the interest in this program. The momentum has continued into the fall 2017 with over 40 applicants,” stated Dr. Jeff Green, dean of the Graduate School. Each doctoral candidate has a dissertation chair and a committee of members who coach them during

the dissertation process. The candidates will write a traditional five-chapter dissertation, and they are beginning to research their dissertation topics in their first courses this fall. Dr. Dianne Reed praised, “They have fabulous ideas! They are already staying late to talk about them.”

A difference between this EdD program and undergraduate, or even Master’s, degrees in education is that these students are directing schools, sometimes whole campuses, and they still come to class from 5-10 p.m. once a week. “They are motivated. They’re a strong group. I’m really proud of how the faculty pitched in during the extensive interview process, and we made a good selection of candidates,” Dr. Reed said. COEBS is planning on accepting 20 more candidates into the EdD program for the fall of next year with interviews beginning in March 2017.

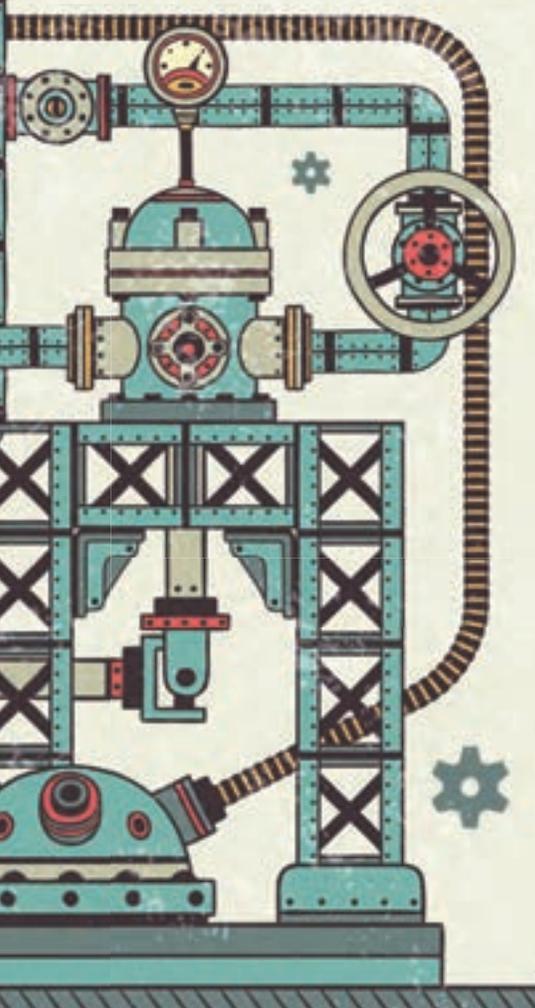
HBU’s current doctoral students represent a variety of schools and work at various levels of education. More than six serve in leadership positions in Houston ISD while one works at Houston Community College. Another student relocated to Houston from Austin to participate in HBU’s doctoral program. Of the 20 students, three are men and 17 are women.



There are approximately 1,611 public schools in the Houston area serving 1,245,899 students, and approximately 554 private schools in the Houston area serving 93,216 students.

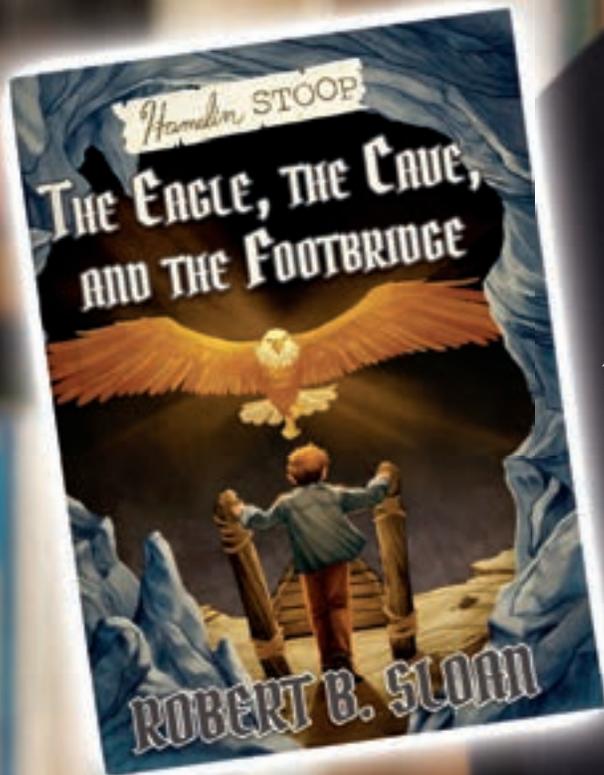
The HBU Executive Educational Leadership doctoral program comes in response to the needs of the community. Houston is growing; schools are expanding; and school leaders are retiring. Dr. McGaughey summed it up well: “The real area of need seems to be in the leadership of schools due to the proliferation of new schools. You need good leaders there and people to coordinate this growth.”

With this inaugural doctoral program, Houston Baptist University is now a national, comprehensive university offering bachelor’s and master’s degrees and a doctoral degree. Dr. Sloan’s vision is becoming a reality as Christian graduate education has moved to the next level with plans for additional doctoral programs on the HBU horizon.



ENTREPRENEURISM in Education

The COEBS further answered the call with the introduction of the Doctor of Education in Executive Educational Leadership program.



*You can purchase Dr. Robert Sloan's new novel
Hamelin Stoop: The Eagle, the Cage, and the Footbridge
at HamelinStoop.com*

ENTREPRENEURISM in Literature





A NEW LOOK FOR MOODY LIBRARY **GENEROSITY CONTINUES TO ENHANCE THE UNIVERSITY**

Moody Library, one of the first buildings on the HBU campus, has been renovated into a vibrant and inviting hub focused on holistic education due to generous gifts from the Hamill Foundation, Houston Endowment, the Moody Foundation and the Doris and Terry Looper family. In phase one last year, the library and library services were moved entirely to the second floor, which created space for 13 new academic success offices, new offices for TRIO support services and a make-over for the student studying and group work area. The first floor received new carpet in the summer of 2015, and new paint and all new furniture were installed during phase two in the summer of 2016. The generosity of the Moody family, after whom the library is named, provided new library restrooms.

The classroom in the library 100 relinquished 1,000 square feet of space to make room for the new offices, and the classroom now has three floor-to-ceiling white board walls and a 70-inch BigTouch interactive screen. John Holmes, associate vice president for facilities and campus operations, described the screen as “the world’s largest iPad.” The BigTouch screen from InFocus was created to enable interactive learning and lectures. More than a typical smartboard, the giant tablet operates on a Windows operating system with touch technology that is intuitive for millennial students.

The Doris and Terry Looper Learning Commons is an open area on the first floor of Moody Library with tables and couches arranged for studying and socializing. The commons is adjacent to the campus coffee shop and provides easy access to the library and student success coaches. It was dedicated September 20, 2016, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Terry Looper, a former member of

HBU’s Board of Trustees, spoke at the dedication. “It’s become a reality. It’s fun to see it and know that the students can enjoy it. It’s going to be so much fun to see how this continues to unfold over the years to come.”

Part of the Looper gift was for the library facilities, but most of the funds were designated for a discipleship initiative within the Spiritual Life department. The gift has already funded the transportation for a student disaster relief mission trip to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

*“We really give
God the glory. That is
why we are here.”*

The Pillars asked Colette Cross, director of Discipleship, about the new initiatives. “Success for us is that students come to know the Lord. For all faculty, staff and students, we hope their relationship with Christ would be strengthened or discovered, whether that is through a small group or individual one-on-one discipling, through Convocation, a student event or in the classroom. Our hope through this discipleship initiative is that

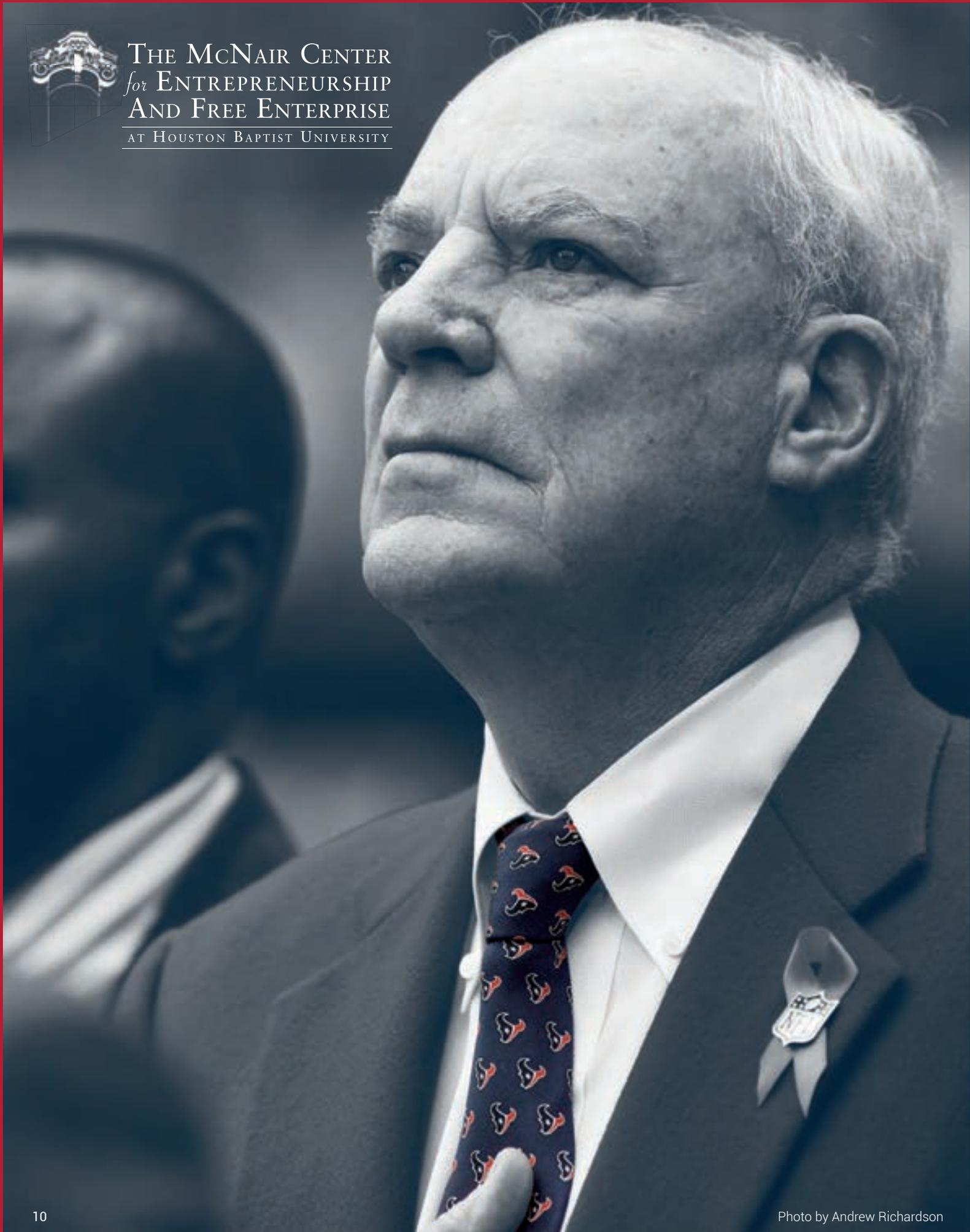
one’s relationship with Christ is strengthened, and it doesn’t just stop there. Included in this growth is intentionality in living and speaking their faith commitment into others’ lives.” The Looper gift is enabling HBU to implement discipleship across the campus with students, faculty and staff, through organizations, campus events and one-on-one discussions.

Dr. Sloan informed the crowd that the Loopers originally donated the generous gift anonymously and were hesitant to have their names displayed in the Learning Commons. Doris Looper explained, “We are uncomfortable with our name up there because we really give God the glory. That is why we are here. It is God. This is where He has moved our hearts with lots of prayer.”



THE MCNAIR CENTER
for ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND FREE ENTERPRISE

AT HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



IGNITING YOUR VISION WITH PURPOSE

*HBU teams with Houston Texans owner, establishing the
McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise*

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, and with the first fruits of your produce;” Proverbs 3:9 (ESV). Bob and Janice McNair exemplify this biblical guidance, and they are enabling Houston Baptist University to teach such truth to students.

The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation recently donated a \$5 million gift to Houston Baptist University for the establishment of the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise. President Robert B. Sloan believes entrepreneurial training will be rewarding for students at Houston Baptist University. “We are very confident that because of the kinds of commitments we have to HBU, because of our Christian history, because of our commitment to the founding principles of America and democracy—things like entrepreneurship—that we have a tremendously positive influence on our people.”

The McNair Foundation’s Executive Director, Cynthia Canevaro, told *The Pillars*, “Bob McNair uniquely understands how life changing it can be when the free enterprise system affords an eager entrepreneur the opportunity to start a business, create jobs and contribute to our nation’s economic growth. Without question, the greatest wealth generator in the world for individuals and nations is the free enterprise system.”

ROBERT & JANICE

Robert McNair is the chairman, CEO and owner of the Houston Texans NFL franchise. McNair is perhaps best known in the business community as the founder of Cogen Technologies, which became the largest privately-owned cogeneration company in the world, with aggregate capacity of 1,400 megawatts. In 1999, he sold the company while retaining ownership of power plants in New York and West Virginia.

Committed to bringing a National Football League team to Houston, McNair formed Houston NFL Holdings in 1998. In 1999, the NFL awarded him the 32nd NFL franchise, returning professional football to the city of Houston in 2002. McNair’s influence and leadership has brought two Super Bowls to Houston’s NRG Stadium: Super Bowl XXXVIII in 2004 and Super Bowl LI, which will be played at NRG stadium in February of 2017.

