

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY • FALL/WINTER 2017

THE PILLARS



Kiza III Becomes HBU's New Mascot

HBU's Return on Investment

Master's in Apologetics Online

The Movie: Lee Strobel's
"Case for Christ"



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **HURRICANE**

Hurricane Harvey was a great reminder of many things, not the least of which is the fact that this is a fallen world. The apostle Paul mentions in Romans 8 the “curse of corruption” that is on the entire creation as a result of human moral rebellion. This is the deathly consequence of sin as referred to in the book of Genesis when Adam and Eve rebel against God and are expelled from the Garden. So it’s not just human beings who are fallen— the entire created order is under the sway of sin and death.

The promise of Scripture is that one day— just as God’s people are reconciled with Him through Jesus Christ—

The years of Dr. Robert Sloan’s tenure at HBU have been full of numerous University accomplishments and noteworthy items to celebrate. Here is just one of the many highlights for each year.



September 1: Dr. Robert B. Sloan becomes the third president of Houston Baptist University.

The Morris Cultural Arts Center, with McNair Hall, Belin Chapel, The Dunham Bible Museum, The Museum of Southern History, the Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts, and the stately Dunham Theatre, are completed.



The Ten Pillars vision is approved by the Board of Trustees.

The HBU Board of Trustees approves a new mission statement: 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.”



The HBU community celebrates 50 years.

HBU Athletics re-enters NCAA Division I competition.

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

HARVEY AND THE LOVE OF GOD

when all things are put right at the return of Christ, then “the creation itself will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (Romans 8:21).

In the meantime, as Romans 8 also points out, not only are we subject to a fallen world of human misdeeds and idolatry, but— even more than that— in this world of idolatry, we live under the curse of the Fall. The world is filled not simply with minor faults and peccadilloes but with great distresses, heavenly and earthly disasters, macro troubles that Paul describes as “tribulation, or distress, persecution, famine (natural disasters brought on by drought), nakedness (extreme poverty), peril (social instability and danger when society is lawless), and sword (war and violence)” (8:35).

And while these disasters sometimes have human causes, they also are caused by disruptions in the invisible spheres, by the principalities and powers, “created things” that are massively powerful but, as Paul says, are not strong enough to “separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (8:38-39).

We have seen the moving of God’s Spirit even in the great natural disaster brought on by Hurricane Harvey. In fact, we can say with Paul that we have seen God’s presence and His love “in all these things” that produce great human misery and

suffering and that “we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us” (8:37).

When we visit with friends these days, we talk— and rightly so— about our houses and our streets, the amount of floodwater in our neighborhoods, and the kinds of property losses that we and/or our family and friends experienced.

But there’s another topic that always takes over: the great love and many acts of service and kindness that we’ve seen and continue to see throughout Houston. The heroic deeds large and small, day in and day out, demonstrate the love of God.

As powerful as Harvey was, the winds and floodwaters it brought are not more powerful or more pervasive than the power and love of God we have seen in the resurrected Jesus, living through friends, neighbors, and complete strangers— individuals from all walks of life.

Here at HBU, we join people all over the city, state and nation in giving God thanks for all we’ve seen.

All blessings to you and yours,



Dr. Robert B. Sloan



The HBU Bradshaw Fitness Center is dedicated, allowing the University to help strengthen the mind, spirit and body of every student.

2012



The Husky Football team competes in its first official season.

2014

HBU begins offering a Master of Arts in Apologetics taught by some of the world’s leading apologetics scholars.

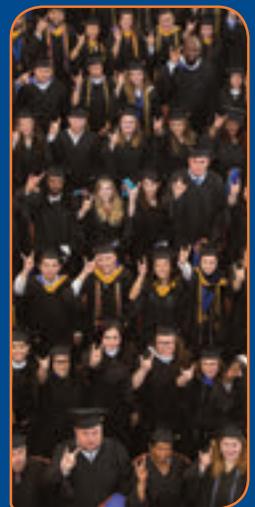
2013

HBU receives its largest single gift, \$15 million, from Archie W. and Linda Dunham for the Archie W. Dunham College of Business.

2015

HBU’s first doctoral program, the EdD in Executive Educational Leadership, is launched, making HBU a national, comprehensive university.

2016



HBU marks its 50th graduating class and the 20,000th graduating student.

2017

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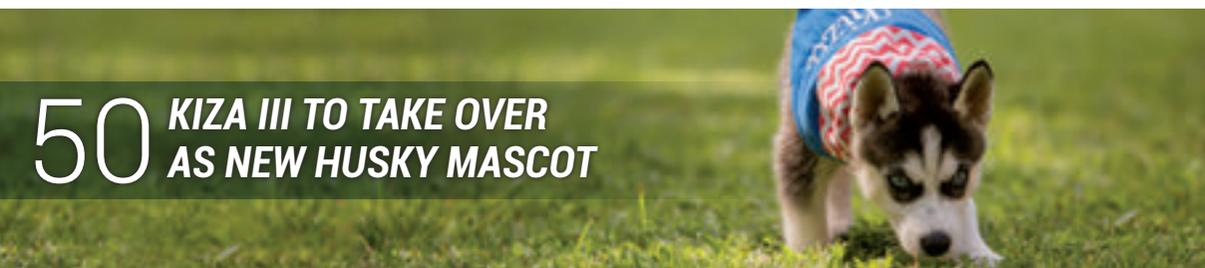
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Without students, parents, alumni, supporters, faculty and staff, we couldn't do what we do.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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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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THE HBU FAMILY RESPONDS TO HURRICANE HARVEY

By the time the rains from Hurricane Harvey had fallen heavily for almost two days, Aubrey Aldave, administrative assistant for HBU Spiritual Life and Discipleship, knew there would be a big day ahead. She and her husband, Daniel, woke up the morning of Sunday, August 27, and began the day with prayer and worship.

Their prayer time was soon interrupted by a phone call. The Aldaves function as the CARES Team, or community-builders, for an apartment complex along Brays Bayou. In the absence of the apartment manager, they were asked to be the point of contact for residents.

“The rain came so fast. We were getting calls all day,” Aldave said. “When we walked around and checked on people, it was stressful, but I also had the feeling, ‘This is why we’re here. The Lord’s going to equip us to do what we need to do.’ I became energized.”

Throughout the week, the Aldaves hosted and housed several people in their second-floor apartment, including a friend who had put a few items in a plastic bag and waded over from a neighboring complex in water nearly to her neck.

“It was one of those times where the reason for building relationships with people for months made sense and it paid off,” Aldave said. “We were networking with people on the second and third floors and asking for them to make room in their homes.”

At the end of the week, Aldave was exhausted. Yet, she marveled at the faithfulness of God.

“The Lord provided resources



so we could feed people. One man even brought us pizzas through the water," she said. "It was a chance to see neighbors taking care of neighbors."

During the deluge, Head Track and Field Coach Theresa Fuqua kept up with her players, several of whom were hit by the flooding, and contacted friends to make sure everyone was okay.

"It really hit close to home," she said. "The images were heartbreaking, and, like many on our staff, I and my team simply wanted to help."

When some areas were safe, Buffalo Bayou swelled as a result of controlled reservoir releases. College of Science and Mathematics Dean and Professor of Chemistry Dr. Doris Warren had 13 inches of water flood her home and total her vehicle when that happened. She and her neighbors had to be rescued by boat.

After the storm, however, a team led by Dr. Michael Rosato, associate provost for Academic Affairs and professor of Education, cleared out her house. A number of other people in the HBU family helped Warren, who has served HBU since 1967.

"Emotionally, I was really in shock," Warren said. "The good Lord sent people to help me at the right time."

Fuqua's group visited homes in the Braeswood area and helped homeowners clear out damaged items during the course of several days.

"To say I am proud of my athletes is an absolute understatement," Fuqua said. "I tear up today as I think back to how happy they all were to help."

After Harvey's winds and rains subsided, Jud Kinne, HBU assistant men's basketball coach, was dealing with damage and leaks in his home. Still, he rallied with others on the Athletics staff, his team and members of the baseball team to assist others who were affected more profoundly.

The group helped clear out about 30 homes, primarily in the Meyerland and Sharpstown neighborhoods. They loaded items that could be moved to temporary housing and pulled out flooring, drywall and insulation.

"I could not believe the level of devastation many people experienced," Kinne said. "It was not only devastation to property, but to lives and psyches. We felt like helping those who needed it was the first step in their healing process, and



hopefully we were able to brighten the lives of a few families."

Candace Desrosiers, '94, associate vice president for Alumni and University Relations, was displaced from her Meyerland home after catastrophic flooding.

"My husband, Keith, and I are service-oriented, and we both value investing our time and talents in people and projects. Through this, we have learned that we are in a season where we need to be nurtured and helped," she said. "We desperately miss our home, our neighbors, and the routines

that are so comforting to us as a family. We are grateful for the many people and groups who so generously helped us through sweat equity, meals, pet-sitting, housing us, giving care packages, gift cards and simply reaching out. Each act of kindness and concern has sustained us and reminded us of how truly loved we are. We have incredible family, friends and colleagues who we do life with, and we believe in a God who is much bigger than the storm."

Betty Howell, an assistant in the School of Fine Arts, spent several days helping



friends and co-workers.

“Seeing our staff, faculty, and especially the students and athletes working together was so heartwarming,” she said. “I was proud of the HBU family.”

Jesse GrothOlson, assistant professor of Cinema and New Media Arts, dealt with a foot of water in his home and the loss of a vehicle.

“We have been displaced for the foreseeable future,” he said. “I have had colleagues and students come to my house over the course of many days to help muck it out and catalogue all of our belongings. Harvey affected all of us, and in all of it, God is asking each of us, ‘Do I have a larger place in your life than your circumstances?’”

Professor of Christian Thought Lee Strobel, whose Woodlands Church mobilized thousands of volunteers and performed more than 100 water rescues, said, “Someone stated there was more love than water in Houston, and that’s certainly right. It was inspiring to see the people of God rise up to selflessly care for others in the midst of this tragedy.”

In the aftermath of the storm, HBU set up a Relief Fund to ease the burden on members of the University family who were affected.

Vice President for Advancement and University Relations Sharon Saunders said, “A significant number of faculty, staff, alumni and friends have made sacrificial gifts to be part of this relief effort.” About

45 percent of donors have been first-time donors, and many friends of the University from outside of Texas have given as well, Saunders said.

Head Women’s Basketball Coach Donna Finnie said her team came together to comfort one of the players whose family home was devastated. The team also collected items for families and read to children in shelters. Additionally, they helped several elderly residents clear out their homes and pack up their belongings.

“I have met many new people from helping after the storm,” Finnie said. “It’s been so humbling, and it’s made me and our players appreciate what we have. The biggest thing I’ve taken away from it is that there are so many great people with huge hearts in our area, and at HBU. To see how our students and staff pulled together was incredible, and makes me so proud to wear the orange and blue!”

While much work has been done, there is still more to go until people’s lives return to normal and their homes and possessions are restored.

Aldave said the fruit of working together and investing in others will endure.

“We had a guestbook during the week of the storm that we asked people to sign,” she said. “One woman wrote, ‘Harvey has brought us together.’ I think she is right. No one would ever say a hurricane is a good thing, but I’ve seen really good things because of it. The need isn’t over, and I think Houston will continue to see good things as people keep serving. There will be opportunities for people who love Jesus to love their neighbors well for a long time.”



HBU RELIEF FUND

Like many across Houston and the region, members of the HBU family were touched by Hurricane Harvey. Please consider making a gift to affected HBU students, faculty and staff at HBU.edu/ReliefFund.



HBU's "A Higher Education" and the Return on Investment

Candy Espinoza didn't know how she would go to college; she just knew that she would. Her father had done well with his construction company, and she admired her homemaker mother. Yet, Espinoza's dreams meant she needed more than a high school diploma.

But as she neared high school graduation, Espinoza realized she was entering an unfamiliar realm. Although she had the support of her family, they couldn't guide her with the next step.

"I didn't even know how I was going to apply for college," she said. "I didn't know how I was supposed to apply for scholarships or how to apply for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). It was a whole new world."

Espinoza and her family learned new information and terminologies as they waded through the college application process. As the eldest of four children, Espinoza was inspired to pave the way for her younger siblings.

"I was motivated to be able to have a better job than what a high school diploma would get me," she said. "I've always had a vision of becoming a businesswoman. I wanted to get a degree and do something that I love."

Espinoza and her father toured several Texas colleges. The straight-A student had aimed for The University of Texas since middle school, but had a change of heart.

"From the first time my father and I visited HBU, I felt an incredible peace there," Espinoza said. "My dad was really

happy with the type of students we saw. We had toured UT Austin, Texas A&M and U of H. You can truly see the difference at HBU. You can perceive that spiritual sense and peacefulness. It wasn't so liberal; it was a little more conservative. I fell in love with the campus too; I thought it was so beautiful."

Even though Houston Baptist University became Espinoza's first choice, she wondered if the private school's tuition would be out of reach.

"I was concerned that I wouldn't be able to attend HBU," she said. "What really opened the door for me was that I received a merit-based scholarship."

Initially, Espinoza received the President's Scholarship, which took into account her high school GPA, high school rank and college entrance exams. After retaking the SAT and earning a slightly higher score, Espinoza was bumped up to receive the Founder's Scholarship, HBU's most prestigious award, for \$21,000 per year over the course of four years.

Espinoza said, "I love that I get to interact with professors and have classrooms that are a lot smaller than other places."

She advises future students: "Dream big. Even if you don't think you'll get in, go ahead and apply. God will show you the way He wants you to go."