In 2011, McNair’s Houston Texans won their first AFC South title. In 2012, they gave Houston its first NFL playoff game in nearly 18 years after a 31-10 win against Cincinnati in the Wild Card round on January 2012. The Texans then claimed their second consecutive AFC South title in 2012 and finished the regular season 12-4, matching the most regular-season wins in the city of Houston’s NFL history. McNair hired Bill O’Brien as the third head coach of the franchise in January 2014, ushering in a new era of Texans football following a disappointing 2013 season. In 2015, the Texans reclaimed their AFC South Division Championship after summarily beating the Jacksonville Jaguars 30-6.



McNair’s vast entrepreneurial empire includes ownership of The McNair Group where as Chairman, he oversees an investment portfolio that includes interests in two cogeneration plants in the eastern United States, Palmetto Partners, Ltd. and RCM Financial Services, L.P.; private investment entities that manage the McNairs’ private and public equity investments.

A cancer survivor and Christian, Bob grew up in Forest City,



The McNairs and Dr. Robert B. Sloan, Jr. at the ▲ signing for the gift creating the McNair Center.

◀ Sandra Mooney, vice president of Financial Operations; Cynthia Simpson, provost, vice president of Academic Affairs; and James Steen, vice president of Enrollment Management and Dr. Robert Sloan.

North Carolina. He graduated from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina, where he served as student body president and met his wife, Janice, a native South Carolinian who was attending nearby Columbia College. They have been blessed with four children, 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A man with an enduring passion for entrepreneurship, Bob McNair was named Entrepreneur of the Decade by the Houston Technology Center, a 2013 Man of Distinction for benefitting medical research and treatment for children in the Texas Medical Center, and was awarded the James A. Baker III Prize for Excellence in Leadership by the James A. Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. In 2015, he was named MD Anderson’s “Living Legend.”

In 2010, Bob was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame and the Houston Hall of Fame. In 1997, Texas honored one of their own by inducting him into the Texas Business Hall of Fame. Baylor College of Medicine awarded him an honorary doctor of humanities, and the University of South Carolina awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters.

Bob and Janice McNair made Houston their home in 1960. Bob chairs The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation, the Houston Texans Foundation and the Robert and Janice McNair Educational Foundation located in Forest City, North Carolina. For more than 20 years, they have given generously to a wide array of charitable, scientific, literary, educational and religious organizations,

including Houston Baptist University.

In 2007, the McNairs turned their philanthropic focus to medical research with a transformational gift to the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, establishing the McNair Medical Institute funding the McNair Scholars Program. The program recruits world-class physicians/scientists in the fields of Type 1 diabetes, breast and pancreatic cancer and the neurosciences. Additional McNair research scholars have been established at MD Anderson, The Menninger Clinic, Texas Children’s Hospital and the Texas Heart Institute.

With their generosity, the McNairs have been and continue to be examples of good stewards. They recognize that God has blessed them and, in turn, they have blessed others.

The McNairs have been generous to Houston Baptist University for many years and as President Sloan noted, “All over the campus, there are marks of [their] generosity.” McNair Hall in the Morris Cultural Arts Building, as well as the new McNair Plaza around Belin Tower are only two of the various projects that can be attributed to the Robert and Janice McNair Foundation.

THE CENTER

In 2015, the McNairs began establishing McNair Centers for Entrepreneurism and Free Enterprise at colleges and universities across the United States. In 2016, they added the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise at Houston Baptist University.

The McNair Center at HBU is the Foundation's third Center locally and the sixth nationally. "We hope that over time these centers will come together and develop a national coalition of McNair Centers for Entrepreneurism and Free Enterprise," said Canevaro.

The McNair Center will offer a number of extracurricular programs and events for students. The Center will coordinate pitch contests, entrepreneurship lectures, and a variety of experiential learning events for undergraduate and graduate students.

The academic programs will be overseen by the Archie W. Dunham College of Business. Students from all majors will be able to apply and take classes in entrepreneurship. Dr. Michael Weeks, the Dean of the Archie W. Dunham College of Business, said, "We are excited to offer entrepreneurship programs for all students. The first graduate program, a master's degree in management and entrepreneurship, will be specifically for graduate students with non-business majors. We recognize that millennials have a strong interest in starting their own businesses. This inaugural graduate degree will let students from the arts, sciences, and other professional programs gain valuable knowledge about how to turn a passion into a life's work." Eventually, all undergraduate students will have the opportunity to minor in entrepreneurship, and graduate business students will be able to add an entrepreneurship concentration to their degree programs. The academic programs will provide a solid foundation and the skill set necessary for entrepreneurial business operation.

The academic program will also include a course on stewardship. "We have launched a new stewardship course this year as a cornerstone of our business curriculum. The course teaches students concepts of advanced ethics, corporate social responsibility, and sustainability in a Christian framework. This course will be taken by all of our undergraduate business students, and we expect it to be a key component of our entrepreneurship offerings," said Dr. Michael Weeks.

Christian business leaders from the Houston area are actively being recruited to serve as mentors to McNair Center students. The goal is to help equip students with the real-world skills they need to succeed. "We are very excited that several friends of the university have expressed support for the program," Dr. Simpson said.

Extracurricular programs for students will begin in January 2017, and degree programs will start in the fall semester of 2017, pending approval from HBU's academic accrediting agency, SACSCOC.

The McNair Center will be housed on the first floor of the Hinton Center and will report to the Office of the Provost. The Archie W. Dunham College of Business will oversee academic programming, including certifications and graduate degree programs.



THE DIRECTOR

Michael Player joined HBU as the administrative director of the McNair Center in August. Nearly 30 years ago, Player started and ran a full-service advertising agency in Kansas City, Missouri, and managed it for 28 years before selling it in 2015. He taught for 18 consecutive years at three universities: MidAmerican Nazarene University, the University

of Missouri in Kansas City at the Regnier Institute for Global Entrepreneurship and Innovation within their Henry W. Bloch School of Management, and at Baker University. In 2012, Player designed, orchestrated and obtained the start-up funding to launch and market the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at MidAmerican Nazarene University where he served as assistant director. He is a Certified Entrepreneur Program Director from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation FastTrac® programs. Player has helped launch many companies and started several of his own businesses. As an evangelical Christian, Player is excited to be working for a university with a Christian purpose. "God is the one who provides success and opportunity. Those are blessings. To be at a faith-based university is what I desired so that I could stay on point with that message," Player said.

When asked what quality truly defines the entrepreneur, Player answered, "It's a mindset. You may not realize you have it until you are pushed into a certain instance that it shines. It is about how you gauge risk and what your comfort level is. Are you born with it? No. I think you can train yourself to be cautious in the decisions you make and I think you should be prayerful in those decisions." Houston Baptist University will cultivate this entrepreneurial mindset within the Center by asking students, "Do you think like an owner?" The rhetorical question is a challenge not only to future entrepreneurs, but also to employees. "It doesn't matter if you are starting your own business or working for another company. If you have that owner mindset, you are probably going to advance in your career."

 [HBU.edu/p54-player](https://www.youtube.com/HBU.edu/p54-player)

THE VISION

At the official gift signing in President Sloan's home in August, Bob McNair explained his passion for entrepreneurship and for students. "Our young people these days need to understand what the economic world is all about, and they need to understand what are the systems that have been successful and what are the systems that have failed, and the free enterprise system has been the bulwark of prosperity. We need to give young people an opportunity to succeed, and a depth of understanding that will enable them to have greater vision and to raise their own horizons."

"Christ-like" is the term Michael Player used when he explained how Houston Baptist University will approach entrepreneurship. "As Christians, we are called to help other people. If you have an opportunity to start a business, why aren't you also planning to help people as you start that business?" Player's question strikes a chord. As many entrepreneurial centers simply teach people how to make money, this Center will be set apart as it trains future entrepreneurs to take the money God entrusts to them and use it to benefit their communities. "We need the mindset of helping other people from James 1:27 'helping widows and orphans.'"

The theme of the HBU McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise is "Igniting your Vision with Purpose." Not only will students be taught how to make money and ways to push their businesses past that five-year mark, but they will be shown how starting and owning a business can be glorifying to God.

THE WORD IS OUT

Houston Theological Seminary's Master of Divinity (MDiv) program started with its first class of 17 students. The program is offered both on the HBU campus and at the Woodway campus of Second Baptist Church. In addition to the MDiv students, more than 250 not-for-credit students are attending the courses offered at Second Baptist Church.

Dr. Evans, dean of the School of Christian Thought at HBU, believes two aspects of Houston Theological Seminary set it apart from other seminaries in Houston: the partnership with a church like Second Baptist Church Houston and the opportunity for students to take not-for-credit coursework. "We bring together the faculty, who are in Biblical Studies, Theology and Apologetics, and then we bring in people who are in full-time ministry, and the lay dimension is right there. I don't think that hurts these MDiv students to have their future congregation looking over their shoulders and hearing their questions," said Dr. Evans. Provost Cynthia Simpson added that both of these distinctives "provide HBU an opportunity to directly serve the body of Christ, which is an essential function of all Christian universities."

At the opening ceremony for the seminary, both President Robert B. Sloan and Dr. Ed Young, the senior pastor of Second Baptist Church, gave speeches, and more than 150 people were in attendance. Dr. Jeff Green, dean of the Graduate School at HBU, commented, "The inauguration of Houston Theological Seminary and the Master of Divinity program are a credit to the staff and faculty of HBU. Advanced professional training in ministry and new graduate programs are part of our Ten Pillars vision. We continue to grow our program offerings and are reaching more students across the nation every year."

Dr. Ed Young has said that he would like to see 500 not-for-credit students in attendance next semester. Dr. Evans told *The Pillars* that the purpose of the not-for-credit students is "to educate the church's membership."

The Master of Divinity is a 72-hour program, which breaks from the traditional 90-hour MDiv and also follows the trend

of many seminaries. The traditional program is lengthy because many students attend seminary with no academic background in theology or Christianity, which requires that the first 30 hours be the equivalent of upper-level introductory courses. The shorter program provides an opportunity for students to complete the degree in three years without taking an overwhelming amount of coursework. Reducing both time commitment of the program and the tuition costs makes the MDiv at HBU an affordable way for aspiring pastors to achieve a first class theological education without breaking the bank. HBU is committed to making theological education excellent and affordable. For example, a number of scholarship opportunities are available for MDiv applicants and applicants of the rest of the graduate programs in Houston Theological Seminary.

The Master of Divinity is a broad program, created to train pastors and church ministers in counseling, teaching and preaching. It is not simply an education in theology, but includes the application of theology. Life application is necessary in ministry, and the ability to teach such application is essential in the work of a minister. "That is why I like what we're doing with Second Baptist Church," Dr. Evans said. "We don't want to go up into the ivory tower and forget about what the real needs of the Church are, and then there we are teaching courses that speak to the academy perhaps, but don't speak very well to the pew. This cooperative approach can safeguard against that."

Houston Theological Seminary offers online courses, as well as face-to-face courses. The two courses offered this semester at the Woodway campus are Contemporary Challenges in Bible & Theology taught by Dr. Craig Evans and Communicating for Life Change taught by Dr. Ben Young. The classes are held in the evenings, each one night per week, from 6:45 to 9:15pm. Surveyors (not for credit attendees) may register any time during the semester.

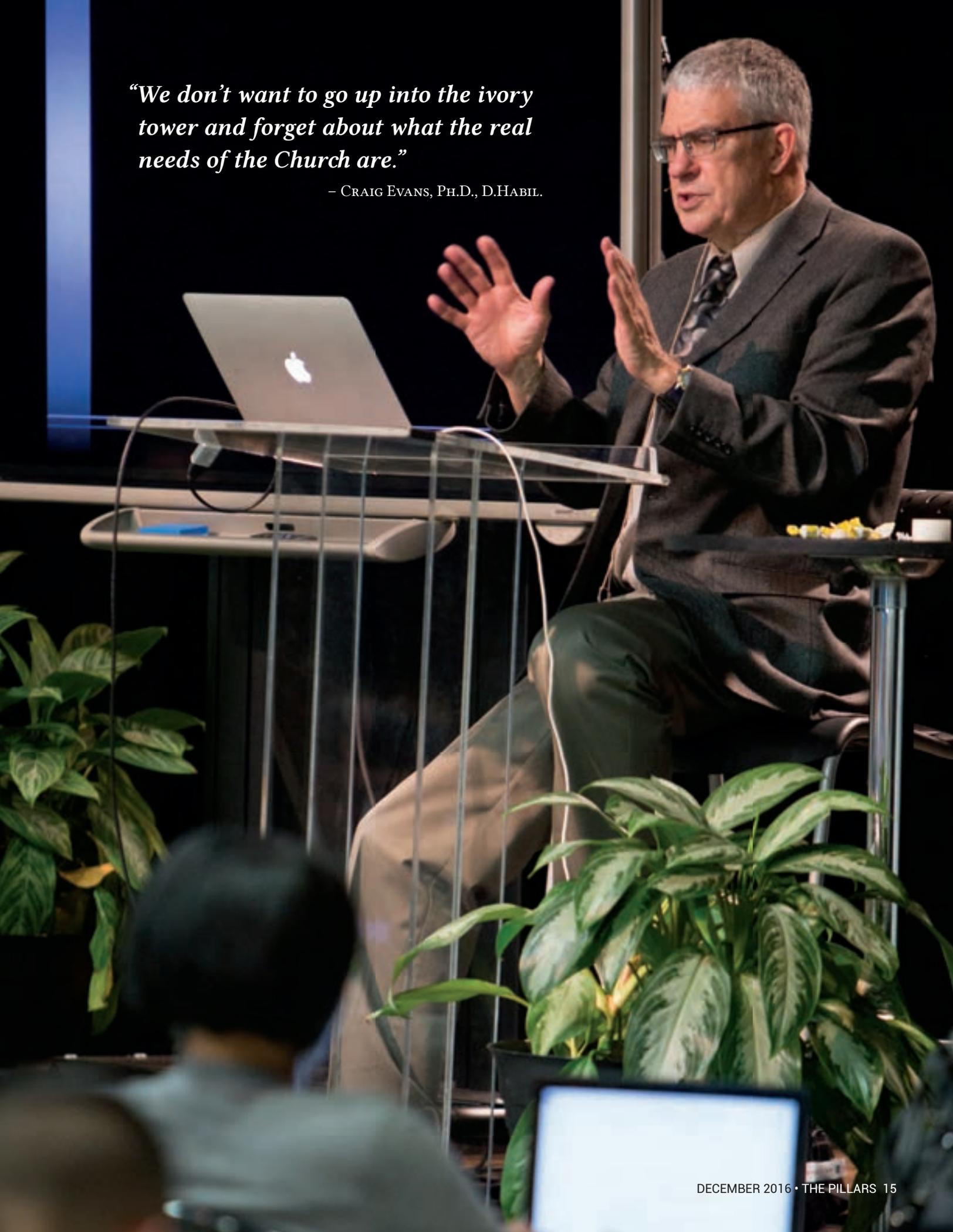
To learn more about the MDiv program, call 281-649-3383, email sctdean@HBU.edu or visit HBU.edu/HTS.



ENTREPRENEURISM in Christian Thought

“We don’t want to go up into the ivory tower and forget about what the real needs of the Church are.”

– CRAIG EVANS, PH.D., D.HABIL.



Blythe Leonard

Blythe Leonard is a junior marketing major in the Honors College with a lot to do. A native Houstonian and commuter student, Blythe serves as an Academic Success Coach and both coaches and competes in figure skating. She hopes to attend law school after she graduates. She is a confident, goal-oriented student who is willing to do the work to accomplish her dreams. HBU is helping Blythe succeed with every professor, every class and every opportunity.



“The classes are so engaging. I’m in business classes and in Honors. All of the teachers here have been so patient and helpful with questions. I’m always able to go to them and ask.”

– BLYTHE LEONARD, CLASS OF 2018



Mike Vogel (playing Lee Strobel) with Erika Christensen (Leslie Strobel) as Lee prays to receive Christ.

THE CASE FOR CHRIST MOVIE TO RELEASE SPRING 2017



Strobel with actor playing him (Mike Vogel)

BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF LEE STROBEL'S PERSONAL CONVERSION

Lee Strobel's dramatic personal conversion story, told in his book *The Case for Christ*, is being adapted to the screen for release in 2,500 theaters across the country in the spring of 2017. PureFlix, the company that produced *God's Not Dead* (2014) and its sequel, approached the best-selling author, apologist and former atheist about a year ago.

The movie, also titled *The Case for Christ*, will cover approximately two years of Strobel's life. Actor Mike Vogel, known for his role as Johnny Foote



▲ Academy Award nominee Robert Forster plays Walter Strobel.

▼ Leslie Strobel (Erika Christensen) is baptized by actor portraying Willow Creek Community Church Senior Pastor Bill Hybels.



▲ Actor Russ Blackwell portrays HBU professor and apologist Dr. William Lane Craig

▼ Set of 1980s Chicago Tribune news room



in *The Help* (2011), is playing the character of Lee Strobel. Erika Christensen, who plays Julia Bravermen-Graham in the family drama series *Parenthood* (2010-15), will depict Strobel's wife, Leslie. Emmy and Academy Award winner Faye Dunaway will also play a role, as well as notable character actors L. Scott Caldwell and Robert Forster. Strobel will make an appearance at the end of the movie.

Filming began mid-September in Georgia, though the setting of the story is in Chicago, where Strobel worked as a legal editor for the *Chicago Tribune*. A friend of Strobel's, Brian Bird, who has written screenplays for numerous films including *Captive* (2015), wrote the script with input from Strobel. "I kind of did a 'mind dump,'" Strobel said, "I told him about stories from our life. Of course, part of it is fictionalized because that's what you have to do when you do a film 'based on a true story.'"

Lee Strobel told *The Pillars* about his hope for the film: "As someone who wants to expose more and more people to the Gospel, I think this is a great medium for the 21st century, especially among young people. I'm hoping it reaches a whole new audience and that we see more people come to faith as we've had so many thousands of people through *The Case for Christ*."

For those who have not read the best-selling book, Strobel

explained the essence of the story. "It is a compelling tale of an atheist and agnostic who get married and have a happy marriage until she becomes a Christian, and the marriage falls apart almost. So it's a portrayal of what happens in a marriage when there is one person who is a committed Christian and the other is a hostile atheist. It shows my checking out of the evidence to try to disprove it to get my wife out of this cult, and coming to conclude that Christianity really does withstand scrutiny. In fact, the evidence is compelling. It's really a love story."

Strobel's publisher Zondervan and PureFlix are discussing the possibility of producing a discussion guide and some church and individual resources to accompany the film. Strobel hopes that the movie will provide opportunities for candid conversations about faith and evidence.

Although he played himself in the film *God's Not Dead 2*, this is Strobel's first experience with the entire process of movie making. "I've learned a lot," Strobel said. "It's been an education for me, learning how you take an idea and turn it into a film." He has supplied *The Pillars* with behind-the-scenes photos and videos from filming.

Plan now to support the film when it releases in the spring of 2017!



▲ Hollywood legend and Academy Award winner Faye Dunaway plays a psychologist interviewed by Mike Vogel (playing Lee Strobel) in his spiritual investigation



The Strobel family on the set.

▶ Lee Strobel is the best-selling Christian apologetics author of *The Case for Christ*, *The Case for Faith*, *The Case for a Creator*, *The Case for Grace* and others, and for two years he hosted a television program entitled *Faith Under Fire*. Strobel is a teaching pastor at The Woodlands Church in The Woodlands, Texas, and a professor in the Department of Apologetics in the School of Christian Thought at Houston Baptist University. Strobel has joined best-selling authors Mark Mittelberg and Garry Poole to lead the Center for Strategic Evangelism at HBU. To watch the movie trailer and learn more about the movie, visit thecaseforchristmovie.com



ENTREPRENEURISM in Film

*“I’m hoping it reaches a whole new audience and that we see more people come to faith as we’ve had so many thousands...through *The Case for Christ*.”*

– LEE STROBEL

CHANGING HOUSTON

ALUMNI JESS ROGERS AND JASON BIBLE TELL ABOUT THEIR ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESSES



JESS ROGERS '00, M.Ed '02

“Bet big and you win big, but if you bet small, you never win big.” Alumna and entrepreneur Jess Rogers carries this advice in her pocket. It is advice she took to heart and poured into her thriving tutoring business: TutorVille.

Jess graduated from HBU with her Bachelor of Arts in Mass Media and Speech Communications in 2000 and her Master of Education in 2002. After teaching middle school math for seven years, Jess had too many tutoring clients and began handing off new clients to her co-workers. She launched TutorVille in early 2009 when a good friend challenged her to start her own business.

Today, TutorVille serves over 800 students from Pre-K through graduate school. The tutoring service has also branched out into a flourishing independent learning academy, and plans are underway for a non-profit for students. Jess said one of the biggest challenges she faced was giving up tutoring to focus solely on growing TutorVille. “Moving away from my passion of working directly with children is hard,” Jess told *The Pillars*, “But, I get to see that impact expanded far beyond what I could do as one person.”

Jess thinks she may have a seven-year-itch: “I taught for seven years. I’ve had TutorVille for seven years, and now I am starting The TutorVille Foundation.”

“I am just so blessed that what I get to do everyday is change kids’ lives,” Jess said. With her passion and vision for teaching and for TutorVille’s students, Jess demonstrates the rewards that can come from walking by faith. Her advice for future entrepreneurs is a quote from her dad that hangs in her office: “If you want to be successful, drive home in the dark.”

— JESS ROGERS

With the establishment of the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free and guidance to help them succeed. We pray that our current and future

HBU alumni are impacting Houston today and every day, and we have many entrepreneurial alumni we could feature who are innovative, brilliant business men and women. Jess Rogers and Jason Bible are only a sample of the entrepreneurial spirit that is and will continue to be cultivated at this University.

Read their stories, which show the development of dreams into realities.

 [HBU.edu/p54-success](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBU.edu/p54-success)

EVERY DAY



ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS

JASON BIBLE MBA '09

“If you’re really serious about starting a business, just quit your job now and go do it. The best time to start is right now.” That is essentially what Jason Bible did when he and his partner started their first business, Houston House Buyers, in July of 2013.

In 2009, Jason graduated from HBU with his MBA in Finance. Today, he and his partner, Tom Perry, own three separate businesses and have 17 employees.

Houston House Buyers is a large-scale house-flipping company. They bought seven houses in the first six months, 67 houses in 2014, 90 houses in 2015, and will probably break 150 this year.

The second business began in 2015: Sellusyourhouse.com. They take unsellable houses and help clear title issues, negotiate liens and track down heirs. It is their most challenging endeavor. Jason told *The Pillars*, “No one else in the country does this.”

Because of their real estate success, an opportunity arose for Jason and his partner to host a radio show on KTEK Business Radio. For seven months, they have hosted Right Path Real Estate, in which they speak for an hour each weekday morning with real estate investors and guests.

“Growth is the business challenge,” Jason said, “You are always going to run into struggles. It’s not about if you’re going to survive, but what you need to do to face it.”

Jason advised entrepreneurs, “You have to have patience. It is one of the most underrated attributes, and you have to be consistent and allow the market to respond. When you really look at where the money is made, it is a 10-20 year cycle. It’s a long haul.”

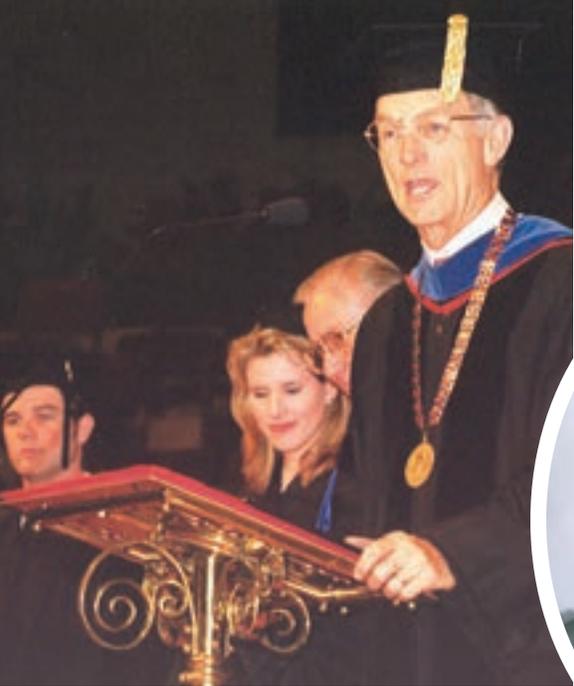
— JASON BIBLE



Enterprise, visionary students like Jess and Jason will receive mentorship students will be tomorrow’s entrepreneurs, job providers and world changers.







IN MEMORIAM:

DR. HODO, SECOND PRESIDENT OF HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

President 1987-2006

President Emeritus 2006-2016



Dr. Edward D. (Doug) Hodo served as the second president of Houston Baptist University from June 1, 1987, until his retirement in July 2006. Dr. Hodo went to be with the Lord on October 10, 2016, after a brief battle with cancer. He was 81 years old.

Dr. Hodo impacted the Kingdom of God in countless ways. During his service as president at HBU, Dr. Hodo created an integrated leadership team that resulted in informed decision-making and effective internal communication processes for the University. Under his leadership, new academic programs were developed, and campus facilities expanded to include the Hinton Center, the Baugh Center, the Husky Village Apartments and the Glasscock Center. In 2006, construction began on the first phase of the Morris Cultural Arts Center, which was dedicated in 2007.

Throughout his presidency, Dr. Hodo hosted optional prayer meetings every Tuesday morning in Moody Library and emphasized the spiritual health of faculty, staff and students. Dr. Hodo placed the University on a firm financial foundation, helped grow the school's endowment and maintained the University's commitment to faith in Jesus Christ. During his tenure at HBU, alumni numbers increased dramatically, and the renowned Bible in America collection – one of the most significant Bible collections in the last 50 years – was added to the University's museum.

In September of 2006, the Board of Trustees honored Dr. Hodo and his beloved wife, Sadie, for their 19 years of service to the University by naming them President Emeritus and First Lady Emeritus. Dr. and Mrs. Hodo were recognized in the 1997 Spirit of Excellence Gala with the Spirit of Excellence Award. In 2013, Houston Baptist University honored the Hodos with the naming of the Sadie and Doug Hodo Residence College.

In a recent statement, HBU President Robert Sloan said, "the entire HBU family mourns the passing of Dr. Doug Hodo, but we give God thanks for his faithful service and strong witness for Christ. Dr. Hodo was instrumental in continuing and strengthening the core scriptural commitments of HBU. Much that we are able to do today we owe to him and many others like him among the Trustees, faculty, and staff who have gone before us. Our prayers are with Sadie and the Hodo family."

Dr. Hodo also taught Bible study for 60 years, including classes at Castle Hills Church in San Antonio, Second Baptist Church in Houston and at First Baptist Boerne, and he served as a deacon at each respective church. He was involved with many for-profit and not-for-profit boards including Stewart Title, USAA Bank, Houston Christian High School, Living Water International and Castle Hills Baptist School.