THE NET PRICE AND PAYOFF

Stories like Espinoza's are commonplace at HBU. In fact, about 95 percent of HBU students receive merit or need-based financial aid, or a combination

of both, James Steen, HBU vice president for Enrollment Management, said.

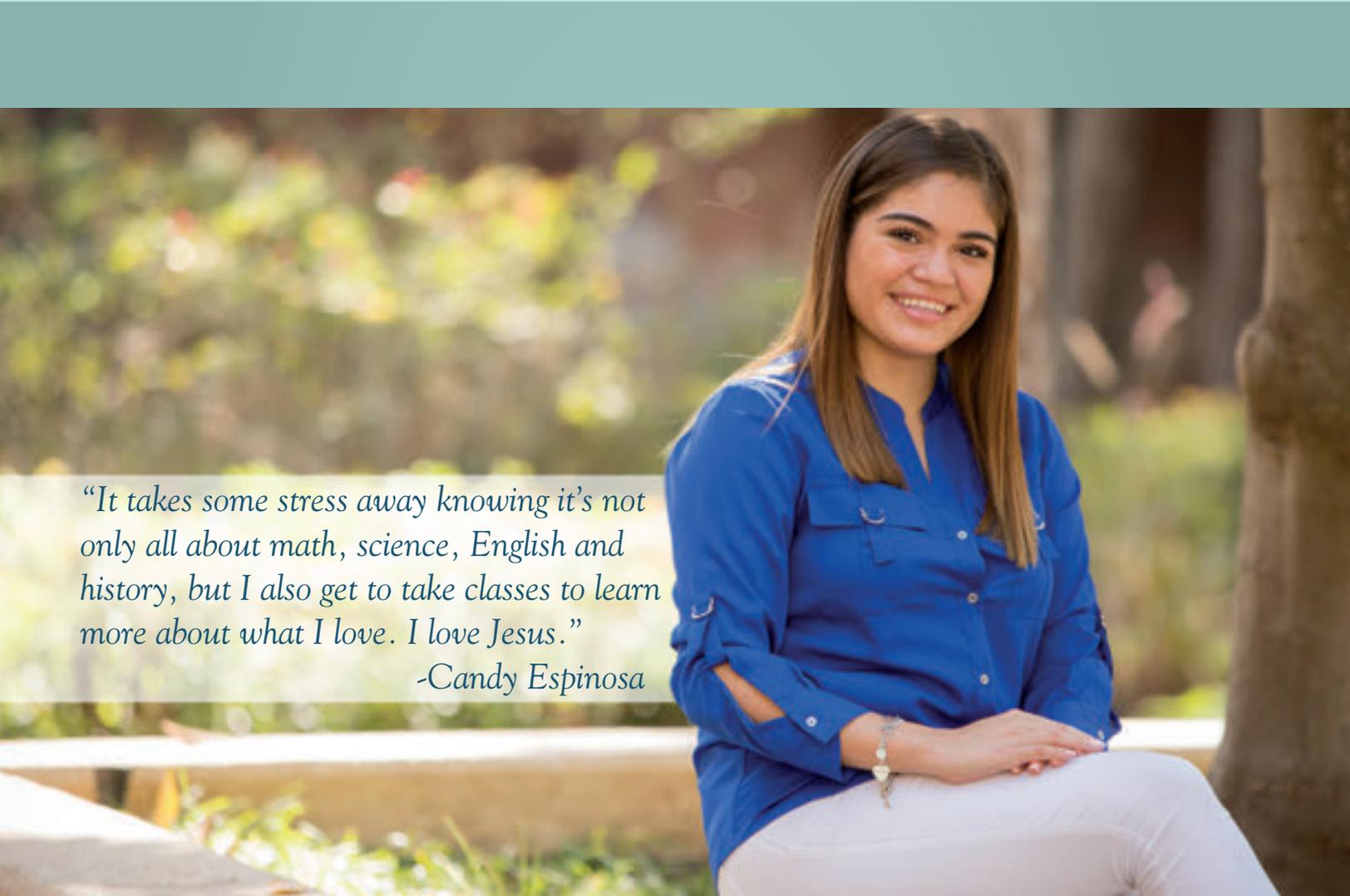
"We have a fairly healthy discount rate," he said. "It's something we try very aggressively to maintain. We help students qualify for financial aid, including academic scholarships, institutional grants, federal aid and state aid that will enable them to attend."

The 2017-2018 tuition and fees price tag is \$31,730. But the "sticker price" is very different from the average net cost. If housing and meal expenses are included, along with books and supplies, the average net price for students is closer to \$20,000 per year¹.

"The reality is that we really want to encourage parents and students to focus on the net price," Steen said. "That is the average price after merit and need-based aid is applied. We are one of the more affordable options from a net-price perspective, even compared to state institutions."

Data from the U.S. Department of Education indicates that HBU's net cost is several thousand dollars lower than counterparts like Dallas Baptist University, University of Mary-Hardin Baylor, Abilene Christian University and others².

When families are thinking of college costs, they are especially concerned with the payoff in the years after graduation. According to statistics from the Social Security Administration, graduates with bachelor's degrees earn between \$600,000 and a million dollars more in average lifetime earnings than high school graduates³. The earnings for those with



“It takes some stress away knowing it’s not only all about math, science, English and history, but I also get to take classes to learn more about what I love. I love Jesus.”

-Candy Espinosa

graduate degrees only increases.

While some with only high school diplomas are able to find a career niche in which they make a healthy living, average salaries for high school graduates are less desirable, and things like employee benefits, company retirement plans and regular work schedules are less possible. Additionally, increased automation makes human judgment an even more valuable commodity, asserts the Harvard Business Review⁴.

“Higher education is an investment that students make into their futures,” Steen said. “The investments you make in education, and especially in a bachelor’s degree, have the ability to pay off exponentially.”

Even with all of the benefits of a college degree, paying for higher education can be a hindrance. According to Kiplinger’s Personal Finance Magazine, about 60 percent of parents save for their children’s education. But among parents who set aside funds, only about 37 percent of those take advantage of 529 plans— college-

savings plans that make the money go further by allowing it to grow tax-sheltered⁵.

Many students have found ways to avoid or minimize student loans. Outside of traditional financial aid, an often-overlooked source of financial aid is private scholarships available from organizations, foundations, clubs and companies.

For those who are “juggling college and career simultaneously,” USA Today notes that a number of top companies are giving tuition benefits for employees⁶. Some organizations have even begun offering repayment assistance for past student loans in what Forbes Magazine has termed “The Hottest Employee Benefit of 2017”⁷.

Espinosa set herself up for minimizing costs years before college began by being a standout student academically and extracurricularly. She took preparation courses for the SAT, and re-took the test several times until she reached her desired score.

Students like Gunter Clements, a business major, took a job as a basketball

manager at HBU. The job supplements the two scholarships and grant he received. Other opportunities for work-study positions abound, Steen said.

Nursing major Daniel Dipasupil saves by commuting from his home south of the University. He enjoys the benefits of what college life has to offer, while continuing to be close to activities he is accustomed to, including playing the electric guitar for his church.

INVESTING IN STUDENTS

One of the draws of a Houston-based university for Dipasupil was the ability to work and train in the Texas Medical Center, the largest healthcare hub in the world. Likewise, students majoring in other disciplines have access to the many business and arts resources of the bustling Bayou City.

“The only college that I really wanted to go to was HBU,” Dipasupil said. “It was my first choice. It’s an investment, but it’s the quality of education at HBU that is important.”

Thankfully, students and families aren't the only ones making an important investment of time and resources. Classes at HBU average about 25 students. Faculty and staff members are known for being engaging and accessible.

David Hao, dean of the Department of Student Success & Advising, said the University values creating relationships with students through initiatives like the Academic Success Center, TRIO Student Success Program and the First-Year Success Program.

On a daily basis, students pour into the first floor of the Moody Library. There, they receive tutoring and academic advising, as well as access a slew of resources to help them succeed in each area of college life and career preparation.

"Due to partnerships and working together internally, we can reach students in a more personal and innovative way," Margaret Humphreys, director of the Academic Success Center said. "Some places may have one layer of support, but here we have multiple layers, including faculty, and staff members like advisors and success coaches. Students are reached holistically."

Whether students need tutoring for

one of 90 different courses, want to find out what organizations are available on campus, or just need to work through challenges, they aren't left to navigate the next steps alone.

"We really have students at the center of everything we do," Hao said.

For students like Garima Malhotra, on a pre-med track, the ability to have a well-rounded college experience made HBU attractive. The dancer, pianist, community volunteer and second-degree black belt in Taekwondo was looking for more than just an academically rich environment. She also wanted to be part of a thriving community.

"I'm a recipient of the Founder's Scholarship," she said. "The scholarship encouraged me to explore HBU more by meeting with professors, taking campus tours and attending a variety of events. In my opinion, education is not only something that trains, qualifies and prepares you for working and making a living, but it also enhances your personality. Education gives you a platform on which you can develop your skills and competencies to excel, not only professionally, but also personally."

HBU President Dr. Robert Sloan said connections with peers, faculty and

organizations are primary considerations in school selection.

"Choosing a university includes qualitative things," he said. "It's sort of like a covenantal relationship: who will be my friends and my family? The personal networks and associations are important in providing fulfillment, ongoing development and opportunities."

WHY CHOOSE A SCHOOL LIKE HBU

An often-underplayed consideration of college and university selection is the importance of the atmosphere and its espoused worldviews, Steen said. Christian students who attend secular colleges have many additional challenges to add to the normal tasks of adjusting to college life and excelling in coursework.

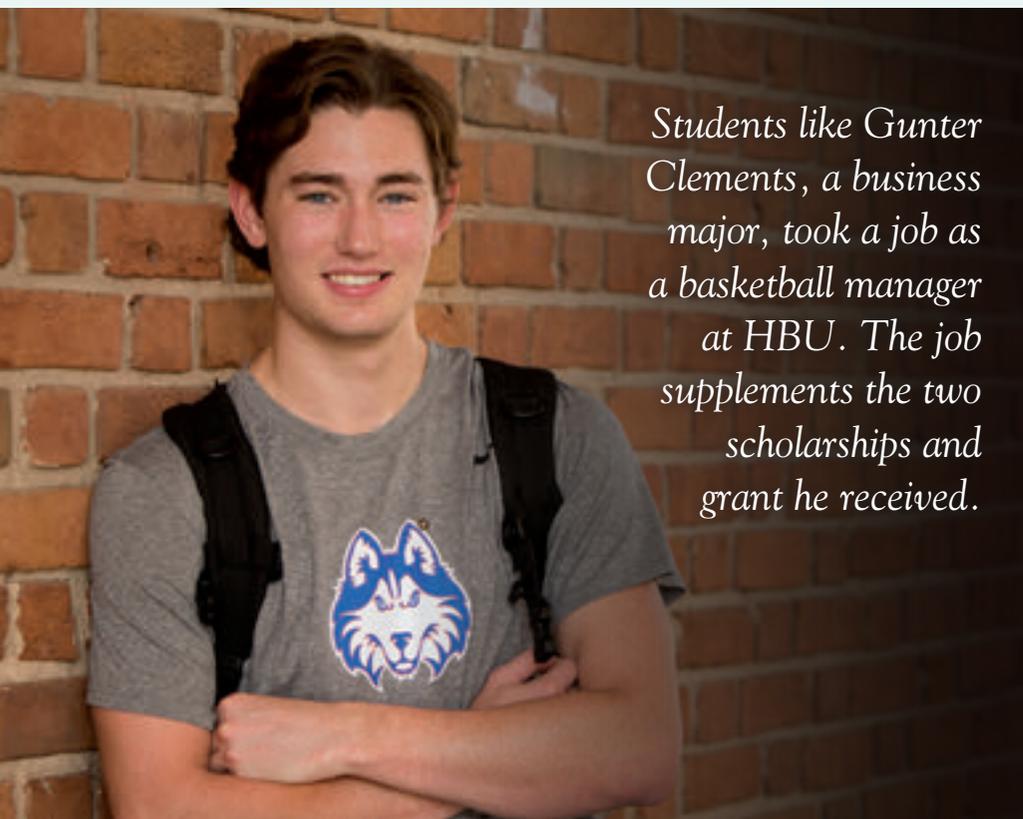
"I think sometimes parents value the Christian environment of HBU even more than the students do. We know that a lot of students who come from Christian backgrounds and call themselves Christian, after four years in a secular institution, sometimes have a lesser commitment to their faith," Steen said. "It really is the whole experience that we value and excel in. We desire for students to not only grow and be challenged academically, but also spiritually, intellectually, socially and even physically. The spiritual component is one we take very seriously, and we hope that all of our students are much more rooted and grounded in their faith when they leave."

Sloan said it shouldn't be assumed that belief systems are simply absent from secular universities, or that they present neutral viewpoints about the world.

"Every university should commit to providing a quality education; none should commit to brainwashing, which happens at many secular institutions," he said. "The values and belief systems that are communicated ought to be one of the primary considerations for students. Not all institutions and professors and curriculums are the same."

Emma Perry chose HBU largely for the environment.

"I was offered a very generous scholarship, and that definitely was a factor," she said. "But even if I hadn't



Students like Gunter Clements, a business major, took a job as a basketball manager at HBU. The job supplements the two scholarships and grant he received.

received it, I think HBU would still have been a good option.”

Perry had the chance to visit classes and talk with several professors before she made her decision to come to HBU.

“I could’ve studied ancient languages somewhere else, but wanted to come to a university that taught and studied it from a biblical worldview, because I want to teach from that view in the future as well,” she said.

Espinoza said she liked the chance to learn more about God and the Bible.

“It takes some stress away knowing it’s not only all about math, science, English and history, but I also get to take classes to learn more about what I love,” she said. “I love Jesus.”

Students are able to attend convocation, or chapel, once per week. All students are required to take at least six hours of Christianity courses.

Steen notes that some students do not embrace the Christian faith, but are warmly accepted into the HBU community. Faculty and staff members are believers from varying Christian denominations and backgrounds.

“Not only are we in a major city, but I think it’s unique that we have the diversity we have as a comprehensive university serving Houston, Texas and beyond,” Steen said. “We make sure that students get a solid degree that allows them to go to the next level— a profession or graduate school. Students who are graduating are definitely being successful, contributing to society, becoming influencers, making a difference and growing in their faith.”

Perry keeps the larger purpose of her college experience in mind.

“I think beyond just seeing education

as merely a way to get a job and make money in the world, I see education as preparing for the vocation that God has given us— whether that be a teacher, nurse, engineer or doctor,” she said. “I believe that God has planned out our vocations through eternity past, and He has planned our way to carry that out. I see education as investing in the future by giving us the ability to live out God’s call on our lives.”

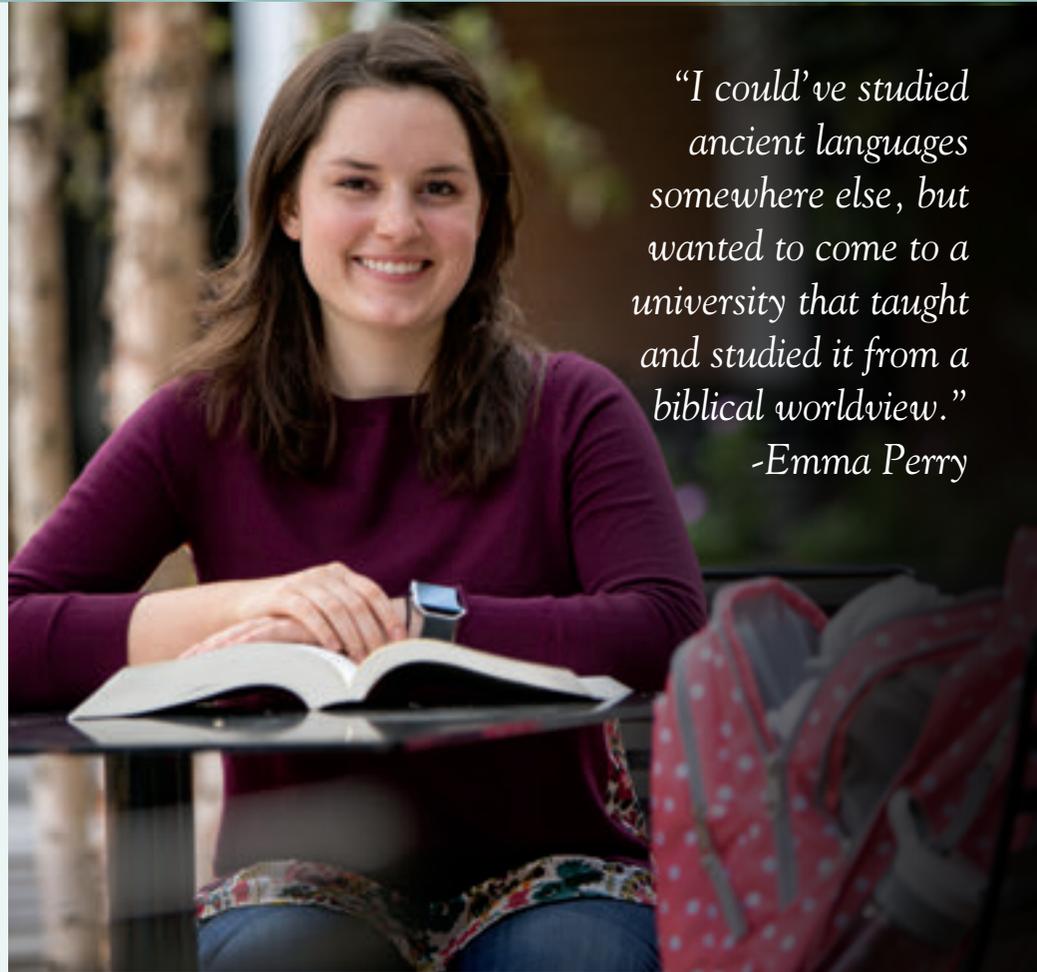
Sloan said investing in a degree at HBU simply adds up.

“The kind of education, the networks and family you’re joining and the financial support all go together to make a private school education worthwhile,” he said. “An HBU education is very attainable and more doable than many may realize. Families should make an honest comparison and consider all of those things.”

**LEARN MORE BY VISITING
[HBU.edu/admissions/](https://www.hbu.edu/admissions/)**

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“I could’ve studied ancient languages somewhere else, but wanted to come to a university that taught and studied it from a biblical worldview.”
-Emma Perry

THE HIGHER EDUCATION CONUNDRUM: TAKING ON DEBT



For many college students and families, taking on student loans is the plausible solution to obtaining a university education. Loans are often used to cover, not only college tuition and supplies, but basic living expenses like housing and meals. Students and parents can choose from a range of federal and private loans, sometimes borrowing upwards of \$20,000 per year¹.

And, after a first loan is taken, borrowing

more to complete an undergraduate or a graduate degree often becomes necessary. In fact, the average number of loans taken for each college student is 3.7². It is an unwelcome cycle that many find themselves in.

It's no wonder families turn to experts like Kathy Ruby, director of College Finance at College Coach. The company helps families in 50 states and more than 30 countries wade through important and oftentimes complicated decisions.

Ruby, who worked as a college financial administrator for more than 27 years, wants people to be educated about the long-term ramifications of loans.

"We spend a lot of time talking with families about what they might need to borrow, and how to figure out whether they're going to be able to comfortably repay the loans," she said.

The borrowing statistics are especially significant for women, who have become more likely to attend college than their

male counterparts, who are more prone than women to work in a skilled trade. According to The Washington Post, of the approximately \$1.4 trillion in college debt owed by Americans, nearly two-thirds of it is held by women³.

It takes the average student borrower about 20 years to pay off school loans⁴. The debt obstacle has far-reaching personal and financial ramifications for borrowers, leading to delaying decisions such as having children, contributing to a retirement plan or buying a house².

While government Stafford loans cap basic borrowing to \$31,000 for dependent students for an undergraduate degree, students often must involve their parents or guardians to co-sign for additional loans when higher amounts are needed⁵.

“Most students don’t borrow too much in their own names, but if they borrow more, somebody is co-signing,” Ruby said. “It’s in a parent’s best interest to make sure their children are borrowing reasonable amounts. Parents are on the hook too and can get in over their heads.”

In addition to speaking with a financial advisor, Ruby recommends that families calculate their borrowing numbers with student loan repayment calculators, available at many reputable websites, such as CollegeBoard.org.

Houston-based College Money Guys founder Brannon Lloyd puts it bluntly: “I don’t like debt. My mission is to put the Department of Education out of the loan business.”

As a financial advisor for many years, Lloyd sees the “monkey on the

back” of many graduates for years into their careers. In addition to financial advising, his team helps future students determine if attending college is the best option for them, assists them in selecting viable careers of choice and even puts them through mock admissions interviews.

When shopping for colleges, Lloyd advises families to put schools into

Surprisingly, the grants and scholarships offered by many four-year private schools like HBU can beat out the option of going to a community college for the first two years.

two categories: funding provided and funding not provided.

“There are a lot of colleges that offer fantastic scholarships which make them more affordable,” he said. “One of the things I love about HBU is that it is such a great value with the financial aid they offer. Frankly, a lot of students overlook HBU, and we recommend it to almost all of our students.”

Surprisingly, the grants and scholarships offered by many four-year private schools like HBU can beat out the option of going to a community

college for the first two years.

“Much of a university’s financial aid is directed to freshmen,” Lloyd explains. “Look into what is offered and don’t rule out a school like HBU.”

Ruby said, “When looking for a college or university, we would never say to take a school off your list due to cost because you never know what that college is going to give you.”

Before loans are ever taken, students should not only exhaust the options of school-based and government aid, but research community-based scholarships, Ruby and Lloyd said.

If students must take loans, Lloyd recommends options like College Access Loans, in which interest isn’t capitalized (added into the sum owed).

For Ruby, loans are beneficial in the right context.

“I have student loans; I never regretted having to borrow them, and I felt I was better off,” Ruby said. “But I had a manageable amount and it didn’t overburden me.”

Rod Griffin, director of public education at Experian, asserts that the silver lining to student loans is a degree’s ultimate payoff². On average, a bachelor’s degree recipient can expect to earn about 66 percent more than a high school graduate during the course of a 40-year career⁶.

“In most cases, higher education is worth the investment because student loans pay off in the form of higher income over time,” Griffin said.

Ruby said the case for obtaining a higher education is as strong as ever.

“Education is what moves us forward,” she said.

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SAVING & SELF-FUNDING



Since 529 college investment plans were first implemented by states in 1996, saving for children's college has become as normalized as saving for one's retirement. Earnings in the 529 plans remain tax-free as long as the money is used for authorized college-related expenses. Plans include general funds for any eligible institution, as well as pre-payment at the current rate with a premium for state schools and for private schools.

Parents who open an account can contribute as little as \$15 per month in Texas, and contribution limits typically exceed what parents would ever put in,

said Kathy Ruby, director of College Finance at the national company College Coach.

"We emphasize the importance of saving and saving early," Ruby said. "When I worked in college admissions, I often talked with families whose students were at the end of their junior year, and it was already too late to save in some regards. That's part of why I now enjoy working with families earlier in the process."

Brannon Lloyd, a college planner and founder of Houston-based The College Money Guys, agrees about saving for college, but has a different view of the

standard college investment plan.

"I'm not a big fan of 529 plans," he said. "There are a couple of flaws, and the main one is you're completely limited by what you can do with that. I know of some families who had to withdraw the money in an emergency and had to pay penalties."

Some students decide to take other routes upon high school graduation as well. But, even if everything goes as planned, the 529 plans can potentially disadvantage families who might otherwise qualify for more financial aid, he said.

"I hesitate to give specific advice to

a general audience on how to invest because it all depends on where people are financially, and if their child is a newborn or a junior in high school,” Lloyd said. “The main thing is, we do a thorough analysis and walk hand-in-hand with parents and students through the process of preparing for college. My general advice to parents is, I don’t care if you have a newborn or a junior— one of the worst things you can do is show up for college and not have any savings. Regardless of where you are in your financial life or how old your children are, you should definitely start saving now.”

Ruby emphasizes that parents should be comforted knowing that they normally will not have to pay the entire “sticker price” of college tuition and fees. Still, saving toward children’s college is a lifetime gift to them, she said.

“It’s an investment in your child’s future,” Ruby said. “If you value education, then being prepared is important. Education provides increased earning power and intangible benefits in how graduates contribute to their communities.”

In the absence of family funding or student loans, there are still those who manage to pave their own financial road. Although, paying one’s way through college is “less feasible than it used to be,” Ruby said.

Lloyd worked his way through college as a high-rise concierge and a hardware store associate.

Around the same time, former HBU Board of Trustees Chairman and businessman John W. Gibson, Jr. utilized the G.I. (Government Issue) Bill to attend Auburn University after serving for three years in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Elizabeth, supported their family while both earning their degrees.

“I never really thought about borrowing money,” he said. “I delivered newspapers to cities throughout east central Alabama at night, and fixed pinball machines, arcade video games and televisions. Then I worked in the Veterans Affairs Office and my wife worked as a youth minister.”

Gibson later earned his master’s degree from the University of Houston while working full-time. He says simply, “We made it.”

Since college costs have outpaced inflation in the decades that followed, stories of self-funding through college have become more rare, Lloyd said.

“It’s very difficult for students to cover college completely without extending their years in college,” he said. “I would recommend looking at military service or scholarships for the most help.”

Still, some modern students have pulled off the improbable. A generation after Gibson and Lloyd, Texan Mary Higby said she considered taking student loans, but quickly dismissed the idea.

“I don’t like owing people money,” she said. “I wanted to get out of college and start fresh.”

As a kinesiology major and English literature minor at the University of North Texas, Higby took a job working 12-hour shifts as a server.

“I would schedule my classes early. At work, I got really efficient with my time and would study when it was slow in the afternoons,” she said. “It was a popular place and I got good tips.”

She took on additional work over the years, sometimes working three different jobs while attending school.

Higby became a general manager and, after earning her bachelor’s, went on to earn her master’s of science in sports management while working much more than 40 hours per week.

While she graduated debt-free, Higby acknowledges her way was a sacrifice. She had to quit the women’s rugby team early on due to her arduous schedule.

“I think it was the harder route,” she said. “I never got the college life experiences like football games and sororities. But, having no loans— it’s nice, I’ll tell you that.”

Higby is now an athletic coordinator for a charter school in the Dallas area. She said that the service industry can pay off in the short-term, but in the long-term, she chose a career that would allow her to have regular hours conducive to family life.

“I felt like I had to make a way to get where I wanted to be. I think some kids start college and feel like it’s a time to play. I would say that you can do that, but it’s not necessarily going to help you reach your long-term goals,” she said. “Whatever you decide to do, remember to focus on your long-term goals and not just your immediate goals.”



“I don’t like owing people money. I wanted to get out of college and start fresh.”

-Mary Higby

Money Magazine outlines options for parents who need to borrow for their children's college degrees:

FEDERAL PLUS LOANS

FIXED APR: 8%

THE GOOD: Availability. The Department of Education will award PLUS loans for up to the full cost of attendance to anyone with reasonably good credit.

THE BAD: Lax borrowing standards means it's easy to take on too much debt.