Dr. Hodo's faith in Jesus Christ was the center of his life, and he even led his nurse to faith in Christ in his last days on earth. His life was a testimony of the grace, mercy and love of God.

Dr. Hodo is survived by his wife of 57 years, Sadie Branch Hodo, their three children, and ten grandchildren. Houston Baptist University held a memorial service honoring Dr. Hodo on Friday, November 11, in Belin Chapel.



HBU SPIRIT
of
Excellence
GALA

The biannual Spirit of Excellence Gala was hosted on November 1, 2016, at the Royal Sonesta Houston. Gala attendees were invited to support HBU's Ten Pillars vision, which incorporates the development of academic initiatives, HBU's Center for Law and Liberty, and the expansion of online programs. Beth and Greg Looser were the Gala Chairs, and Jennifer and Tadd Tellepsen served as Underwriting Chairs. More than 670 friends of the University were in attendance.

Peggy Noonan, a political columnist, best-selling author, and former presidential speechwriter, delivered the keynote address. Drawing from her experience with past United States Presidents, she reflected on presidential personalities and leadership styles.

The 2016 Spirit of Excellence Award, HBU's highest tribute, was given to Elizabeth and John W. Gibson, Jr. and Sue and Dr. Robert B. Sloan, Jr. Elizabeth and John Gibson have been involved in many areas of the University, including the President's Leadership Council and the Center for Christianity in Business. To magnify the University's impact for the cause of Christ, the Gibsons established the Elizabeth and John Gibson Endowed Chair in Apologetics.

Sue and Robert Sloan have served as President and First Lady of HBU for more than 10 years. Under their leadership HBU has grown and continues to develop into a nationally recognized, comprehensive university. University trustees Tom Mosley and Clois Smith praised the couple, "From the time we met the Sloans, their open, authentic, passionate love for Jesus and His Word was obvious, contagious, and uncompromising."

Mary Ann Belin received the President's Award for her many contributions, including academic scholarships, Belin Chapel, the Mary Ann Belin School of Nursing and Allied Health Simulation Lab, Belin Tower, and Belin Drive. Linda Higginbotham was given the President's Award for her involvement in multiple University activities, including helping raise The Guild scholarships through which 125 graduate students have completed degrees.

As a Founding Father who was instrumental in establishing and supporting the Christian mission of HBU, Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr. received the inaugural



Pinky Pampell and President Sloan



Gala Chairs Greg and Beth Looser, Guest Speaker Peggy Noonan, and Underwriting Chairs Tadd and Jennifer Tellepson



Sue and President Sloan



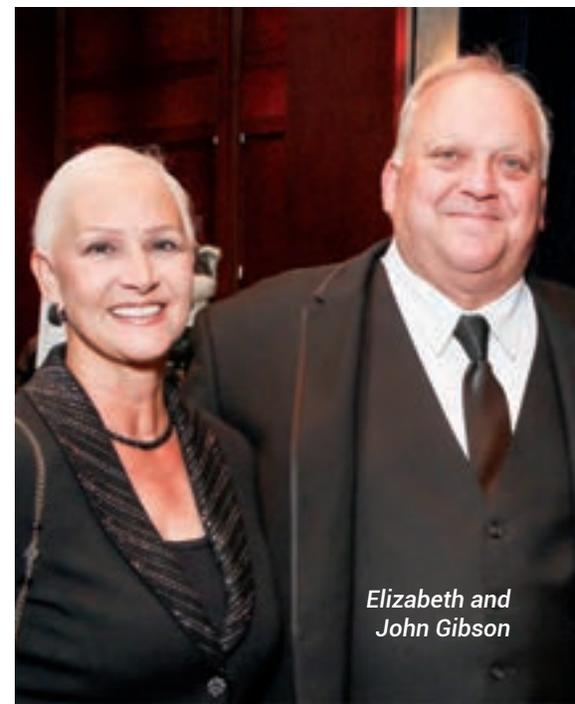
President Sloan with Stewart Morris



Laurie Mahlmann, Mary Ann Belin, Bryan and Courtney Minzenmeyer



Pam and Jim Richards (I) and Linda and Earle Higginbotham



Elizabeth and John Gibson



Laura Shook, Sarah May, Linda and Archie Dunham, Sydney Dunham and Cary Dunham



Jan Duncan, Jim and Sherry Smith



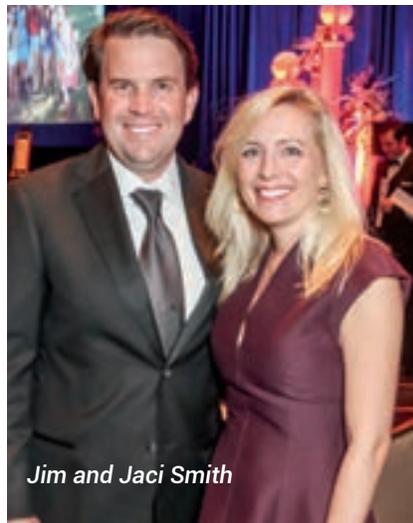
Gena and Chuck Norris



Greg and Kelly Matte



Randy BS '79, MBA '83 and Cindy Garbs, Nina and Edd Hende, Lisa and Jerry Simon



Jim and Jaci Smith



Robert and Janice McNair



J.J. Worthen BM '06



Founders Medal. Dr. Morris remains a visionary today, and his continued involvement is visible in every area of the University.

Linda and Archie W. Dunham were recognized for their many contributions, including the largest single donation given to the University, which was honored in the naming of the Archie W. Dunham College of Business. The Dunham's investment in HBU can be seen on multiple campus landmarks, including the Dunham Bible Museum, Dunham Theater, and Dunham Field in Husky Stadium. Archie Dunham serves as the chairman of the President's Leadership Council.

President Sloan delivered a surprise announcement for attendees. Pinky Pampell generously donated \$5 million as the catalyst for the expansion of HBU's digital online curriculum. In her honor, expanded HBU online programs will be named the "HBU Pinky Pampell Online Division." Read more about Pinky and her gift on page 30.

Dr. Sloan announced the public phase of Seize the Moment: The HBU Campaign to Build a National Christian University. After several years of the silent phase, the University has raised \$66 million, which is half of its goal. Campaign funds are for the improvement and expansion of the University, which will benefit students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of HBU as the University gains national recognition. Dr. Sloan also acknowledged significant gifts from Robert and Janice McNair (p. 10); Doris and Terry Looper (p. 9); and Center for Law and Liberty supporters Lisa and Al Hartman and Judge Paul and Nancy Pressler. In addition, he recognized the Cullen Trust for Higher Education, Houston Endowment, and the Welch, Dunn, Moody and Hammill Foundations.

This year the gala included a Missions Market and Silent Auction. The Missions Market was a phenomenal opportunity to serve current students at HBU by sponsoring specific events and needs on campus. The Silent Auction included items such as a signed and framed J.J. Watt jersey, the opportunity to name a campus street, and a round of golf with Dr. Sloan. The Gala raised more than \$710,000 for HBU.

Houston Baptist University is thankful for the many men and women who show support for our Christian mission through giving and through prayer; it was our honor to recognize such incredible generosity at the Spirit of Excellence Gala.

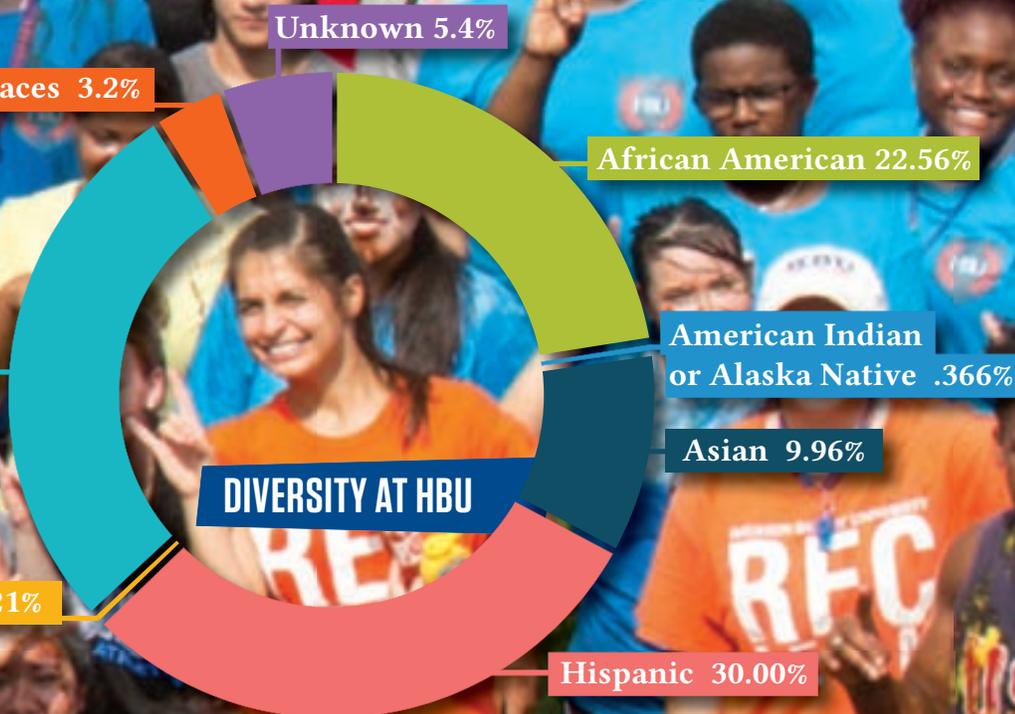
 [HBU.edu/p54-soe](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBU.edu/p54-soe)

GROWING, GROWING, GROWING FALL ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

HBU TOTAL ENROLLMENT GRADUATE & UNDERGRADUATE



BREAK RECORD



DIVERSITY AT HBU

Every person affiliated with Houston Baptist University helps in the recruitment process, from wearing the school colors to liking an Instagram post to brainwashing your children (not really). This year, that recruitment proved its importance as 577 freshmen, the second largest class in school history, began their first semester at HBU.

Houston Baptist University's total enrollment is **3,273 students**, a record for the school, which includes record-breaking numbers of both undergraduate and graduate students. The University also continues to excel at enrolling a **diverse student body** as 68% of undergraduate students are from racial or ethnic minority groups.

According to James Steen, the vice president for enrollment management, this year marks the **fourth year of record enrollment at HBU**. "Not only was total enrollment up, but new student enrollment for undergraduates was up, as was retention for our returning students. So based on national trends that show flat or declining enrollment at regional private universities, this year was a huge success!"



ENVISION

Houston Baptist University is deeply grateful for individuals who extend the vision and mission of HBU through sacrificial and strategic giving. We gratefully acknowledge Pinky Pampell's \$5 million gift for the expansion of Houston Baptist University's online education and the naming of the HBU Pinky Pampell Online Division.

As we recognize the roadblocks to private Christian universities in this economy and with the culture of our nation as it is, we thank the Lord for generosity from Christian men and women, such as Pinky. Pinky Pampell has donated funds for the building of church and para-church buildings across the state of Texas: the Pampell Family Chapel at Houston Christian High School, a music conservatory in Dallas, The Point youth building and the wedding chapel at Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston, Pinky's Place at Star of Hope ministries, and many more. Her generosity has impacted countless lives. Pinky's gift was the catalyst for our online education expansion. In giving more than half of the necessary funds for the expansion of HBU's online education, Pinky understands that her gift has the potential to build multiple buildings across this University to benefit thousands of students both residential and online.

Pinky is worthy of recognition for her humility, her visionary spirit and her commitment to faith in Jesus Christ. *The Pillars* Editor Dr. Jerry Johnston interviewed Pinky in her home in October.

EXPANSION



Giving has been central to your Christian experience. Why is that?

Well, the really above-the-average giving began after my husband died. After he died and everything came to me, and I of course opened the checks and looked at them and deposited them. I thought, gee, I had no idea what we had, and it bothered me. And I thought, “What am I going to do with the money? I don’t need anything. I’ve got to do the right thing,” because the verse in my head kept saying, “God doesn’t bless you with more than you need so you can spend more than you need on yourself.”

It really began to depress me. I thought, “What am I going to do with this?” I knew I wasn’t just going to throw it away. I didn’t want my two girls doing the same thing. So I began to talk to some of the deacons at the church that I knew were great people, and I thought, “I’ve got to do something for God with this; I want to give it back to God because he had blessed us so much.”

So, it’s just fun giving and knowing that it’s all for God. It’s a real blessing to me.

And you’re giving to HBU and the naming of the HBU Pinky Pampell Online Division means that thousands and thousands of young people and adults are going to be trained through HBU. In time, you’ve learned, that the online school will build many buildings at HBU on Fondren. How does that make you feel?

Oh my goodness, just the outreach that will effect so many people and to know it will go on and on. It’s amazing, really amazing.

Was that impact hard to comprehend at first?

Yes it was. It was because I’ve been doing buildings. Looking back, I think everything I did was a building, other than missions.

How important do you think Houston Baptist University’s ministry is, not just in Houston, but also across the nation?

All Christian organizations are important at this time. And of course Houston Baptist is a big part here in Houston and with this [online] all around the world. If we don’t keep our children close to God and believing in the principles that we understand as a Christian, they are lost. What do they say? In one generation, the children will be lost. So unless parents are keeping their children close to God, they’re gone. It’s a disappointment the way our country is going, and we need Christians to speak up, stand up, and say something, do something, get involved. I think this [Christian education] is going to be a great thing for young people.

The Pinky Pampell Online Division is going to be heard about all over America and probably internationally. Your gift was the catalyst of the funding needed. What does that mean to you?

You know anything we do for God is forever. So it doesn’t matter if it’s small or big. If someone can’t give a lot, they can give some. And that’s all that God looks at, just giving. If you give with your heart to Him for Him, it all means the same really. I don’t really think it’s the amount I give; it’s the giving. You know, like the widow’s mite. It’s anybody that wants to further God’s kingdom, for the youth growing up, whatever you give. Give what you can, but give. I think that’s the key is to give and really the more you give, the more you find God gives back to you, and I think that is so true. I’ve found it true.

I admire your faith. Who is the single person that so mentored you spiritually that you have this solid core Christian faith?

I think my mother and daddy. They really were just common—really looking back—poor people. Of course, I thought everybody was the same when I was growing up. But I always say the greatest thing I’ve ever gotten besides Christ is my parents took us to church. They read the Bible and they talked to us about it. You don’t realize how important that is to young people until you look back. It’s the greatest thing just knowing that they did that.

On Saturday, we were told to make sure your clothes were ready for church and your shoes were shined. It was a little country church. We were faithful in church. Most of the time, Daddy led the singing. He had a very good voice. We were just there. We were there on time, sitting on the front row. That was a big part of our life. Church was a big thing, and I always loved going to church.

The Pinky Pampell Online Division—you have said that by allowing us to use your name, that it is primarily a challenge to others. Can you tell us what that challenge is?

Well I just think when people see a name there, they put it together, and they think “Gee, she could do that, why can’t we? Let’s us try it, too.”



ENTREPRENEURISM DIGITALLY

“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap.”

— LUKE 6:38

 [HBU.edu/p54-pampell](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBU.edu/p54-pampell)

KALEO MOMENT

Kaleo in Greek means “to be called” and as we read in Matthew 28, we are called to make disciples in the name of Christ. As believers in Jesus Christ, discipleship includes teaching others about Christ; providing a community of believers who “do life” together in authenticity; and understanding the importance of sharing Christ with the world. On our campus, we are working hard in providing campus-wide discipleship opportunities through the Kaleo Discipleship Program. These opportunities are designed to integrate discipleship within our faculty, staff and students throughout campus life. We seek to teach, live and proclaim Christ and His Truth.

In thinking for a moment about our call to discipleship, read below from Matthew 28 and think about what questions arise; what thoughts this scripture stirs; and how this can be applied to your life as a disciple.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. ~ Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

The word disciple means “learner,” and we understand it to mean “follower of Jesus Christ.” If you believe that Jesus is Lord and that He died on the cross for your sins and rose again from

the grave, you are saved and are called to be a disciple. In this passage, known as the Great Commission, the first part of this command is to share the gospel, giving us the mandate that our focus should be making Jesus known and following Him in everything. This verse comes after Jesus has risen from the dead and is about to ascend into heaven, and His last command is for His followers to go and make disciples.

In verse 20, He calls us to teach others to follow His commands. Throughout the first four books of the New Testament, we read His commands with the most important being “*love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself.*” (Matthew 22:37-39).

As we seek to share and teach others about Christ, we as believers need to continue to sharpen ourselves in studying His word and living by His example in our world. Your life is an example to those around you in sharing and teaching the love of Christ. Are you actively making disciples? Do people watching you see something different in your attitude, actions, and words and attribute this to your walk with Christ? Today as a believer and as one called to discipleship, are you encouraging others to seek and live the Great Commission? Go prayerfully and actively make disciples as you share and teach in your community and the world.

Teach, Live & Proclaim Christ & His Truth





Lynn Tyger, Tommie Lejeune,
Dena Williams, Ruth Alford

Fall Coffee Committee Co-chairs Tommie Lejeune and Lynn Tyger welcomed guests into the home of Dena and Jay Williams on October 13 at The Guild's first event of the season. Guild President Ruth Alford recognized new members and introduced Kandy Brittain, who gave an overview of activities on the HBU campus. She then presented Dena a framed page of the 1610 Geneva Bible from the HBU Bible Museum.

Joshua Jones, recipient of the Sue Collier Sloan Endowed Scholarship, gave a moving testimony of how The Guild scholarship affected his life. In total, The Guild has awarded 42 endowed and 237 annual scholarships to deserving students pursuing advanced degrees in education and theology. Since 1994 The Guild has contributed more than \$1.8 million to HBU for scholarships, special projects, and The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies.



Scholarship Recipient
Joshua Jones



THE GUILD INSTITUTE IN CHRISTIAN FAMILY STUDIES CELEBRATES DR. STEWART MORRIS' 97TH BIRTHDAY

The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies celebrated Dr. Stewart Morris's 97th birthday at a luncheon and Founders' Day Convocation. Cheryl Kaminski, Guild President Ruth Alford, Dr. Robert Sloan, Sharon Saunders, Pat Bertotti, and Cyndi Jacobson congratulate Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.

HBU

HOMECOMING

2016



WELCOME HOME, Y'ALL!

Houston Baptist University hosted its annual Homecoming Weekend with the truly Texas theme of "Welcome Home, Y'all!" on October 14 and 15. Friday evening, HBU Women's Soccer competed against Central Arkansas at Sorrels Field. Also on Friday night, HBU hosted a Homecoming Concert in Dunham Theater.

Saturday morning brought multiple activities for students, alumni and families, including the Alumni Association's 15th Annual Husky Hustle. This year, the Husky Hustle incorporated a 5K for adults and a 1K for kids. The funds raised by the Husky Hustle benefitted HBU student scholarships.

In the late afternoon, HBU Men's Basketball tipped off for the season with a reception in McNair Hall inside the Morris Cultural Arts Center. HBU President Dr. Robert Sloan, Tip-Off Chairman Steven Braun, head basketball coach Ron Cottrell, and special guest Oliver Luck spoke at the event to prepare fans for the men's basketball team's fourth season in the Southland Conference.

Many students, alumni and families tailgated before the Homecoming game, and three awards were given in the tailgate competition. The Husky Veteran's Association won the Best Overall Tailgate. Phi Kappa Psi walked away with the Best Food prize, and the Most Spirited award went to Alumni Branden Mickan '08 & Friends.

Saturday evening included an exciting, but heartbreaking double-overtime football loss to Nicholls State University. Carlos Cruz won Homecoming King and Thalia San Roman won Homecoming Queen. The Senior Princess was Lena Diab. The Junior Duke and Duchess were Tony Clark and Leah Townsend. The Sophomore Count and Countess were Paul Arce and Raven Towns. The Freshman Lord and Lady were Cole Lemmons and Destiny Wingate.

The weekend was full of school spirit, nostalgia and celebration as many Houston Baptist University alumni returned to campus with their friends and families.





“Athletically, HBU has been more than I could have asked for. The coaches care about us as people and want the best for us. Academically, the professors care about us, too, and will work with us and our athletic demands.”

—KAYLA ARMER

KAYLA ARMER

The unassuming star

Volleyball senior setter Kayla Armer has been an unassuming star at HBU, letting her play do the talking and happily letting her teammates’ accomplishments speak more for her success than her own. Just as she quietly slipped under the radar of other NCAA Division I programs, Armer has quietly compiled one of the greatest careers of any Husky setter.

Armer leads the Southland Conference with 10.34 assists per set, averages 2.42 digs per set and has recorded 115 kills, 60 blocks and 18 aces. In a road match against Lamar on Nov. 1, she recorded the first triple-double in HBU volleyball history with 62 assists, 11 kills and 11 digs. In the next match at Abilene Christian on Nov. 3, Armer set the school’s all-time assists record with 4,960 with at least three matches remaining. She passed the mark of 4,924 set by 2016 HBU Sports Hall of Honor inductee Natalie Magat (2006-09).

“It feels good to achieve what I have on the court, because I was overlooked coming into college,” Armer said. “When I started the recruiting process, I started late, so I was not as developed as other setters. [HBU head coach] Trent [Herman] was willing to take a chance on me, teach me and completely changed the way I set.”

“Kayla was part of our first recruiting class as a staff at HBU. We got started late

and were looking for a setter,” Herman said. “We looked at her, and a lot of people we talked to said she was new to the position. She was the kind of player we were looking for to start our program going in the right directions, someone we could work with, and say ‘this is your team, so let’s go.’”

Armer has had to reach her milestones without a mainstay over her three-year career and without All-Southland Conference First Team outside hitter Jessica Wooten, another member of Herman’s first recruiting class. Wooten was injured prior to the season opener, will miss the entire year, and will hope to return at full strength in 2017.

“It’s been hard, because we came in together as freshmen and were the only two freshmen to get starting spots,” Armer said. “We’re best friends and roommates. We had high expectations for this season, but I had to make the adjustment to realize she wasn’t going to be on the court with me. We joked that we had telepathy, that we knew what the other was going to be doing before we did it. We’re still winning, even without our ‘star,’ because everyone else came in with those same expectations, too, and we just had to adjust and get on the same page, which we’ve worked hard to do.”

Coming out of Manatee High School in Bradenton, Florida, Armer was not

heavily recruited due to the late start in her volleyball career. She hadn’t really planned on being a setter, either, until her club coach got mad at the team during a practice and made everyone line up on the wall and set. They saw her hands and the rest, to HBU’s fortune, is history.

“I was a middle at first and my team didn’t really have a setter,” Armer said. “It’s kind of an accident I became the setter, but naturally, I had good hands. I just hadn’t been taught. Trent has worked with me on keeping my hands high, footwork and strategy, so my volleyball IQ is very different than when I first came here, because of the film sessions and him helping me play smarter.”

Everyone in the Armer family has played Division I athletics. Kayla’s mother, Michelle, was an All-America swimmer at the University of Michigan while her father, Chip, played basketball for the Wolverines. Her sister, Jacqui Lynn, is a freshman on the LSU volleyball team.

“It’s fun that everyone in my family has played a sport in college, and my family is super-competitive about everything,” Armer said. “I was actually a dancer all through middle school, but my dance school closed, so I played every sport, then volleyball just stuck. My younger sister started playing volleyball before I did and I wanted to try it. My younger



siblings (sister, Marisa, and brother, Bo) are swimmers, so they take after my mom, but no one pushed us one way or the other. When people ask me if I play Division I, I end up bragging about my family and tell them, ‘We’ve all played Division I.’”

During her HBU career, Armer has twice earned All-Southland Conference honorable mention, twice been named first-team academic all-conference and was voted to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team in 2014. She has made multiple all-tournament teams and was named MVP of the Flo Hyman Collegiate

Cup this year, when the Huskies defeated host Houston, ULM and San Jose State for the team title.

“Athletically, HBU has been more than I could have asked for,” Armer said. “I started as a freshman and have been the starting setter ever since. The coaches care about us as people and want the best for us. Academically, the professors care about us, too, and will work with us and our athletic demands. The campus is small, but I like the fact that it’s in Houston, so you get the best of both worlds, with a small community in a big city.”

“Kayla was a member of my first

recruiting class at HBU, she’s been a four-year starter and has been an integral part of developing our culture as a program,” Herman said. “She has taken us to places we haven’t been as members of the Southland Conference. She will be greatly missed and will leave a stamp on the future of this program and the conference. Her leadership and being a great person, on and off the court, has influenced everyone around her.”

Armer and the Huskies finish the regular season at the Southland Conference Tournament Nov. 18-20 in Conway, Arkansas.



Huskies Making BETTER NUTRITION A PRIORITY

In the fall of 2015, the HBU Athletics Department teamed with the Memorial Hermann IRONMAN Sports Medicine Institute in developing a program to educate student-athletes about their nutrition and its effect on performance.

In addition to his role at IRONMAN Sports Medicine Institute, Brett Singer has been appointed as Head Sports Dietician for HBU Athletics.

“My primary role has been one-on-one consulting, but this is a totally different dynamic and I love working with college athletes, because they are right between the pros and high school,” Singer said. “Pros are kind of set in their ways and high school athletes are not mature enough yet to grasp what we are trying to teach them. College athletes are really interested, with many on their own for the first time, so they are willing to listen.”

The importance of good nutrition can be understated and difficult for anyone, especially college-aged individuals who often stay up late, do not have much time between classes, and also have a job, homework, practice and competition. The program is designed to teach student-athletes how to make better choices and help them balance their busy lives.

“Our thought is that the body is like an automobile and our student-athlete’s bodies are like racing cars – they need the proper fuel to perform optimally,” director of Athletics Steve Moniaci said. “A lot of our student-athletes had no idea what that meant and were making really poor nutritional choices.”



“We were training them to perform, but then they were putting bad fuel in their bodies. We decided that we needed to do something about it, so we reached out to our medical partners, Memorial Hermann Healthcare Systems, who put us in touch with their IRONMAN Sports Medicine Institute and Brett Singer. Brett has done a fantastic job with the student-athletes in the first year of this program and we owe him and Memorial Hermann a huge thank you!”

Singer first conducted a seminar with each team, including the coaching staff and athletic trainers. Then, he visited the cafeteria with each team to answer questions and have each student-athlete demonstrate what they had learned.

Since those sessions, Singer has produced handouts and infographics, which were posted in the Baugh, HBU’s student cafeteria, and the athletic training rooms to reinforce the material. A new social media account has also been created for consistent interaction and reinforcement with HBU’s student-athletes and has already generated more than 73,000 views in less than a year.

During the spring, Singer demonstrated a post-practice nutritional workout recovery program, which included all student-athletes and was open to the entire student body.

“We’ve received really positive feedback from the student-athletes and talking to Steve and the athletic training staff, the response has been positive to them as well,” Singer said. “You can tell most of them are really happy to have this resource and someone they can ask questions.”

“It’s nice being with a population driven to be their best, and they can realize how well they can do if they start making better decisions regarding their health. It’s like turning on a light switch when they really get it.”