PRIVATE LOANS

FIXED APR: Averaging 5.4% and Variable Rates: Starting at 2.9%

THE GOOD: Companies competing for your business means more options.

THE BAD: Borrowing guidelines are stricter.

HOME EQUITY

FIXED APR: Averaging 5.4%

THE GOOD: People can utilize an asset they have.

THE BAD: There are potentially hidden fees and long-term consequences.

REFERENCE

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2017-2018 COST AT-A-GLANCE

To apply, go to: HBU.edu/Apply

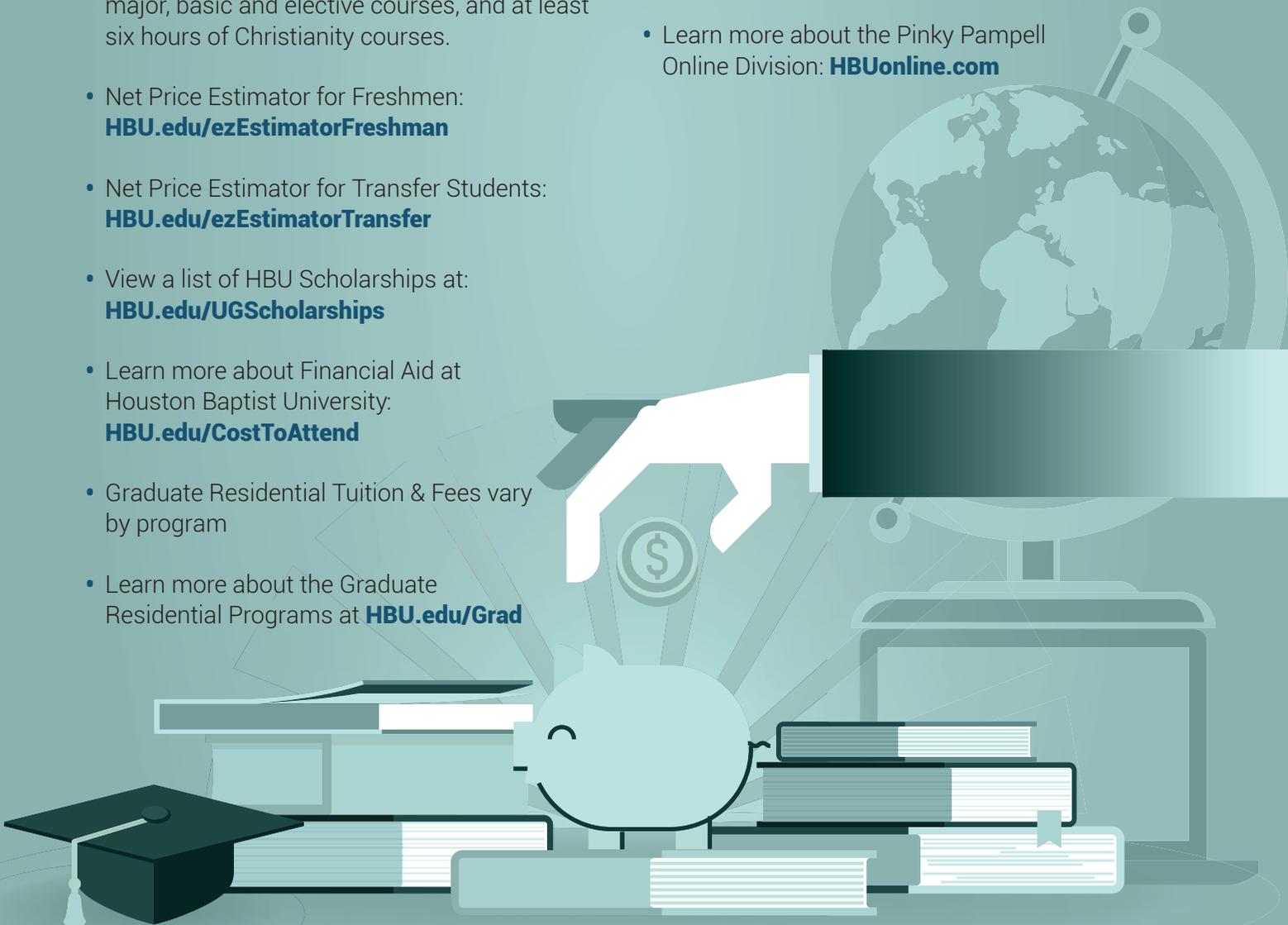
You may reach the Admissions Office at 281-649-3211

HBU Residential

- Residential Tuition & Fees for 12 to 18 credit hours per semester: **\$31,730**
- Room & Board: **\$8,242**
- A bachelor's degree is **125 credit hours**, or around **40 college courses**. Study tracks include the core curriculum of the student's major, basic and elective courses, and at least six hours of Christianity courses.
- Net Price Estimator for Freshmen: **HBU.edu/ezEstimatorFreshman**
- Net Price Estimator for Transfer Students: **HBU.edu/ezEstimatorTransfer**
- View a list of HBU Scholarships at: **HBU.edu/UGScholarships**
- Learn more about Financial Aid at Houston Baptist University: **HBU.edu/CostToAttend**
- Graduate Residential Tuition & Fees vary by program
- Learn more about the Graduate Residential Programs at **HBU.edu/Grad**

HBU Online

- Undergraduate Tuition: **\$395 per credit hour** and **\$250 per semester** online student fee
- RN to BSN Online Program: **\$440 per credit hour** and **\$100 per semester** online student fee
- Graduate Tuition: **\$550 per credit hour** and **\$250 per semester** online student fee
- Learn more about the Pinky Pampell Online Division: **HBUonline.com**



To make Christian learning programs even more convenient to learners, HBU is developing 12-hour, master's-level certificate programs in Apologetics, Greek and Classical Languages, New Testament, and Missions and Evangelism.

The certificates will allow learners to complete graduate coursework in-person or online in order to earn a specialized study certificate. The course hours may be applied toward a master's degree as well.

Dr. Jeffrey Green, dean of the Graduate School and interim dean of Christian Thought, said, "Graduate certificates are a great way to sharpen one's skills for ministry. We look forward to offering them."

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS OF THE ONLINE FACULTY



Dr. Holly Ordway

Dr. Holly Ordway's work centers on cultural and imaginative apologetics. Her writing includes the books, "Not God's Type: An Atheist Academic Lays Down Her Arms," and "Apologetics and the Christian Imagination: An Integrated Approach to Defending the Faith." Her current project is a literary-critical study of J.R.R. Tolkien for Kent State University Press.

HBU.edu/p54-Ordway

not that we don't have good arguments—it's that people either don't care about our arguments or they don't understand them because we have lost shared cultural meaning for our Christian words."

Tallon agrees that basic biblical literacy or even commonly accepted ideals are not culturally shared as they once were.

"Not that long ago in the West, Christians would not be called upon to defend and explain their beliefs," he said. "There has been a decline of cultural Christianity in America and the surrounding world. We are seeing a rise in skepticism and even in hostility to Christian values. It's just not the case anymore that Christianity is given deference to answer the questions of what it means to be human, what the nature of the world is and what morality consists of. There are no more free rides for Christian beliefs. We need to be prepared to encounter and face these questions."

Even cynicism is important, however, because it leads to tested and meaningful answers. And while the deterioration of widespread regard for scriptural truths is disappointing, there are fresh ways to share timeless truths, Tallon notes.

For Ordway, engaging her mind's eye through motifs found in literature and the arts has been important in her conversion and faith experience. The HBU Apologetics program incorporates the work of ancient through modern philosophers, theologians, writers, thinkers, artisans and musicians.

"As human beings, we have intellect, imagination, emotions and will," she said. "Thus, a truly effective apologetics program will reflect that."

Author Leigh McLeroy graduated from the program in May 2017. Throughout her career, McLeroy has written five books, contributed to many more and taught the Bible for 25 years. She enrolled in the Apologetics cultural track to become even better at everything she does.

"I have always teased the edges of the Gospel in most of my published writing," she said. "Over time, I've come to see that times change and people change. The Gospel is timeless, but the way you present it has to change. You can't presuppose anymore that people have any vague inclination about things like original sin."

McLeroy describes her approach to sharing truth with people as "taking the side door." Rather than an in-your-face tactic, appealing to things that are

common needs, such as security and identity, can be an apologist's best tool, she said.

"My guiding principal has been Emily Dickinson's words," she said.

*Tell all the truth but tell it slant —
Success in Circuit lies
Too bright for our infirm Delight
The Truth's superb surprise
As Lightning to the Children eased
With explanation kind
The Truth must dazzle gradually
Or every man be blind —¹*

"I've learned through the program that there are other ways to approach the Gospel than only quoting Scripture, even though there is a place for that direct approach," McLeroy said. "It's hard to see things full-on at times, and easier to see them at a slant. For example, Jesus told stories that are powerful. For someone like me who writes and likes to tell stories, it's moving. I feel like the program has given me a broader set of tools to work with in order to merge Scripture and the Gospel with real life."

EFFECTIVE ONLINE DELIVERY

The online format of the program has proved to be just as effective as in-person classes. Through digital forums, students

still enjoy the give-and-take of ideas from peers, and individual instruction from faculty members.

"The professors do a good job of engaging students," Green said. "And students can take classes wherever they are and whatever their schedule. They can take classes part-time as well."

Based in Maine and a father to two young children, the online delivery was just what student Mike DeVito, a retired NFL defensive lineman, was looking for.

"The Bible says to worship in spirit and in truth, and to love God with all of our hearts and minds," he said. "It was important for me to learn more."

DeVito has been pleased by the quality of the program and the accessibility of the faculty.

"The caliber of the apologists in this program is just unbelievable, and the direct feedback on everything I do has been better than anything I've ever had in the classroom," he said.

Small class sizes help ensure no one is left out, Ordway said.

"This is a genuinely interactive classroom environment," she said. "This is not 'plug and play' or independent study. Students get real interaction every week with their professors and classmates. The online program means that they can integrate graduate study

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS OF THE ONLINE FACULTY



Mary Jo Sharp

Known for her expertise in public speaking and writing, Assistant Professor of Apologetics Mary Jo Sharp emphasizes relational excellence in apologetic engagement. She has written the influential Bible study, "Why Do You Believe That?" and is a contributor to several collected works of apologetics including, "A New Kind of Apologist," and "In Defense of the Bible." She also regularly writes curriculum with LifeWay Christian Resources.

HBU.edu/p54-Sharp

“We live in a highly connected world where we’re always in contact with people who believe other things. We aim to understand where someone else is coming from so we can speak truth into that person’s life.”

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS OF THE ONLINE FACULTY



Dr. Philip Tallon

Dr. Philip Tallon is chair of the Apologetics department. As a professor, he researches the intersection of theology, culture and the arts. His books include “The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith,” and “The Poetics of Evil.”

HBU.edu/p54-Tallon

into their ministry, work and family schedule.”

Unlike traditional classrooms where students might not raise their hands, involvement in discussions is compulsory in online courses, Tallon said.

“I love teaching online, in part because it allows me to draw out all of my students, not just the extroverted ones, or the ones who are more confident about speaking up in class,” Ordway said. “Our expectation is that all students participate.”

Licona said online students are especially dedicated, committed to learning as much as to completing coursework.

“Those in the MA in Apologetics program tend to be mature students with a good amount of self-discipline,” he said. “I have found them to be a joy to work with.”

Ward said the online delivery creates an ideal format for the exchange of thoughts.

“I am greatly impressed by the dedication and seriousness that students bring to the program, often juggling many other commitments as they do so,” he said. “It is very rewarding— both intellectually and spiritually— to teach my classes, and I always find I learn a good deal from my students as well.”

RELATABLE MATERIAL

Students graduate with a richer understanding of their own faith, along with a greater grasp of other religions and worldviews.

“We live in a highly connected world where we’re always in contact with people who believe other things,” Tallon said. “We aim to understand where someone else is coming from so we can speak truth into that person’s life.”

Zak Schmoll took the apologetics coursework from his home in Vermont, and is now working on his PhD. Like McLeroy, Schmoll wanted more tools with which he could present his faith.

“Studying apologetics helped me discover ways to communicate answers to difficult questions such as the problem of evil,” he said. “If we want to be effective Christian witnesses, we have to be able to talk about the topics that actual people want to talk about. We have to relate to their perspective and present a Christian alternative to the worldview they might be embracing.”

A combination of study, discussions and writing allows students to delve into the compelling questions and answers of the past and of the present era. The work that students produce grows in depth and complexity as they face queries about topics like suffering, absolutes and the afterlife. Each facet

Learn more by visiting HBU.edu/MAA

of study focus is ultimately tied to its importance in the human experience, Ward said.

“People often dismiss Christianity because they have somehow gotten the impression that it is unconnected with real life, and concerned only with very abstract ideas and complicated theological doctrines,” Ward said. “There is a role for abstraction and for doctrinal formulation, but imaginative apologetics tries to redress the balance.”

Although the program is academically elevated, its concepts are practical.

“People won’t usually be terribly interested in the truth-claims of Christianity unless they see first that it is meaningful, and it is the imagination’s task to make things meaningful,” Ward said. “I’m interested in how the faith can be shown to be good and beautiful, answering to real concerns and feelings, and the dense texture of people’s experience— relating to personality and desire and the drama of pain and joy that we all go through.”

Sharp said she has seen students use their grasp of the curriculum to birth new ministries, as well as further develop current ministries.

“I’ve seen new sermon series, published articles, song-writing, blogs and even an art series,” she said.

The ability to utilize the material for evangelism matters most to DeVito.

“One of the things I love about the HBU classes is that, no matter how far down the intellectual path we get, there’s always an assignment that gets us back to the practical context,” he said. “It’s all tied back into, ‘How can we use this to further the Gospel?’ The program is just fantastic for that and I’ve learned so much.”