HBU Athletics will continue to partner with Memorial Hermann IRONMAN Sports Medicine Institute to expand and move the program forward. The HBU Sports Nutrition program can be followed on Twitter @HBUNutrition.





WOMEN'S SOCCER WINS SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

The HBU women's soccer team captured its second Southland Conference Tournament championship in three years with a 1-0 shutout of Stephen F. Austin November 6 at Jack Dugan Soccer Stadium in Corpus Christi, Texas. With the victory, the Huskies earned the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Senior midfielder Allison Abendschein, voted the Tournament Most Valuable Player, scored the lone goal in the final, a header off the serve of a corner kick by senior forward Alessia Dal Monte. Junior midfielder Ellee Hall scored twice during the tournament, bringing her career postseason goal total to five. Dal Monte, Hall, sophomore goalkeeper Alanis Guevara, senior defender Kristi O'Brien and sophomore forward Sabriah Spencer joined Abendschein on the All-Tournament Team.

HBU outscored its three opponents, 5-1, in the tournament, with Guevara posting shutouts against top-seeded Central Arkansas, then second-seeded Stephen F. Austin for the title.

"We are so proud of the effort and determination the girls put in this week and this weekend," head coach Misty Jones said. "SFA is an excellent team and made us fight to keep the lead. It is nice to bring the trophy back home, two championships in three years is big for our program. Being the underdog puts less pressure on us, and we were able to play our game. It was a tremendous effort from the players and staff, and we would like to thank the fans who traveled from all over to support us. The team personified what it

means to be a champion."

Jones, who recorded her 100th win at HBU at Lamar on October 23, also led the Huskies to the tournament crown in 2014 and made the University's first NCAA postseason appearance by a women's program. Eleven student-athletes have been a part of both titles, including the six seniors -- Abendschein, O'Brien, Dal Monte, Elizabeth Adams, Morgan Dean and Jia LeBlanc.



The students at Houston Baptist University are continually provided opportunities to grow both academically and spiritually. In early October, HBU held a Spiritual Emphasis Week called Ignite and invited four speakers to share their perspectives on why the Gospel matters.

The first speaker was David Moss; David is the founder and director of HiS PRINT ministry in Croatia and is on staff with HBU Athletics. The second speaker was an HBU alumnus who converted to Christianity from Islam when her HBU roommate shared the Gospel with her. The third speaker was Malcolm Marshall, who is the chaplain for the NBA's Houston Rockets and ministers as Christian rapper Excelsius. The fourth speaker, Rick Vasquez, is a pastor in Houston and first encountered Jesus while he was in prison. The speakers shared their testimonies about the redeeming power and love of Jesus. One student told *The Pillars*, "I can finally say someone understands." The praise team from the Spanish ministry at Second

Baptist Church led worship for the week.

Before the speaking sessions began, students gathered for prayer and worship. HBU transfer student Seth Grant told *The Pillars*, "I was just blown away by the fact that we even can. That hit me the first night when we just had prayer and worship. I was thinking about all of the stuff going on around the world and my friends all around the world, and what it's like for them living in their countries, and they maybe can't have spiritual emphasis weeks. That made me very grateful and reflective for what we have here, and not to take it for granted."

Though a Christian university, HBU is religiously diverse with students who are atheist, Buddhist, Muslim, Christian and Hindu. Every student who graduates from HBU is required to have a certain number of Community Life and Worship (CLW) credits. Ignite was a great opportunity for students to

catch up or get ahead on their credits. Sophomore Jonathan Rangel explained how the CLW system could impact students. "People come here and some of them just come in to study, and they don't know or care about Christ, but then they go to events like Ignite. Some of these people went to receive the credits, and they actually came out changed."

On the last night, Jonathan noticed a student a few rows behind him who stood up when the speaker invited students to respond. "I got up and hugged him, and I told him congratulations for accepting Christ. He couldn't even talk to me; he was just crying."

The purpose of Ignite was to share the Gospel with students who are not believers and to encourage students who are Christians to live their faith. For Seth Grant, that purpose was reached. "I feel challenged, but also encouraged to share the Gospel because life is short and we aren't guaranteed the next breath."



ALUMNUS CABEZA DE VACA SWORN IN AS GOVERNOR OF TAMAULIPAS



HBU alumnus and former soccer player Francisco Garcia Cabeza de Vaca was sworn in as governor of the Mexican state of Tamaulipas on October 1, 2016. Cabeza de Vaca graduated from Houston Baptist University in 1990 with a degree in management and marketing. He was born in McAllen, Texas, and has dual citizenship in the United States and Mexico.

Cabeza de Vaca is a member of the Mexican PAN party, or the National Action Party (in Spanish Partido Acción Nacional). He is the first governor of Tamaulipas in nearly 90 years who is not a member of the PRI,

Institutional Revolutionary Party. Tamaulipas is a Mexican state just south of Texas that also borders the Gulf of Mexico. Much of the trade between Texas and Mexico happens at this shared border.

Cabeza de Vaca visited the HBU campus in September where he met with several University leaders, professors and coaches and spoke to a marketing class. He was excited to discuss his goals as governor, including building business between the two states of Tamaulipas and Texas, increasing security, lowering crime and ending corruption.



ZIMMERMAN ELECTED MAYOR OF SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

Houston Baptist University MBA Alumnus Joe Zimmerman '89 was elected mayor of Sugar Land, Texas, on June 11, 2016. Sugar Land is in the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land metropolitan area and is one of the fastest-growing and most affluent cities in Texas. The 2016 estimated population of Sugar Land is 87,367.

Joe Zimmerman and his wife, Nancy, have been married 40 years and are active members at Second Baptist Church- Woodway. They have a daughter and son-in-law, Allison and Chris Wallace, and two grandchildren, Emmy and Campbell.

Zimmerman is also the director of development for Cobb Fendley & Associates, Inc., a private civil engineering consulting firm. He will serve in his elected position as the mayor of Sugar Land for two years.

Mayor Zimmerman returned to the HBU campus on October 25 to speak to students about the ups and downs of his career at the event "American Dreams: Stories of Uncommon Valor & Career Success."



HBU.edu/p54-mayor

A L U M - A - G R A M M S



Angelo Gonzalez '08 and family



Taylor Maier '09 and family



Dillon Smith '11

1970's

Bernie Sanders '70 is an engineering analyst with Boeing Commercial Aircraft.

Joel Berry '72 has announced his retirement. "After 30-plus years of being tied to a desk during springtime," Joel has retired from his CPA practice. To celebrate, Joel and his wife of almost 48 years, Linda, took an April vacation to London and then spent Tax Day in Paris, France.

Gee-Gee Yates '75 is a music teacher at the International Leadership of Texas.

Madeline (Frey) Gilbreth '77 retired from Broken Arrow Public Schools, in Oklahoma, after 34 years of teaching. She helped create the ELL program for her school district and worked with ELL students for more than 15 years. While enjoying retirement with her family, she will continue to tutor students with needs.

1980's

Jan Cross '86 is the director of adult psychiatric services at Austin State Hospital.

Dr. Leslie Kennedy Adams, BA '86, MLA '87 was selected as a participant in the 2016 NEH Summer Institute for College and University Teachers Veterans in Society: Ambiguities and Representations, which was held in July in Blacksburg, Virginia, home of Virginia Tech, and Washington, D.C. She is currently

working on compiling an oral history of jet pilots who served in the Vietnam War. Her father, Lester Mac Kennedy, was an F-8 Crusader pilot who was killed in 1963. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Michael Benson '87 is the West Division Executive for Bank of America.

Mark Pogue '87 has recently released his second studio album, *Through The Fire* - the first to be released on his independent label, Audio Deo Records. The album was released in August to coincide with Mark's and his wife Mita's 25th wedding anniversary - they had been divorced from each other for seven years when God miraculously restored their marriage in 1991. *Through The Fire* is the second Mark Pogue release this summer, preceded in July by the 25th Anniversary Remastered Edition of *Mark Pogue & Fortress-Restoration*.

1990's

Elizabeth Richmond Killinger '90 was recently featured in the *Houston Chronicle's* "These Women Basically Run Houston" story. Elizabeth is the president of NRG Texas and Reliant, and has overseen the development of new product lines and businesses. She has been instrumental in the company's expansion out of Texas.

Tom Kennedy '94 recently left the specialty gas business after 20-plus years to open Precise Standards and Solutions where he serves as co-owner and COO.

Dane Friend '95, vice president of human resources at Baylor College of Medicine, was named Executive of the Year for the 2016 C-Suite Awards by the *Houston Business Journal*.

Angela Stewart '97 currently works as the HR Super User Lead for Schulumberger.

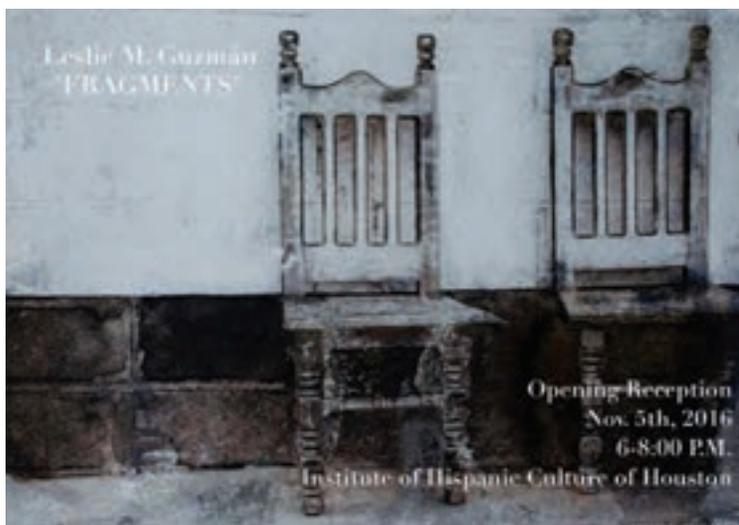
2000's

Aaron Ivey '03 is the worship pastor at The Austin Stone in Austin, Texas, and was recently featured in How to Foster a Culture of Worshipers in *The Gospel Coalition*.

JD Humber II '04 is working as an art teacher at Caney Creek High School in Conroe ISD.

Angelo Gonzalez '08 is now the associate pastor at a new branch of The Church at Cane Island in Katy, Texas. He and his wife Sarah also welcomed their third daughter, Camryn Ashleigh, into their family on March 30, 2016. Camryn was welcomed by big sisters Hayden & Morgan.

Taylor Maier '09 teaches biology and anatomy at Bay Area Christian School. Taylor currently teaches freshmen biology, honors biology, and senior anatomy and physiology. Her two boys,



Leslie Guzman Anderson '14



Jack Hudson David

Chris (4) and Caleb (3), started preschool there as well. Taylor's husband, Derek, recently graduated top of his class from the Houston Police Academy and is now serving as an HPD police officer.

2010's

Justin Schneewind '11 graduated in May 2016 with a Master's of Business Administration from the C.T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston.

Dillon Smith '11 graduated and was ready to embark on a career in politics, but he never imagined a change that would catapult him as an entrepreneur and youth advocate against hate and violence. Smith, 27, left politics in 2012 for music management. In 2014, he and friend Gus Mendoza founded the Allstar Nation Tour as a way to reach kids through music in a way that engages and excites them. He created the anti-bullying tour in summer 2014 as a supplemental assembly program free to schools. It boasts a concert-like atmosphere mixed with important messages delivered by emerging music artists to a student audience that is high energy one moment, and pin-drop silent the next. Artists on the tour include Top 6 finalist on X-Factor, Drew Ryniewicz, as well as Branden Mendoza of New Caney, Texas; and Micaiah Walker, lead singer of popular Houston band VerseCity.

Ryan Bond '14 is currently a teaching assistant at Baylor University where he is working towards his doctorate in philosophy.

Adesuwa Chestnut '14 is an RN at Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Ben Daniels '14 is working as an operations support analyst for Shell.

Sandra Solis '14 is a financial advisor in the IMG Financial Group.

Leslie Guzman Anderson '14 had a solo art exhibition "Fragments" at the Institute of Hispanic Culture of Houston in November. She recently had her art featured in the Visual Arts Alliance 10th Juried Invitational Exhibition where she placed Honorable Mention.

Emily Fredrickson '15 is a teacher for Katy ISD.

Nancy (Gonzalez) Shivers '16 is a team manager for Just Energy.

Husky Pups

Erik David '08 and **Rachel (O'Shields) David** '09 welcomed Jack Hudson on June 9 at 7:47 a.m. weighing 6 lbs. 11 oz. and measuring 20 inches long.

John Wethington '11 and **Halcie (Pfeiffer) Wethington** '12 welcomed Molly Rain Wethington on April 22 weighing 7 pounds 4 ounces.

Taylor Ducoff '13 and wife Maggie welcomed Allie Gayle on May 3 at 11:50 a.m. weighing 7.14 lbs. and measuring 19.5 inches long. Allie was welcomed by big sister Olivia.



Molly Rain Wethington



Allie Gayle Ducoff

In Memoriam

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY



James Dalton Havard, former HBU Trustee passed away Aug. 3. Havard pastored churches in Texas for 41 years, ultimately retiring from Sugar Creek Baptist Church in Sugar Land, Texas, in 1988. In the 20 years that followed, Havard engaged in international mission work, traveling hundreds of thousands of miles and preaching the Gospel on six continents. In 2005, Havard was named pastor emeritus of Sugar Creek Baptist Church, and from then until his death, he continued to teach and preach.



Lee Lawrence, a longtime friend and supporter of HBU, passed away July 29 at the age of 100. Lee, along with her husband Tracy, dedicated over 50 years of service to the University with time, talent, and treasure. She was a lifetime member - and served a term as president of The Guild, a member of the Museum of Southern History, the American Museum Society, and a lifetime member of the President's Leadership Council. Many landmarks on the HBU campus, including Lawrence Park and the Sandra Lee Lawrence floor of the Hinton Center, are named after the Lawrence family. In 2006, the entire Lawrence family was honored as the first "Family of the Year" in recognition of their love and support of the University.

FORMER STUDENTS



Terry Lewis '88, former "Voice of the Huskies," alum and longtime supporter of HBU, passed away on August 7. His passing is a huge loss for the entire HBU athletics family.

We are all saddened upon hearing of Terry's passing. He was a loyal friend and member of the HBU family. His passion for HBU, our athletics department most of all, was unsurpassed. In all my years at HBU, I have never known anyone who loved HBU as much as Terry. If ever there was someone who truly actually bled orange and blue, it was Terry. He will be sorely missed.
—Ron Cottrell, head men's basketball coach



William H. Myers '68 passed away September 14, after complications from an aggressive brain tumor. A graduate of HBU and the University of Florida, Bill taught chemistry to generations of students at the University of Richmond for 43 years and as a visiting professor at UVA for 25 years. Bill applied his talents to sharing the love of Christ and the Bible to all he met.

FORMER STAFF



Dan Lopez, former chief of security, staff member.



Forestine (Tina) Turner, passed away October 14. She was a retired HBU employee who worked as the University Telephone Operator and University Police Dispatcher for many years.



Frances Ellouise Zapalac passed away September 13. She worked as manager of the HBU Bookstore for over 20 years, and after retirement, she filled some of her time teaching and corresponding with over 80 World Bible School students from around the world.



Nora Hayes passed away October 9, after a 10-month battle with cancer. Nora worked at HBU 45 years full-time and two prior years part-time as a library assistant in Moody Library. Her co-workers described her as a caring and quiet woman who possessed an inner strength that could only come from the Lord. She often took prayer walks around the campus, and during her free minutes, she would read her Bible at her desk.

She was so observant and caring. She had a strong walk, and the character of Christ was in her. — Bonita Crider, assistant professor in library science

We are richer for having walked with her. Nora walked faithfully with the Lord, mentored the people around her, and was someone to whom one could turn for help and advice. She will be greatly missed, but we can rejoice that today she is with her Lord and Savior in heaven. — Dean Riley, interim director, Moody Library

FACULTY AS CULTURE INFLUENCERS

The faculty and staff of Houston Baptist University are impacting not just Houston and the state of Texas, but the nation and world. Our faculty are researching, publishing and speaking around the globe.

After prioritizing the students of HBU, faculty members are writing books, producing films and documentaries, lecturing at conferences, speaking at churches, publishing articles, reviewing pop culture products, developing Bible studies, taking students abroad and networking with political, educational and cultural icons.

When HBU faculty members share their expertise, they are spreading the influence of Houston Baptist University and the mission statement: “Jesus Christ is Lord.”

You can keep up with their cultural impact by visiting HBU.edu/culture-influencers



President Robert B. Sloan, Jr., Tadd Tellepsen, Ernest D. Cockrell and Matthew W. Morris (standing)

PRINCE-CHAVANNE LECTURE SERIES

In a society where truth is relative, ethics are blurred, and Christian morals are scoffed at, Houston Baptist University is teaching students about the importance of ethical decisions in every aspect of life. On October 11, 2016, three Christian business leaders who have generational connections with the HBU family participated in a round-table discussion about Christian business ethics. The participants shared their own personal testimonies of faith with students and discussed how to address ethical issues in the workplace from a Christian perspective. Students were able to ask questions at the end of the lecture.

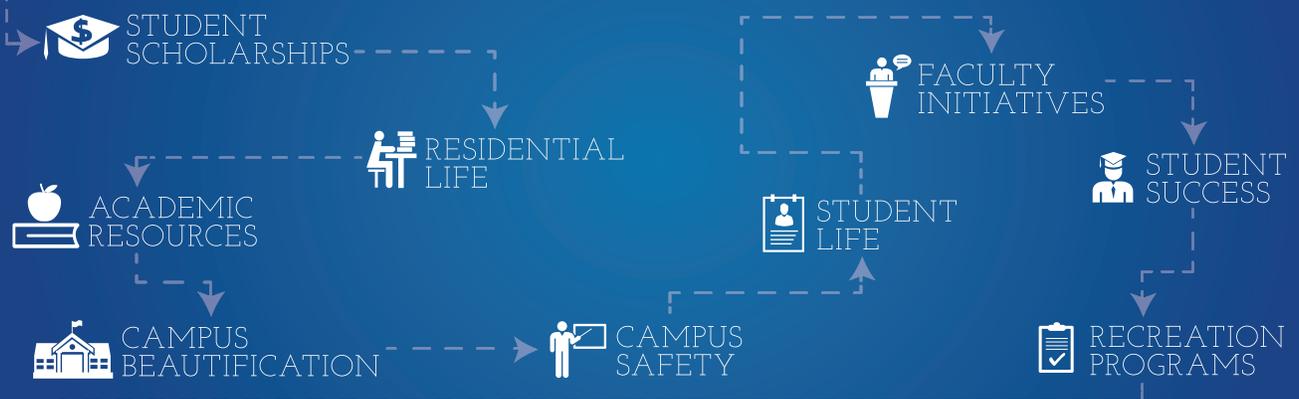
The three presenters were Ernest D. Cockrell II, the executive managing partner of Pinto Realty Partners; Tadd Tellepsen, president of Tellepsen Corporation and an MBA alumnus; and Matthew W. Morris, CEO for Stewart Information Services Company and son of HBU founder Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.. Matt Morris and Tadd Tellepsen are members of the HBU Board of Trustees.

The Prince-Chavanne Lecture series has been hosted at Houston Baptist University since the 1980s and has brought in many noteworthy speakers, including Dan T. Cathy, CEO of Chick-fil-A, and David Green, CEO of Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.. HBU is grateful for the generosity of the Chavanne Family in providing this lecture series for students.



[HBU.edu/p54-chavanne](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBU.edu/p54-chavanne)

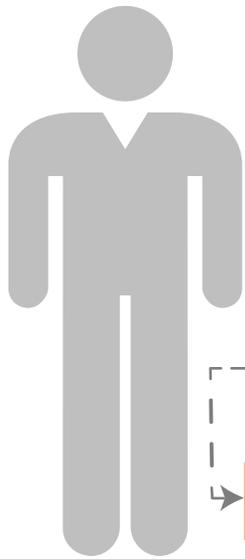
GIFTS TO THE HBU ANNUAL FUND



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 → RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



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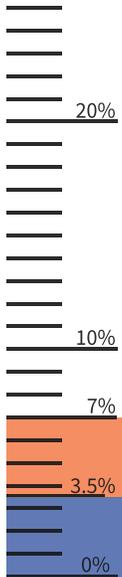
For less than the cost of two lattes per month you could give \$100 per year to the Annual Fund and impact a student's life.

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

"I am grateful for the flexibility I had due to generous donors — I grew as a leader at HBU, found my passion and pursued it. As I continue in graduate school at HBU, I can move forward confidently with the knowledge that I am in the right career field with the best professors and resources available. I am thankful for the solid foundation that stemmed from my undergraduate experience. It would not have been possible without scholarship support."



- Taylor Watson
 Husky Ambassador
 Resident Assistant (RA)
 Student Foundation Member



3.5% OF OUR ALUMNI
 GIVE BACK TO HBU.

TOGETHER, WE CAN DOUBLE THAT NUMBER.

OUR GOAL

CURRENT

HELP US TO REACH OUR GOAL BY INVESTING IN THE LIFE OF HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

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WE'VE GOT SPIRIT!!! SPIRIT OF HBU RECOGNITION DINNER



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD:

Benny Agosto Jr. '86

The Distinguished Alumnus Award honors alumni who have made distinctive contributions in their profession. This year's recipient is Benny Agosto '86, who is a partner in the highly acclaimed and respected law firm of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, & Agosto.

Benny is also the proud founder of The Mexican American Bar Association Foundation. Additionally, Benny is the co-founder of the Hispanic National Bar Association's Legal Education Fund, which provides scholarships for young Hispanic law students in the Houston area. Benny lives his life by always challenging himself to keep learning, to love and support his wonderful family, and to make every attempt to better his community. He truly exemplifies the many characteristics that HBU holds close. As a former HBU soccer player and coach, Benny has shown continued commitment to supporting the soccer program. The HBU Alumni Board of Directors recognizes that Benny has maintained a lasting bond with HBU faculty and makes every effort to show his love, respect, and appreciation for his family, community and his alma mater.



MERITORIOUS SERVICE ALUMNUS AWARD:

Mark Ammerman '82

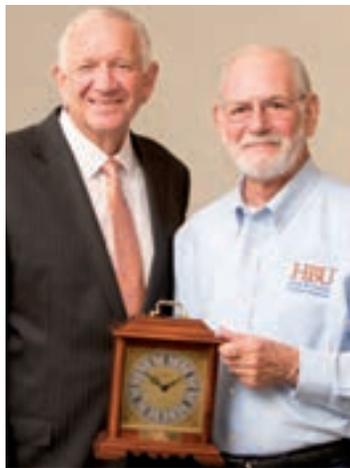
The Meritorious Service Alumnus Award honors alumni who have made significant, sustained contributions of time, energy, and creativity toward the advancement of the University. This year's recipient is Mark Ammerman '82, who has faithfully

supported HBU and the Alumni Association since he graduated. Mark previously served on the Dean's Development Council for the Archie W. Dunham College of Business, the Center for Christianity in Business Advisory Board, and is a current member on Houston Baptist University's Board of Trustees. From his wise counsel on multiple projects to creating a scholarship in the school of Christianity, Mark is dedicated to helping grow and strengthen HBU. Mark recently retired as the Managing Director and Industry Head of Energy at Scotiabank Global Banking, and he never hesitates to come back to his alma mater to offer his expertise and advice as HBU continues to grow and expand to be a world-class university. His constant commitment to the growth of the University and the success of the Alumni Association make him a deserving recipient of this award.



The HBU Alumni Association hosted the Spirit of HBU Dinner on September 24, 2016. The dinner honored the Alumni Award recipients: Distinguished, Meritorious Service, Hallmark and Emma Key Faithful Servant Awards. Additionally, HBU Athletics inducted individuals into the HBU Athletic Hall of Honor whose participation and contributions enriched and strengthened the University athletic program.

In addition to the Alumni Awards, the President's Award, Opal Goolsby Outstanding Teacher Award and the Mayfield Outstanding Staff Award recipients were inducted into the HBU Alumni Association Walk of Honor, located in the Bettis Quadrangle of the Brown Administrative Complex. The University and the HBU Alumni Association enjoyed honoring and congratulating their alumni and friends.



HALLMARK AWARD:
Dr. Rusty Brooks

The Hallmark Award is conferred upon an HBU faculty or staff member who has been particularly supportive of the Alumni Association and the mission of HBU. Along with being honored with this award, each recipient of the Hallmark Award is designated as an "Honorary Alumnus." This year's recipient is Dr. Rusty Brooks. While serving as a faculty member and interim dean at HBU, Dr. Brooks has had the opportunity to instruct and impact many

students and alumni. Dr. Brooks's teaching focus is on achieving "real-life" experiences and challenges in the classroom, and he is known for spending hours outside of the classroom counseling and mentoring students and alumni in their career paths. While at HBU, Dr. Brooks has served as the chair of the Athletic Affairs Committee, is the immediate past-president of the Society for Marketing Advances, and currently holds the Prince-Chavanne Professorship in Christian Business Ethics. He is also a two-time recipient of the Robert Griswold Outstanding Teaching Award in the School of Business. While at HBU, Dr. Brooks has been an incredible resource to students and alumni alike. "He always had his door open for students and was never shy about sharing his wisdom," says alumna Susy Perez '16. "During classes, he took it outside of the classroom by providing real world problems and solutions... He's the best professor I had at HBU by far." You can often find Dr. Brooks at an alumni tailgate or supporting his students at their athletic events. Dr. Brooks currently serves as the associate dean of undergraduate programs in the Archie W. Dunham College of Business as well as the program coordinator for marketing. Dr. Brooks' relentless dedication and support to his current and former students is what helps make him a deserving recipient for the Hallmark Award.



EMMA KEY FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARD:
Victoria Simms

The Emma Key Faithful Servant Award honors a student who exemplifies the selfless, Christ-like character of the late Emma Key, daughter of HBU Alumni

Steven '96 and Sherry '95 Key. This year's recipient is Victoria Simms. Victoria is a bold Christian and loves sharing her faith with others. In addition to serving as the chaplain on HBU's dance team and participating in many other HBU organizations, she also serves the Houston community by volunteering with organizations such as The Source for Women. Victoria's servant's heart is also demonstrated by her mission work in Texas and beyond. Her goal is to use her HBU nursing degree to start a Mobilized Medical Missions team and lead volunteer teams all over the world, where they will provide holistic care to vulnerable orphans and introduce them to the Gospel. Victoria emanates a willing lifestyle that combines faith-filled good works with the effortless ability to share her testimony with everyone. She is indeed a deserving recipient of the Emma Key Faithful Servant Award.

 [HBU.edu/p54-recognition](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBU.edu/p54-recognition)

THE YEAR THE SOLORIO FAMILY

The Spirit of HBU Dinner was hosted during HBU's Family Weekend. The family of Alejandro and Olga Solorio was awarded HBU's Family of the Year. The Solorios have a daughter and two sons, Alex and Eric, who are both part of the HBU family.