The necessity for compelling apologetics has been around since people first sought evidence that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. People everywhere grapple to reconcile science and faith, Green said. Furthermore, questions about issues like the origin of life and the distinction of the genders have become more prominent in recent years. A program like HBU’s helps to provide a framework for Christian beliefs that is applicable to many areas.

“When I look toward the future, I always see the need for answering the questions that people have, and coming up with winsome and persuasive answers,” Green said. “We need those answers both in the church and in culture. We don’t know what questions will come up in 50 years. I hope that we train new generations of apologetics scholars.”

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS OF THE ONLINE FACULTY



Dr. Michael Ward

Dr. Michael Ward has been described as “not only the foremost living Lewis scholar, but also a brilliant writer” by the leading New Testament expert, N.T. Wright. His books include “Planet Narnia: The Seven Heavens in the Imagination of C.S. Lewis” and “The Cambridge Companion to C.S. Lewis.” He is also known for presenting the BBC television documentary, “The Narnia Code.”

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HBU COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING TAKES SHAPE

HBU PRESIDENT DR. ROBERT B. SLOAN: *“The recent vote by the HBU Board of Trustees to launch a College of Engineering was a historic moment for the University. The Houston marketplace, student demand and HBU’s commitment to academic and professional excellence have all combined to make this new college a reality. We have received some significant commitments from foundations and individuals, and already we have been encouraged by businesses all over the Houston area regarding their support. The leadership of our Board of Trustees, plus the greatest advisory board I’ve ever seen at a university gives us great optimism for the future.”*

HBU COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING MISSION STATEMENT: *The mission of the College of Engineering is to educate and train engineers who will utilize God-given resources and God-given talents to serve humanity by solving technical challenges efficiently and securely. HBU engineers serve the Lord Jesus Christ and serve humanity by applying basic scientific knowledge and basic biblical principles to make the world healthier, more productive and more secure.*

WHAT IS CYBER ENGINEERING?

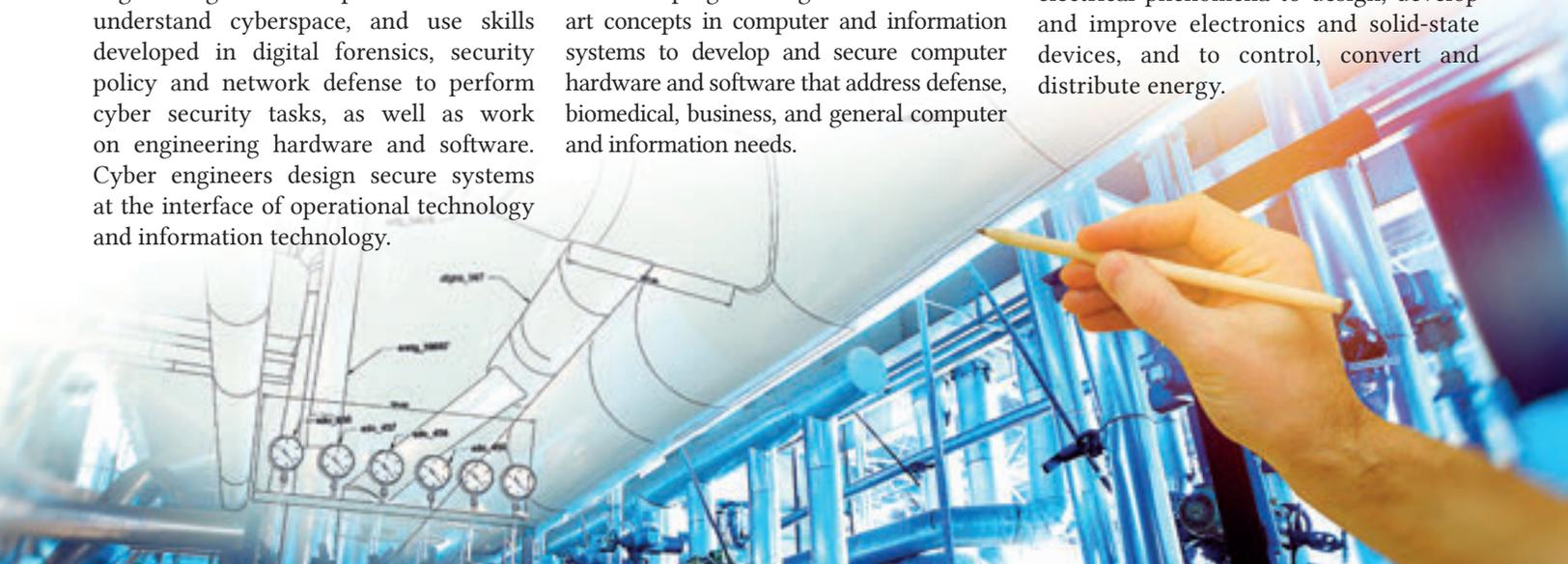
Cyber engineers incorporate electrical engineering and computer science to understand cyberspace, and use skills developed in digital forensics, security policy and network defense to perform cyber security tasks, as well as work on engineering hardware and software. Cyber engineers design secure systems at the interface of operational technology and information technology.

WHAT IS COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Computer scientists design algorithms and use programming and state-of-the-art concepts in computer and information systems to develop and secure computer hardware and software that address defense, biomedical, business, and general computer and information needs.

WHAT IS ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING?

Electrical engineers apply the laws of electrical phenomena to design, develop and improve electronics and solid-state devices, and to control, convert and distribute energy.



In September, the Houston Baptist University Board of Trustees approved the creation of a College of Engineering, and the development of engineering programs. Dr. Stanley A. Napper, founding dean of the College of Engineering, said the approval allows the University to move forward with the college formation and accreditation process.

“We’re working on three programs that the University decided upon with the help of an Engineering Advisory Board and a needs study,” Napper said. “They really settled upon a cyber engineering theme. It’s a worthy focus, and I’m happy to support it.”

The University proposes to offer a Bachelor of Science in Cyber Engineering, a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

Curricular themes encompass cyber security, cloud computing, mobility, data analytics and project management. The vision for curriculum structure includes student-

owned laboratory devices and project-based learning. All students will complete a senior project and participate in a professional education or internship opportunity.

Dr. James Steen, HBU vice president of Enrollment Management, said, “Engineering is the fifth most popular academic interest among test-takers as reported by the College Board and ACT. Up until this point, we have never been able to accommodate those students interested in engineering. However, with the new College of Engineering, we will have more students who can benefit from an HBU education.”

Napper said, “The demand for professionals who understand the security and physical systems requirements in fields like energy, healthcare, aerospace, IT, financial aid and more is very strong.”

HBU Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Cynthia Simpson said that the addition of engineering adds to HBU’s standing as a comprehensive university.

“Few private schools comparable to HBU offer excellence in the liberal arts and in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education,” Simpson said. “It is a characteristic that sets HBU apart.”

Launch of the college and degree programs relies on financial backing from corporations, foundations and individuals. Crucial early support has been provided for the College of Engineering from the MD Anderson Foundation and the Fondren Foundation.

Dr. Napper has identified immediate, short-term and long-term needs, and asks for generous support so that recruiting faculty, recruiting students and equipping labs can begin very soon.

“We think employers will be glad to have graduates from HBU who understand the technical skills, but who also have a commitment to ethical values,” Napper said. “Graduates will be able to meet the challenges of administering operational and information technology across many spectrums.”



Lisa Wilson, Faith Wilson and Amy Ugokwe

ONLINE STUDENT REACHES LONGTIME GOAL THROUGH HBU

When Faith Wilson earned her associate's degree in nursing at 23 years old, her goal was simply to finish the program and leave school.

"Back then, my main focus was not excelling," she said. "But this time is different. HBU has really changed that for me. I want the 'gold medal' this time."

As a nurse for 18 years, Wilson has worked in multiple areas including medical/surgical, pediatrics, ambulatory care, women's services and even plastic surgery.

"Getting my bachelor's— it's something that had been in the making that I wanted to do," the wife and mother of three said. "My youngest was 22 and I had some extra time. I began researching programs, but a lot of them didn't work out with my work schedule."

What stood out to Wilson about HBU's program was the ability to complete coursework on an asynchronous, self-paced schedule. Students have flexibility in their completion of assignments during each eight-week class. That meant that Wilson could do no coursework on days when she worked 12-hour shifts, and then work on the course for several hours on days when she had the time.

"From the time I placed my first phone call, I have had no issues with HBU as far as registration, payment and course scheduling," she said. "All I had to do was focus on the schoolwork."

Wilson entered the program in June 2016. The online program was a new experience, but one in which she adjusted to quickly. She was assigned a program counselor and a nursing mentor. She soon discovered that faculty members and staff typically responded to emails within hours. To her surprise, the online format even allowed for interaction with fellow students.

Her co-workers, Lisa Wilson and Amy Ugokwe, at Medical City Plano Hospital are enrolled in Houston Baptist University's RN (Registered Nurse) to BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) online program as well.

"I had a lot of hesitation at first because my background has always been sitting in a classroom. I was thinking, 'How am I going to get this if it's all left on me?' But I was absolutely incorrect. The online program doesn't place any limits on you. The way it's set up, it's like you're in the classroom," she said. "The only difference is that the professor isn't there reading you things."

Among the changes in the nursing field since she first became a nurse are updates in medical records and charting

technology, and a generally faster-paced environment. Many hospitals now prefer bachelor's degree-level nurses in order to retain magnet hospital status. Furthermore, higher-level degrees are commonly required in order to advance.

"This will give me new avenues to pursue career-wise," Wilson said. "HBU gives you all the tools and everything you need to succeed. All of my professors have been wonderful. Houston Baptist is like family, and the faith component there is important to me. I know it's making me a better nurse. The program gives a lot of polishing and it's elevated my nursing skills. I absolutely cannot say enough wonderful things about HBU."

Wilson is looking forward to graduating in December 2017. But she doesn't plan to stop there.

"I can't wait to wear my black gown and cute shoes at graduation," she said. "My family is so proud of me, and I've shown my sons that if mom can go back to school after all these years, there's no reason why they can't do well. And, as soon as I finish my BSN, I'm going to take a month off and then start the MSN (Master of Science in Nursing) program. I went from a student who thought, 'I just want to get out of here,' to 'I love to learn.' HBU has done that for me."

UNIVERSITY INCREASES ONLINE AND RESIDENTIAL OFFERINGS

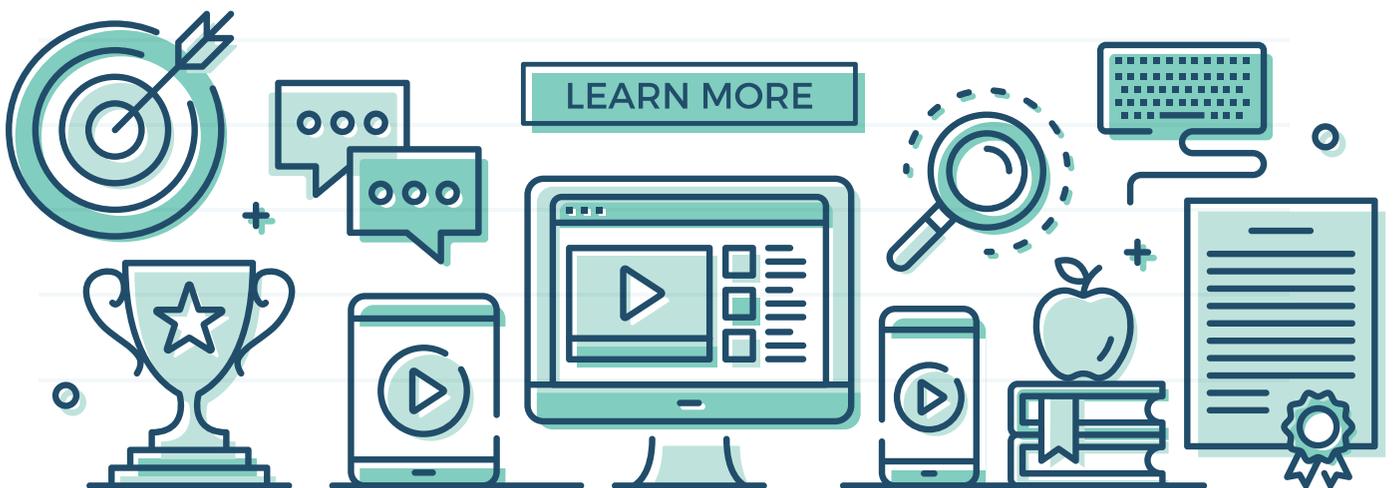
Houston Baptist University is gaining notoriety as a national, comprehensive university centered around an intimate campus. With the addition of new HBU programs launching this fall, the University offers 67 undergraduate and 38 graduate degrees, including eight online undergraduate programs and 11 online graduate programs.

Even more students will be prepared for their future goals through the new degree programs launched this fall.

Ritamarie Tauer, associate provost for Academic Operations, said, "It is fulfilling to witness the hard work of the deans, staff and faculty in providing this exciting array of new academic programs. The instruction of HBU faculty members will allow students to gain expertise in their chosen fields. We look forward to these offerings!"

New HBU Programs for Fall 2017:

- ◆ Master of Science in Nursing (Online and Competency-Based)
- ◆ Master of Science in Kinesiology-Sport Management (Online)
- ◆ Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling (Online & Residential)
- ◆ Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (Online & Residential)
- ◆ Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interactive Media and Digital Design (Residential)
- ◆ Master of Education, Higher Education (Residential)



HBU GRADUATE SCHOOL REACHES 1,000 STUDENTS ENROLLED

The Houston Baptist University Graduate School is growing in offerings and in students. Enrollment reached more than 1,000 students in the fall of 2017— the most ever for the HBU Graduate School.

HBU Director of Graduate Admissions Allyson Cates said the Graduate School's enrollment has grown by almost 90 percent in the past five years.

"HBU is becoming more well-known, and it's encouraging for us to see that," she said. "It's an exciting time in the life of HBU, and I believe we'll only continue to grow from here."

Dr. Jeffrey Green, dean of the Graduate School said, "The growth of HBU's graduate programs over the last several years is due to the hard work of the faculty and pursuing the vision in the Ten Pillars. Pillar Three calls on us to embrace the challenge of Christian graduate education, and I'm proud to serve among so many who are meeting that challenge every day."

HBU has expanded its programs to cover diverse areas such as nursing, kinesiology, counseling, business,

fine arts and theology. The growth of the Pinky Pampell Online Division means even more options to come.

"I'm excited about the new programs opening up this year and in the near future," Green said. "Not only do we grow our current programs each year, but we continue to add new and exciting fields of study. We have programs that are being offered in different modalities including online, residential and competency-based options."

The Graduate School has engaged its students in recent years through events like Graduate School Orientation and the casual Chili Showdown.

"Graduate students are often non-traditional students, but they still want to be connected," Cates said. "We're focused on building relationships with them and engaging them with the campus community."

The appeal of earning a graduate degree includes higher earning and promotion potential, as well as the ability to further pursue an area of interest.

"We're here to serve working professionals as well as full-time students, and to ultimately help people achieve their goals," Cates said.

Visit HBU.edu/grad or email onlineadmissions@HBU.edu or gradadmissions@HBU.edu to learn more.



SPOTLIGHT ON JOHN GIBSON

The Elizabeth and John Gibson Endowed Chair in Apologetics at HBU, established in 2012, has allowed for the growth of the prestigious program.

For the last decade, John W. Gibson, Jr. served Houston Baptist University on the Board of Trustees. HBU is like part of the Gibson family; his wife, Elizabeth, son, John W. Gibson, III, and daughter-in-law, Deborah, all attended HBU.

Now a father of two and a grandfather of seven, Gibson counts himself an unlikely higher education advocate. In the mid-70s, Gibson didn't last long at the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Georgia.

"Alcohol and fast cars were my vision of a great life during junior college," he said. "To be honest, that's why I did so poorly."

In 1976, Gibson joined the U.S. Army and served in Korea. By the time he completed his service in 1979, he had promoted to a sergeant.

"It was a great opportunity to gain some discipline. I needed about three years to calm down and grow up," he said. "It was an honor to serve."

Gibson married his wife, Elizabeth, in 1979, and the two attended Auburn University. After graduating with a degree in geology in 1982, Gibson first came to Houston to work as a geophysicist for Gulf Oil.

His technical and people skills proved to be a winning combination as Gibson advanced in his career.

"I've always had jobs I was unqualified for," he mused. He attended evening classes to earn a master's in geology from the University of Houston in 1992 before going on to be the head of Zycor, Halliburton, Paradigm Geophysical and Tervita. He is currently a senior advisor for Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Company.

Gibson has long made it a practice to share his success and his passion for quality education across university and business platforms.

"I put a lot of effort in my life into furthering academia in general, but I



have really invested in HBU," he said. "We have a faith-based university that's in a major metropolitan area. HBU is an important member of the Houston community. We add a huge dimension with premiere programs like religious studies, apologetics and the nursing school." As chairman of the Board, Gibson was part of a growth in students,

for all."

Of the Board's accomplishments during his tenure, Gibson is especially proud of the ways members have ensured the University will be viable and innovative for years to come. His memories are warmed with the camaraderie of collaborators.

"It's been a blessing to be able to work

"The thing we have in common really is our faith and our commitment to Christian education." - John Gibson

an increase in campus infrastructure and the development of the online program. Each member of the Board works in coordination to make sure the University is spiritually, academically and financially successful, he said.

"Our Board members are rock stars in the business and faith communities," he said. "The thing we have in common really is our faith and our commitment to Christian education. To go to a Board of Trustees meeting at HBU is not like going to another Board meeting. We start out with a devotional and then we go from there to how to honor God through HBU. We're unashamedly Christian, and yet we're absolutely committed to education

with Stuart Morris, Sr., Dr. Hodo, Dr. Sloan, Sandy Mooney and other visionaries. It's been a privilege to be part of that group," he said. Houston Baptist University will remain effective by continuing to provide a personalized and faith-filled education to each student. He credits his wife's special love for the school for the family's ongoing involvement and contributions to HBU. "HBU changes lives; it's changed our lives," he said.

"I've served for quite a long time and I've enjoyed every minute. I've had some fun. It will be a great opportunity to have other trustees come in with fresh perspectives. If there is an opportunity to help HBU, I'll be there."



HBU SHINES AT AACC WORLD CONFERENCE

Houston Baptist University representatives served a key role during the American Association of Christian Counselors 2017 World Conference, held September 27-30, 2017, at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. There were approximately 7,000 attendees from the 50 states and throughout the world at the sold-out event.

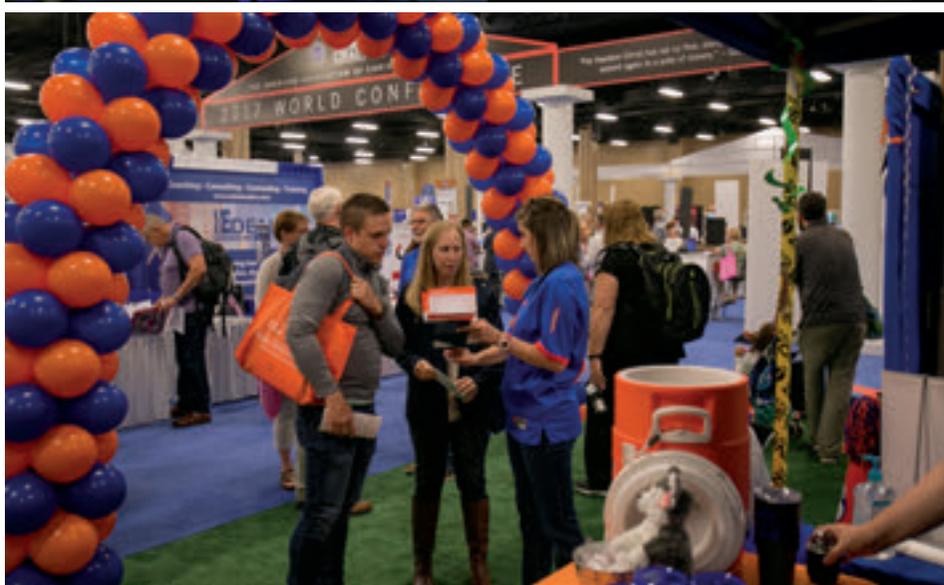
Dr. Tim Clinton, president of the AACC, said, “Our mission for the event is to help [attendees] more effectively offer the love of God and wise counsel to those who come for help, hope and direction.”

Keynote speakers included HBU President Dr. Robert B. Sloan as well as Associate Professor of Early Christianity and Founder of Christian Thinkers Society Dr. Jeremiah J. Johnston.

Sloan shared HBU’s vision of delivering an education with purpose, “A Higher Education,” to students by providing challenging and up-to-date curriculum, academic experts and a Christian worldview. Johnston, who authored “Unanswered: Lasting Truth for Trending Questions,” and his latest book, “Unimaginable: What Our World Would Be Like Without Christianity,” challenged conference-goers to more fully integrate their faith with reason.

Additionally, HBU admissions representatives interacted with guests via a University exposition. Passers-by, many of whom heard of HBU for the first time, learned about the opportunities for both residential and online degree programs.

Visit HBU.edu/COEBS to learn more about HBU’s Master of Arts in Counseling programs.



DR. JAY STRACK

Discusses Why He's Passionate About Reaching Today's Youth



The troubles and spiritual doubts of today's youth are familiar to Dr. Jay Strack, longtime evangelist and founder of Student Leadership University. As a teen in Fort Myers, Florida in the 1960s, he emerged from a broken home, foster homes and detention centers feeling rudderless.

"I had felt like a piece of luggage most of my life. I didn't know what to do about it," Strack said during a July 25 interview at Houston Baptist University with Dr. Jerry Johnston. "I began to try to kill the pain with alcohol and drugs. You go from being a victim to a villain. You start robbing yourself with careless choices."

After he reached a point of desperation, Strack asked God to show Himself as real. His midnight, jailhouse prayer was followed by encounters with Christians and the Gospel message.

Following a Bible study, Strack said, "I heard the message too good to be true, and I went home and flushed the drugs. That was over 40 years ago." Strack not only finished high school, but served as a pastor and earned a doctorate. He and his wife, Diane, have gone on to share their fervor for the life-altering power of Jesus Christ with many.

Dr. Strack spoke to students in an estimated 10,000 high school assemblies over the course of two decades. Then, a turning point in his ministry came when Billy Graham asked Strack a simple question: who would carry on Strack's ministry after him?

"From that moment on, I had four or five guys who would go with us," Strack said.

Strack realized the value of developing leaders of the faith and

not only followers. He envisioned inspiring promising youth and the church workers who disciplined them.

Along the way, Strack discovered that, across denominations, young adults were leaving the church in alarming numbers. A council of church youth leaders concurred that focused attention on influencers was needed.

"Bigger was better in my mind, but all of a sudden I was hearing a heart cry," Strack said. "I said, 'We're going to come up with a solution.' What could I do that the Lord has called me to do that maybe not everyone is doing?"

The idea of investing in youth led to the development of Student Leadership University. Student participants in SLU 101 through 401 explore how to think, dream, lead and serve with the Gospel at the forefront through life-changing trips. Students have an introduction to the program in a U.S. city during their first year, visit Washington, D.C. the second year, visit major world cities including London, Oxford, Normandy and Paris the third year, and travel to Israel and Jordan during the fourth year.

SLU outreaches include Lift Tours that teach teens to live for Christ and Youth Pastor Summits that help equip youth leaders.

The concept of SLU is unique among ministries, and has made an indelible difference

for those involved.

"We want to be a game-changer," Strack said.

Johnston agreed that reaching the next generation is vital.

"What you've done is absolutely remarkable and totally needed," Johnston said.

Learn more about Student Leadership University at slulead.com.

HBU.edu/p54-Strack

Student participants in SLU 101 through 401 explore how to think, dream, lead and serve with the Gospel at the forefront through life-changing trips.

PANTOLOGIA: THE STUDY OF ALL THINGS

The following is submitted by Dr. Joshua R. Farris, director of the Academy, and assistant professor of theology in HBU's School of Humanities and The Honors College.

Let me begin with a brief reading from 1 Corinthians 1: “Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” 1 Corinthians is a letter about wisdom. And it is relevant for us in our vocations as professors. We are here not simply to inform students with important facts or to prep them to fulfill certain occupational tasks. Our job, in part, is an adjunct to the job of a pastor. We are here to help move the students in the direction of wisdom by creating a wisdom culture. And, the colloquia functions to aid in that process.

I was tasked with commenting on the humanities colloquia, which is an attempt to increase cooperation between the School of Christian Thought with the School of Humanities. The title of the Colloquia is “Pantologia,” which literally means “the study of all things,” suggested by Dr. David Grubbs. In “Pantologia,” we study all things— all things relevant to the humanities. We give special attention and centrality to religious concerns, which we believe is fitting at a Christian university. As we understand it, academia is centrally focused on God and his relation to creation, and anchored in the person and work of Jesus Christ. With this in mind, we (i.e., Pantologians) believe that all of our work must be rooted in God and his relation to creation, and anchored by the University’s central confession that Jesus Christ is Lord. Theology (i.e., the study of God) has a unitive role in the process. As the “Queen of the Sciences,” one image, offered by Dr. Grubbs, comes to mind of a queen, not as some authoritarian ruler, but the queen working along with the rest of her court. In this picture, all the disciplines have some important function in leading us to truth and helping us become wise. But, this takes some rigorous and careful thinking on how to faithfully work out our disciplines in a way that is rooted in and connected to our confession of God’s work in Christ.

After some reflection, it became clear that many of the objectives found in the School of Christian Thought overlap with those of the School of Humanities. Not only that, but several professors in both schools are working on related topics impinging on broader religious concerns. By “religious concerns,” we are not intending it in a narrow sense, but in a broader sense, which encompasses a wide set of topics, concerns and disciplines that shape and sustain a vision of our world.

Just to give you a sense of some of the relevant topics, over

the past year, we covered several interesting topics on a spectrum of varied disciplines. One of our recent Academy hires, Dr. Tyler D. McNabb, explored one issue in divine providence. Dr. Bruce Gordon touched on problems with methodological naturalism and the need for divine explanation. One of our history professors, Dr. David Davis, advanced several different 17th-century views on ecstatic visionary experiences. Dr. Emily Stelzer, our English literature professor, touched on one aspect of John Milton— her area of expertise. Dr. Anthony Joseph, another history professor, gave a talk on the history of abortion in the U.S. Dr. Paul Sloan, faculty member in the SCT, explored the nature of sacrifice in the Bible and its relevance today.

This fall, we have several talks in store, and you are all welcome to come. Dr. Robert Llizo, part of the Honors College, will be giving a talk on Thomas’s view of beatific vision and the body’s relation to it. Additionally, Dr. David Grubs, Dr. Tyler McNabb, Dr. Bruce

Gordon and others will be presenting. Appropriately, I believe, in honor of Reformation 500, we are meeting to discuss Dr. Kevin J. Vanhoozer’s work, “Biblical Authority After Babel,” where he touches on the distinctives of the Protestant-Reformation tradition.