Alex is an alumnus of HBU who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Christianity in 2013 and his Master of Arts in Theological Studies in 2015. Alex was a member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, the chaplain of the football team, Homecoming king, and resident's director during his time at HBU. Alex is currently a College and Young Adult Associate Minister at First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio, Texas.

Eric is a junior in the Honors College, a Dean's list student double majoring in Christianity and Classics, a youth leader of the teens ministry at the Solorio's church, and a member of the praise team Refuge on campus.

Mr. and Mrs. Solorio have been married 29 years. They both accepted Christ as their Savior in 1996 and were baptized in 1997. Their daughter is expecting her first child, their first grandchild, in January. Their daughter and son-in-law are full-time missionaries in Thailand with Living Word International Ministry.

The Solorios are from Houston and were very honored by the award. Mrs. Solorio said in response to being chosen: "It is humbling. We are very simple people who live to the serve the Lord."

Footsteps of Paul

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Schedules subject to change

Go to hbu.edu/GreeceRome for more information and to register for this **Trip of a Lifetime!**

MONDAY, JUNE 5 - DAY 1: DEPART USA

Embark upon your journey with an overnight flight to Athens.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6 - DAY 2: ATHENS, THESSALONIKI

Arrive in Athens mid-afternoon and are met by our representative and given the tickets for our flight to Thessaloniki.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7 - DAY 3: THESSALONIKI, PHILIPPI, KAVALA

In the morning we start with the landmarks of the city: the White Tower, the Walls of the Byzantine Acropolis to see the famous funerary Lion of Amphipolis, the Roman Arch of Galerius and the Rotonda, Christian churches, the Basilicas of St. Demetrius and St. Sophia (Divine Wisdom). We then on to Philippi to visit the Baptistry of Lydia near the river where Paul baptized her and the ruins of the Forum of Philippi, the Christian Basilicas, the "Prison of Paul" and the Theater. Then we drive to Kavala (Neapolis), Paul's first step in bringing the Gospel to present-day Europe. We also view the Byzantine Castle and the Roman Aqueduct. We return to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8 - DAY 4: METEORA, ATHENS

This morning we see the Byzantine monasteries perched on summits of gray rock peaks of varied and beautiful shapes where the monks sought refuge in the cliff-side caves, then fled higher to build the original wooden shelters, which were later transformed into monasteries. Afterwards we continue to Athens where we will have dinner and overnight.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9 - DAY 5: START OUR 3-NIGHT MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

We sail from Athens to the quaint isle of Mykonos, called the island of windmills. No excursions are included today, as we will visit the island at our leisure by foot. We'll have time to experience the waterfront lined with shops and cafes before returning to the ship for dinner.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10 - DAY 6: KUSADASI, PATMOS

In the morning we arrive in Kusadasi, Turkey. Excursion included: A short drive takes us to Ephesus. The impressive remains of Ephesus include the Agora, the Theater, the Stadium, the Library of Celsus, the ruins of the Temple of Diana (one of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World") and many more. Later, we sail for the island of Patmos. Excursion included: Here we visit the Monastery of St. John, on one of the island's highest points, then down to the Grotto of the Apocalypse, the site of the apocalyptic Revelations of St. John the Divine.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11 - DAY 7: HERAKLION, CRETE / SANTORINI

In the morning we arrive at Heraklion, Crete and disembark. You can choose to visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos, home to King Minos and his legendary beast the Minotaur. In the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, we can find the unbelievable works of art (pieces of sculpture and pottery, jewelry, arms, frescoes) that have been found in a number of Minoan sites all over Crete. In the afternoon, we cruise to the isle of Santorini and disembark. Santorini is often referred to as the most breathtaking of all the Greek islands.

MONDAY, JUNE 12 - DAY 8: PIREAS, CORINTH, ATHENS

We disembark in the morning at Pireas (formerly Piraeus) and continue sightseeing with a visit to Ancient Corinth, the once-glorious city near the Isthmus, where Paul met Aquilla and Priscilla and spent a year and a half preaching the Word of God. We visit the Archaeological Museum, the Forum, the Temples and the famous Bema, where Paul stood before Gallio, accused by the Jews of Corinth. Then we drive to Cenchreae, the little harbor from which Paul sailed back to Asia, ending his second missionary journey. We'll follow our guide to the world-renowned Acropolis, to see the Propylea, the Erechtheum and the Parthenon. We visit Mars Hill, where Paul delivered his speech on the "Unknown God." Then we see the Agora, the ancient center of the economic and public life of the city, where Paul preached to the skeptical Athenians. During the bus tour, we also see Constitution Square with the House of Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Temple of Zeus, the Old Olympic Stadium and the Neoclassical Buildings of Athens. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Athens on your own. Dinner and overnight are in Athens.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13 - DAY 9: ATHENS, DELPHI, ATHENS

Today we include a special visit to the mountainous city of Delphi. For the ancient Greeks, Delphi was labeled the "omphalos" (navel) of the earth and it is here that the eternal flame burned in the Temple of Apollo. Delphi was the site of the Delphic oracle, the most important oracle in the classical Greek world where in 586 B.C. athletes from all over the Greek world competed in the Pythian Games, one of the precursors to the modern Olympics. Dinner and overnight are in Athens. *Those taking the optional Rome extension will proceed to the Athens airport for the evening flight to Rome.*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 - DAY 10: ATHENS, U.S.A.

We transfer in the morning to Athens Airport for our return flight back to the U.S.A. We arrive home the same day.

- *Tour members who choose not to take the optional excursions can explore the islands on their own.*
- *Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this brochure. While we will do our utmost to include all the sites listed above, the order of the sites and/or days and the number of days may be altered to accommodate changes in airlines, hotel schedules, time constraints, the cruise lines and local conditions. Rotation of ports of call may vary for congestion reasons at certain ports, with or without prior notice and changed by cruise lines without notice. Celestyal Cruises reserves the right to substitute vessel trading under the Celestyal Cruises name, for the scheduled vessel without notice.*
- *Breakfast and dinner included daily while on land. Three meals will be provided each day (breakfast, lunch and dinner) on board the cruise. Drinks are not included with meals, except for customary items served at the buffet.*

OPTIONAL ROME EXTENSION

\$1595 per person double occupancy includes: air taxes of \$55, gratuities of \$60, and Rome tourist tax

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 - DAY 10: ROME, CATACOMBS, ST. PETER IN CHAINS, COLOSSEUM, FORUM, ST. JOHN LATERAN, BASILICA OF ST. PAUL

Today we enjoy a sightseeing tour, including a special visit to the Catacombs afterwards continuing on to St. Peter in Chains. Then we visit the Colosseum, which symbolizes the eternity of the Roman civilization, the Forum and the Piazza Venezia. In the afternoon, we visit St. John Lateran and the "Sacred Steps." Dinner and overnight are in Rome.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15 - DAY 11: ROME, POMPEII

We travel south for Pompeii to visit the spectacular ruins which were covered by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. We return to Rome in time for dinner and overnight.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16 - DAY 12: ROME, VATICAN & SISTINE CHAPEL, TREVI FOUNTAIN

We visit the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel. It is one of the most splendid masterpieces in the history of world art and is well known around the world for its magnificent ceiling, beautifully decorated by Michelangelo. Next we visit the Basilica of St. Peter, the largest church in the world, which overlooks the enormous Piazza San Pietro. After lunch we start our sightseeing stopping near the Fontana di Trevi, following tradition by tossing a coin into the fountain, promising to return to Rome. Dinner and overnight are in Rome.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 - DAY 13: ROME, U.S.A.

We have a morning transfer to the Leonardo da Vinci Rome Airport for our return flight back to the U.S.A.

- *Enrollment in and payment of your deposit for the tour, constitutes your acceptance of the conditions and statement of responsibility.*
- *INCLUDED IN PRICE: 1) Round trip airfare per brochure, deluxe motor coaches, First Class / Superior First Class hotels, guided sightseeing, entrance fees to sites visited, breakfast & dinner daily.*
- *PAYMENT: A full deposit of \$1000 per person is required at time of registration. The final payment must be made by March 1, 2017. All payments are required in U.S. Funds.*
- *ACCOMMODATIONS: Price is based on double occupancy (two persons sharing a room). When available, single rooms are often smaller than doubles.*

Visiting Greece, June 5-14, 2017

- \$1000 non-refundable deposit
- \$4292 full payment

Visiting Greece, June 5-17, 2017 plus Rome Extension, June 14-17, 2017

- \$1000 non-refundable deposit
- \$5887 full payment

Still have questions? Please contact Clay Porter at cporter@HBU.edu, 281-649-3467 or 281-468-2874.



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2016-17 HBU Men's Basketball Schedule

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	TV	LOCATION	TIME
Nov. 11	Fri.	at Texas Tech	FOX College Sports	Lubbock, Texas	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 14	Mon.	at New Mexico	Root Sports	Albuquerque, NM	8 p.m.
NOV. 18	FRI.	DALLAS CHRISTIAN		SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
NOV. 22	TUE.	ECCLESIA		SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
Nov. 26	Sat.	at Marquette	FS2	Milwaukee, WI	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 30	Wed.	at Rice		Houston, Texas	7 p.m.
DEC. 7	WED.	ST. PETER'S (NJ)		SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
Dec. 10	Sat.	at Indiana	Big Ten Network	Bloomington, IN	4 p.m.
DEC. 17	SAT.	ARLINGTON BAPTIST		SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
Dec. 22	Thu.	at Northwestern		Evanston, IL	7 p.m.
Dec. 29	Thu.	*at Sam Houston State	ESPN3	Huntsville, TX	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 31	Sat.	*at Stephen F. Austin	ESPN3	Nacogdoches, TX	4 p.m.
JAN. 5	THU.	*SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA		SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
JAN. 7	SAT.	*MCNEESE		SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
JAN. 12	THU.	*CENTRAL ARKANSAS	American Sports Network	SHARP GYM	8 P.M.
Jan. 14	Sat.	*at Incarnate Word		San Antonio, TX	3 p.m.
Jan. 19	Thu.	*at New Orleans		New Orleans, LA	7 p.m.
Jan. 21	Sat.	*at Southeastern Louisiana		Hammond, LA	5 p.m.
JAN. 26	THU.	*NICHOLLS		SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
Feb. 1	Wed.	*at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi		Corpus Christi, Texas	7:30 p.m.
FEB. 4	SAT.	*INCARNATE WORD		SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
Feb. 9	Thu.	*at Northwestern State		Natchitoches, LA	7:30 p.m.
FEB. 11	SAT.	*LAMAR		SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
FEB. 16	THU.	*SAM HOUSTON STATE	Root Sports	SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
FEB. 18	SAT.	RANDALL		SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
Feb. 23	Thu.	*at McNeese		Lake Charles, LA	7 p.m.
Feb. 25	Sat.	*at Lamar	ESPN3	Beaumont, TX	4:30 p.m.
MAR. 1	WED.	*TEXAS A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI		SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
MAR. 4	SAT.	*ABILENE CHRISTIAN (Senior Night)		SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
Mar. 8-11	Wed.-Sat.	at SLC Tournament		Katy, Texas	TBA

All times Central and subject to change. Home games in ORANGE CAPS.

*Southland Conference game.

2016-17 HBU Women's Basketball Schedule

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Nov. 11	Fri.	at Baylor	Waco, Texas	TBA
Nov. 16	Wed.	at Texas	Austin, Texas	11 a.m.
NOV. 19	SAT.	RICE	SHARP GYM	2 P.M.
NOV. 23	WED.	SOUTHWESTERN ASSEMBLY OF GOD	SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
NOV. 26	SAT.	ORAL ROBERTS	SHARP GYM	2 P.M.
Nov. 30	Wed.	at UTEP	El Paso, Texas	7:05 p.m.
DEC. 4	SUN.	TEXAS SOUTHERN	SHARP GYM	4 P.M.
DEC. 9	FRI.	ARLINGTON BAPTIST	SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
DEC. 21	WED.	ULM	SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
Dec. 28	Wed.	at Arkansas	Fayetteville, AR	6 p.m.
Dec. 31	Sat.	*Stephen F. Austin	Nacogdoches, TX	1:30 p.m.
JAN. 2	MON.	*SAM HOUSTON STATE	SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
JAN. 5	THU.	*SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	SHARP GYM	5 P.M.
Jan. 7	Sat.	*at McNeese	Lake Charles, LA	1 p.m.
JAN. 11	WED.	*CENTRAL ARKANSAS (HBU Faculty/Staff Appreciation)	SHARP GYM	1 P.M.
JAN. 14	SAT.	*INCARNATE WORD	SHARP GYM	1 P.M.
JAN. 19	THU.	*NEW ORLEANS	SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
Jan. 25	Wed.	*at Nicholls	Thibodaux, LA	6 p.m.
Feb. 2	Thu.	*at Incarnate Word	San Antonio, TX	5:30 p.m.
FEB. 4	SAT.	*TEXAS A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI	SHARP GYM	3:30 P.M.
Feb. 9	Thu.	*at Northwestern St.	Natchitoches, LA	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	Sat.	*at Sam Houston State	Huntsville, TX	2 p.m.
FEB. 15	WED.	*LAMAR	SHARP GYM	7 P.M.
Feb. 18	Sat.	*at Central Arkansas	Conway, AR	2 p.m.
FEB. 22	WED.	*MCNEESE	SHARP GYM	6 P.M.
Feb. 25	Sat.	*at Lamar	Beaumont, TX	2 p.m.
Mar. 1	Wed.	*at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi, Texas	7 p.m.
MAR. 4	SAT.	*ABILENE CHRISTIAN (Senior Day)	SHARP GYM	3:30 P.M.
Mar. 9-12	Thu.-Sun.	at SLC Tournament	Katy, Texas	TBD

All times Central and subject to change. Home games in BLUE CAPS.

*Southland Conference game.