Other topics and workshops in store for the future include discussions of gender and sexuality, and the use of literary critical theory in contemporary society. We will see what else pops up as time moves on.

To summarize, Pantologia exists for three reasons. First, we exist to advance scholarship. By creating a community that aids careful critical thinking about our own disciplines, we influence a culture of research. This naturally feeds into the next point. Second, we exist to influence the wider academic discussions. Finally, we believe that this keeps our teaching freshly linked to contemporary discussions. This is the third. We exist to aid one another in our teaching objectives.





HBU STUDENTS EXPERIENCE BOSTON'S FAMOUS



Submitted by

DR. CHRISTOPHER HAMMONS

Director of the HBU Center for Law and Liberty

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough maintains that the best way to instill appreciation for our nation's history is to tell good stories. What better way to tell a good story than on the very spot where it happened?

Dr. Chris Hammons, professor of Government and director of HBU's Center for Law & Liberty, took a group of six HBU students to Boston last summer to study the American Revolution in the city where it started.

"I wanted to give our students a sense of place and time, to make them understand that the struggles of the Revolution occurred in the midst of real people going about the routine of daily life," he said.

Students followed Hammons through Boston's famous Freedom Trail, highlighting some of the most important sites of Revolutionary Boston. Students toured the Old South Meeting Place, Faneuil Hall, Paul Revere's home and the Old North Church (where the two lanterns were hung to signal that the British soldiers were on the move). Students also visited the grave sites of numerous patriots such as Samuel Adams,

John Hancock and Paul Revere.

David Stripling, a junior majoring in History, said, "When you're visiting these historic sites, you realize that these were significant people who had to make real decisions. There is nothing like standing where they once were and putting yourself in their positions."

For Hammons, the highlight of the trip was a long hike between Lexington and Concord on the historic Battle Road. Professor Hammons and the students walked almost 15 miles that day, following the same path the British took on April 19, 1775 in the famous battle that sounded the "shot heard round the world."

Michael Alexander, a junior Government major, said the hike made the Revolution more real.

"We passed the graves of patriots and British soldiers in the woods, buried where they were killed. You suddenly realize this really happened," he said. "It's not just something in books."

Students also learned about the contributions of African colonists (some free, some enslaved) and women to the Revolutionary cause.

"There are people whose stories are often overlooked, but are just as interesting and



FREEDOM TRAIL

important to the Revolutionary cause because they all valued the same thing—freedom,” said Katie Turner, a senior History major.

In the end, Dr. Hammons said he wants students to understand that the American story is one “based on principles that are important to everyone, no matter what you look like, who your parents are or where you were born.”

Junior Calvin Maynard says the trip to Boston helped him develop a greater appreciation for our nation’s history and its founding principles.

“This time in Boston has been the highlight of my education at HBU,” he said. “I’ll remember it for the rest of my life.”

Dr. Hammons aims for the creation of an endowed travel fund so that students can continue to travel to historic American sites at minimal costs to themselves. The Center for Law & Liberty at HBU is dedicated to making sure HBU students graduate with an understanding and appreciation of our nation’s history and founding principles.

HBU FACULTY MEMBERS SHARE AS GUESTS AT A BEIJING UNIVERSITY

The following is a submission from Dr. Jeffrey Green, dean of the Graduate School and interim dean of the School of Christian Thought, Dr. Marie A. Mater, program coordinator of Speech Communication and Mr. Jesse GrothOlson, assistant professor of Cinema, Media Arts and Writing. These HBU faculty members presented professional development seminars to the faculty of Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU), one of the oldest universities in mainland China, in June 2017.

Dr. Green led seminars on college administration and global trends in higher education. His lectures included topics such as incorporating the liberal arts in STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math) education. He also spoke about developing and assessing vision, and how to help faculty succeed in their publication goals. BJTU has a large English program, and Dr. Green gave a fitting lecture comparing language education at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Dr. Mater facilitated seminars for faculty on Intercultural Communication. The topic is particularly relevant since BJTU has a large number of international students. She discussed the relationship between communication, culture and identity. Dr. Mater also focused on the intercultural differences in nonverbal and verbal communication.

Mr. GrothOlson presented nine separate lectures covering topics under the umbrella of innovative teaching techniques. His presentations covered roadblocks to teaching and how to overcome them; storytelling as a teaching tool; personality, communication and management; experience-based learning; conflict, red flags and interpersonal challenges; using media for teaching and communicating; creativity and problem-solving; grades, failure and assessment: the role of the teacher; and subtext: moving beyond language for human connection.

(In addition to presenting these seminars, the trio took time to visit notable Chinese historical sites such as The Forbidden City, The Great Wall, The Summer Palace and Tiananmen Square.)

The following is a submission from Mr. Jesse GrothOlson, assistant professor of Cinema, Media Arts and Writing, about his experience.

At the beginning of this summer, I had the opportunity to travel to China to give nine unique lectures to the faculty of Beijing Jiaotong University.

Everything from the art and architecture, to the students and faculty of BJTU, speak to the dual nature of the school, the city and the country. Founded as a school to support and run the railways, BJTU is now a thriving university with as many faculty as we have students.

And while it may seem like any other college campus, there are signs everywhere that there is something bigger going on. The palaces



Dr. Mater, Dr. Green and Mr. GrothOlson

and the parks, mountains and crowds, beautiful natural resources and the man-made monuments that hold them captive—all these pairings exist, and create beautiful bouquets of experience.

Everywhere I looked, I saw the natural order striving against the marks of progress. Their celebrations of their natural resources are astounding, and are only eclipsed by what they have been able to create from them. Everywhere, there is a tension between worlds. The juxtaposition of disparate ideas found throughout the city is astounding: rural and urban; new and worn-out; East and West; natural and man-made; ancient and modern; beautiful and grotesque; oppression and freedom.

Nine years after the world converged on Beijing to celebrate our universally shared athletic endeavors, the buildings remain and continue to be developed as a public place for the Chinese people to come and relax, celebrate and enjoy each other's company. The Olympic park sits as an Ebenezer to the time when China was itself opened to the West and its trappings.

As the country bursts forward into an unprecedented era of modernity that almost looks familiar to us, it also maintains strains of the bygone era that, for many, continue today. A deep history of global influence is striving to peek through the near-modern communist era into an

expanding 21st-century globalized China with a burgeoning capitalist sector. And while, as a country, China moves forward with the rest of the developed world, the individual citizens are stuck in the middle of this ideological tug-of-war. Beijing is a city that beckons to the world, and it is eagerly awaiting the responses of businesses, schools and individuals. The people are proud of their culture, and they are eager to share it with us.

As near-history and ancient history mix with modern existence, it should be impossible for us to forget that one of the greatest resources China has always had is her people— people who work hard at whatever task they're given, people whose efforts and strivings have served to create and build everything from their vast network of highways and high-speed railways, to the large majority of all consumer goods used in the world today. Yet, who themselves live in the humblest of means, stuck between the rock of modern urban survival and the hard place of state-run, state-enforced nationalism. They work, live and build just like you and I. They have even adopted some of our lesser vices. But there is always the undeniable flavor and beauty of a culture much more weighty and aged than our own.

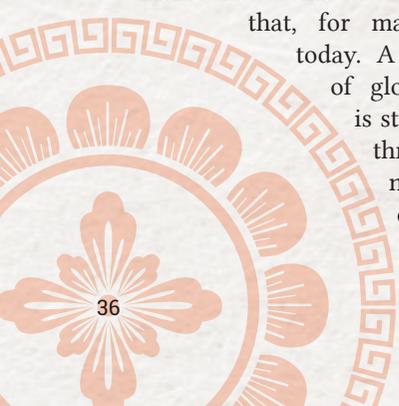
In the weight and line of every ancient stone, carving and artifact, one could feel the vastness of the world and the minuteness of the self. My colleagues and I were caught up in a whirlwind of engaging, observing and contemplating everything it was we were seeing. There

was simply too much to take in— too much to interpret and too much to think about. There was too much of our own world that needed to adjust to make room for China.

And it was not the China of our own popular culture or the China spoken to us by our own demagogues and media moguls, but rather a China made up of the amalgam of our own senses, our own understandings of history, and the subtext and metamessaging in every physical experience we had. It was a pleasure and privilege to visit, to teach and to engage the culture, the people and the amazing cuisine. To be in the presence of wonders that both the ancient and modern worlds hold as benchmarks for the limits of human effort is humbling. To enjoy them in the presence of a different people is enriching. And to enjoy them while in conversation with peers and colleagues is exciting and challenging.

As a teacher, it was good to get to stretch my legs in a new context and see if my understanding of what education really is held true in a more universal setting. As an artist, I was stretched and awed by the works of humanity. As a human... I was brought closer to an eternal God who made it all possible.

This trip has opened my eyes to many possible opportunities, and I think it would be good for all of our faculty to engage in similar outward-facing explorations. Trips like this will only increase our University's cultivation of a strong global focus, our ability to engage Athens and the richness of our own engagement with each other.





THE GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL : 10 Great Things about “The Great Gatsby”

By Dr. Doni M. Wilson

The following is a reprint of an excerpt from “Reflection and Choice,” a blog by the Houston Baptist University School of Humanities.

On April 10, 1925, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby” was published, and whenever I hear anyone say that they are going to “write The Great American Novel,” I am pretty sure that this is the book that is swimming in everyone’s head. I know it is the first one I think of, and I am not alone. When the movie was coming out with Leonardo DiCaprio, I celebrated this anniversary of the novel by becoming completely obsessed with the May premiere of the big Baz Luhrmann film version, and I began a big one-month countdown to the opening. I wasn’t sure if I could wait that long, but if Jay Gatsby could wait five years to see Daisy Fay Buchanan again, then I guessed I could wait one month for this film. Guess what? I survived.

But whether you loved or hated the Leo movie, the Redford version, or the play version that was performed in Galveston at The Grand, here are 10 great things about “The Great Gatsby” (the book, that is) that will remind you of why it is just so, well, great.

1. Best Opening Lines in a Novel: “In my younger and more vulnerable years, my father gave me some advice that I’ve been turning over in my mind ever since. ‘Whenever you feel like criticizing any one,’ he told me, ‘just remember that all the people in the world haven’t had the advantages that you’ve had.’”

This is great because you can also use this on your own kids, even if it isn’t really true.

2. Best First-Person Narrator: Even if you think that Nick Carraway is sort of a snob, he reels you into the novel as if you were part of a conspiracy, and you are in the thick of that excitement from the first page until the last. He is “within and without,” a role that Fitzgerald himself played as an autobiographical writer, and a role the reader feels as if he or she is playing when observing and judging his intricate narrative.

3. Best Settings: It is hard to beat the decadence of Long Island, both the grit and the glamour of New York City, the glimmers of France and Montenegro, and did you know that San Francisco is smack dab in the Midwest?

4. Best Golden Girl: Daisy Fay Buchanan has great lines like, “I’m p-paralyzed with happiness” and “Sophisticated— God, I’m sophisticated!” and “You want too much.” You have to figure out if she is being ironic, and Nick finds this irritating in women, so therefore, he does not trust her— or any other woman.

5. Best BFF Sidekick: Jordan Baker. I know she is morally vapid, but if it were not for her, we would have no backstory whatsoever about Daisy’s prior love for Gatsby. And she says things like, “Tom’s got some woman in New York.” If that doesn’t liven up a dinner party, I don’t know what will.

6. Best Bad Guy: Tom Buchanan, AKA “Mr. Civilization is going to pieces.” I still cannot believe that he knows the word “Nordic.” Even with all of that money, he is hard to like, and Fitzgerald had accomplished something right there given the American tendency to forgive anything and everything in those who have money.

7. Best Original Symbols: Even if you have not read a lick of “The Great Gatsby,” you might have heard of the green light at the end of Daisy’s dock, or the huge advertorial eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg... (NOTE: If you are in my 1330 university English class, and you have heard of these things from anyone called Cliff or Spark, I do not want to know about it.)

8. Most Excruciating Film Versions: Robert Redford wouldn’t even go to the premiere of his 1974 film version with Mia Farrow, and I could hardly watch Mira Sorvino playing Louisville belle Daisy Fay in the A & E miniseries version. It is a hard novel to put on the screen because so much of it is in Nick Carraway’s head. I love Leonardo DiCaprio, just not so much in this film: too many accents, too much screaming in the Plaza Hotel scene, too many lines that were not from the novel. But if you turn the sound to mute, he was perfect!

9. Best Moral Dilemmas: Love or Rules? Forgetting the past, or changing it? Marriage or adultery? Learning the bond business or fast-tracking to bootlegging? Goodness, the roaring twenties were not quiet for a reason, and this novel helps us figure out why.

10. Best Closing Lines of a Novel: “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.” I sure wish I had written that line. But Fitzgerald did, and it is great every single time.

This is The Great American Novel, and the best part is that, for right now, it still is.

A SURPRISE CALL

By Lee Strobel, HBU professor of Christian Thought



I was surprised when I got a call out of the blue from movie producers at Pure Flix asking if they could make a feature film based on my book, “The Case for Christ.” After all, my book had been published nearly two decades earlier.

But it didn’t take long for my wife Leslie and me to agree to this depiction of my journey from atheism to Christianity. We reasoned that some people won’t read a 300-page book or darken the door of a church, but they might go to the theater. We were excited about the project’s evangelistic potential.

We assumed— naively— that we would have complete control over how our story was told. We wanted to have the right to pull the plug if, in the end, it didn’t fairly portray our story. But as our attorney explained, movie producers can’t raise millions of dollars from investors and then have us reject the final product at the last minute.

So we would have to trust Pure Flix. We met with them and were impressed by their sincerity and track record. Just in case, we added a provision that the movie must be written by Brian Bird, an accomplished screenwriter who also happens to be a friend. We knew Brian would protect the integrity of our journey. Pure Flix agreed— and we were launched on one of the most incredible adventures of our 45-year marriage.

Leslie and I sat down with Brian in his basement office in Denver and spent several days telling him about our lives. He wanted to know everything about our love story (we met when we were 14 years old), the dynamics of our marriage (including pet names we had for each other), my strained relationship with my father (which formed a psychological barrier to faith) and the evidence that convinced me that Christianity is true (primarily the facts behind the resurrection of Jesus).

Brian’s goal was to write a script that blended both heart and head— not a documentary, but a compelling story of the personal side of my journey mixed with highlights of the



historical evidence for Jesus rising from the dead. His screenplay accomplished his objective masterfully.

Pure Flix consulted us on the actors. We were thrilled with the selection of Mike Vogel, featured in “The Help” and the new NBC series, “The Brave,” to play me. When he was having a crisis of faith at age 17, Mike was helped by reading “The Case for Christ,” so this project had special meaning for him.

The movie was a challenge for producers because it was set in 1980, which meant finding period-correct cars, clothes and even small items like pagers and typewriters — remember those? On their sound stage outside Atlanta, Triple Horse Studios built a replica of the Chicago Tribune newsroom, where I worked as the legal affairs editor. It was so eerily accurate that when I visited the set, I felt like I

was being transported back 35 years in a time machine. They even had fake cigarette smoke rising from the desks of reporters!

The big news was that Hollywood legend Faye Dunaway agreed to play a role in the movie. As recipient of every major acting award, she brought extra credibility to the project. But we were aghast to learn that a week before filming, she fell and severely broke her ankle.

It would have been understandable if the 76-year-old star backed out of the film. But as an old-school actress, her

“Even the cynical critics on Rotten Tomatoes gave it a 79 percent positive rating— incredibly high for a faith-based film.” - Lee Strobel



attitude was that the show must go on. The script was rewritten so she could sit for her entire scene, and she had to elevate her painful leg during breaks— but she persevered and brought a high level of respectability to the production.

The pivotal scene was when Mike portrayed the day in 1981 when I prayed to receive Jesus as my forgiver and leader. Everyone knows that this kind of highly personal and spiritually charged scene can easily come off as contrived or clichéd, so Leslie and I were praying hard as we watched a video monitor outside the house where it was being filmed.

The Gospel is presented with clarity in the scene. Leslie and I felt like everything was on the line. We held our breath as Mike so honestly and authentically portrayed my conversion. Clearly, God showed up at that instant— there wasn't a dry eye on the set.

Afterward, I went up to Mike to thank him, and I just broke into tears. I gave him a big hug and managed to whisper, "Thank you, Mike, for being so genuine and real."

Interestingly, when we showed the movie to test audiences of non-Christians, they said unanimously that this scene definitely had to be included in the final cut of the film.

In the end, we were thoroughly gratified by how the movie turned out. The secular rating service Cinemascore gave it an A+, which only about two

movies a year receive. Even the cynical critics on Rotten Tomatoes gave it a 79 percent positive rating— incredibly high for a faith-based film.

The movie was a success at the box office, finishing in the top 20 faith movies of all time. Since then, it has shown in South Korea, Nigeria, South Africa, Mexico, England— plus one theater in Papua New Guinea— and is now being seen on DVD and Blu-ray around the world. I was glad that my role as a professor at HBU was highlighted at the conclusion of the film.

Most importantly, God has used the movie to lead people to Christ. A church in Australia, for example, rented a theater to show the film— and 29 people came to faith in Jesus that night.

When people ask about the success of the movie, that's the kind of story I like to emphasize. Films are the language of young people, so why not harness the power of cinema to spread God's message of hope and grace to a new generation?





HBU WELCOMES FRESHMEN AND TRANSFER STUDENTS



Hurricane Harvey disrupted the scheduled plans for the Houston Baptist University freshmen and transfer welcome events as well as the first days of school. But it didn't dampen the spirits of students moving into residence halls at the start of their HBU experience.

"I feel a lot of excitement," said freshman Taylor Igo as she set up her belongings in her beige dorm room two weeks before classes began. "I love being home but I felt I needed to do my own thing. I love that

HBU has a really good nursing program, and I'm looking forward to joining Greek Life and Husky Hype."

Igo's roommate, Veronica Aldino, said, "I chose HBU to be closer to home and be on a pre-med. track. I'm looking forward to Rush Week and I plan to be in the Red Cross Club."

Students like Igo and Aldino filed into their dormitories amidst shouts of upperclassmen yelling, "Hooray, move-in day!" Student athletes pitched in to help new arrivals and their parents carry boxes,

clothes and furniture in the heat.

HBU Head Football Coach Vic Shealy said, "These athletes are tired and sore from practice, but they still do this enthusiastically. Students here care about giving. Character is valued and expected here, and we're proud of them."

The HBU Student Life department organized events to kick off the school year, ranging from the traditional Welcome Dinner for families to the convivial Beanie Ceremony for freshmen.

Mon'Sher Spencer, director of student





FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR: WELCOME HUSKIES!



involvement and leadership experiences, said the welcome events all help students begin to feel at home as Huskies.

“Welcome Days make the transition to college life as smooth as possible through learning about traditions, making new friends and having fun,” she said.

Whit Goodwin, associate provost for student life, said HBU strives to create opportunities for positive student experiences.

“We want students to feel like they belong and they matter,” he said.

Resident assistants Paul Arce and Alexi Bell were on hand to kick off the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

“I’ve commuted and now I live on campus,” Bell said. “What I like about HBU is there is a place for everyone.”

Arce said his advice to freshmen is, “Don’t be afraid to get out there and come out of your shell. There are lots of opportunities to talk to people and create friendships.”

Freshman Benny Garcia said he is looking forward to making the most of his

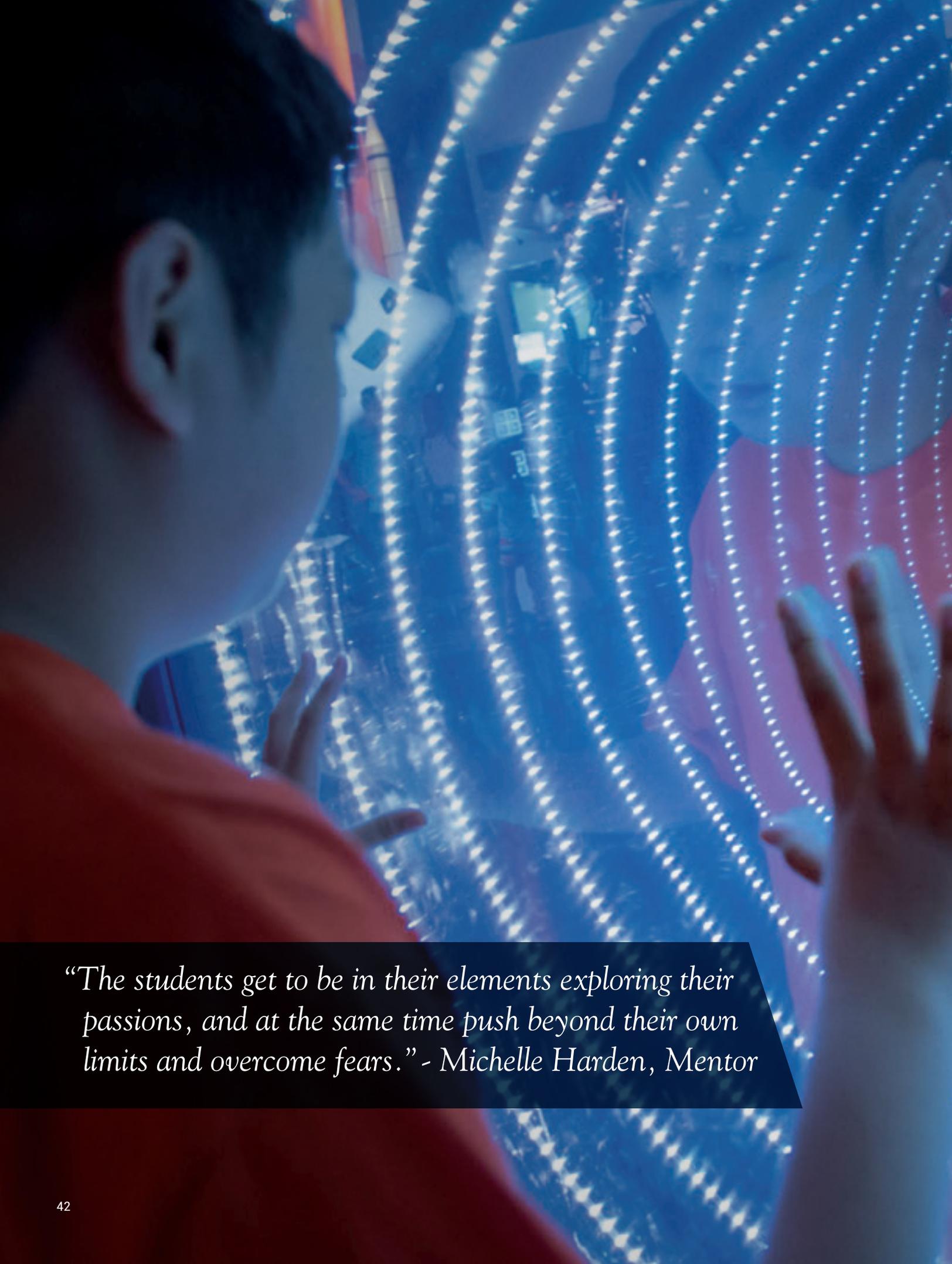
first year on campus.

“I took a tour two years ago and everyone was happy and genuine. It hooked me in and that’s why I came to HBU,” he said.

Garcia’s mother, Alejandra Garcia, said she is proud of her son for being a first-generation college student on his way to reaching his goal of becoming a history teacher.

“It’s a bittersweet moment to have him leave for college,” she said. “But the family supports him and we’re glad he’s here.”





“The students get to be in their elements exploring their passions, and at the same time push beyond their own limits and overcome fears.” - Michelle Harden, Mentor



HBU HACKATHON BOOT CAMP GIVES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GLIMPSE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL POSSIBILITIES

Thinking entrepreneurially isn't just for business majors; it's applicable for every student and all disciplines, says Michael Player, administrative director for Houston Baptist University's McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise.

"Entrepreneurship is a catalyst. People who are in athletics, fine arts, medical fields and more can all benefit," he said. "An entrepreneur thinks like an owner, and there's proof that those individuals rise faster in the ranks of any organization."

Player organized HBU's inaugural Hackathon Boot Camp from July 17-21. The camp was a five-day journey through real-world commercial concepts, with an emphasis on leadership and teamwork. Participating high school students studied what it takes to identify an area of need, create a proposal and then utilize business and technological resources to meet it.

Students commenced the week by working in groups to conceptualize their projects of choice. They explored practical issues that require ethical solutions involving creativity, collaboration and time management. Next, they presented their ideas for solutions before a panel of judges.

Expert mentor Maia Donohue, senior program manager of 3 Day Startup, has facilitated similar programs in universities across six continents. He said students were eager to create a product or service.

"These high school students are getting a high-level program," he said. "Concepts like talking to customers and resolving problems are applicable in a lot of fields."

With help from event partners Houston Federal Credit Union and the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Exchange Club, students had access to drones, virtual and augmented reality, 3-D printers, and enhanced web development resources.

Commercial innovator, Linkedall, presented a DJI drones demonstration and offered business ideas. Fuel.Tech demonstrated experiential technology with wearable devices,

and showcased Microsoft's latest Surface Pro workstation. Students were exposed to film crew training through HBU's Cinema and New Media Arts Program, and utilized three-dimensional printing in the Department of Visual Arts Print-Maker Lab. Finally, students capped off the week with a behind-the-scenes NASA tour at the Johnson Space Center.

This year's student groups came up with products that answered dilemmas ranging from designing usable containers to keeping intoxicated people from driving.

Senior Miles Modad said, "I've had a couple of ideas but I didn't know to progress them. This has given me a better idea of the brainstorming process and what to do and not do."

Mentor Michelle Harden said students were enthusiastic about bringing fresh ideas to life.

"The students get to be in their elements exploring their passions, and at the same time push beyond their own limits and overcome fears," she said.

Andrea Cubillos, a senior, said the experience would help with her goal of someday utilizing a marketing degree.

"Before this week, I didn't know what entrepreneurship was and if it was for me," she said. "This week has given me experience, and I can grow from there."

Player said the McNair Center namesakes, Houston entrepreneurs Robert C. "Bob" and Janice McNair, established the Center to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs educated in the fundamentals of the free enterprise system and how that forms the basis of prosperity in our country.

"At HBU, we believe that all success comes from God," Player said. "We're here to put people to work through free enterprise and to give back."

Dr. Cynthia Simpson, HBU provost and vice president for academic affairs, said, "This camp and its activities equip high school students for a rapidly changing marketplace. We are grateful for the support of The McNair Foundation in preparing Texas' next generation of entrepreneurs."

HBU FOOTBALL

HBU football has 13 fifth-year seniors who have been with the program since the beginning. They are

“It taught me how to be patient; we might not see the end results now, but the work we put into this program has meant a lot. Seeing the culture we created from nothing has been pretty amazing.”

-TAYLOR THOMPSON

“I’ve experienced a great deal of pride and brotherhood by beginning something that meant so much to a school and a city. It’s an honor to know that your mark will forever be imprinted into the history of HBU.”

-B.J. KELLY

“It was an honor to be chosen to start something special at HBU. My mom always wanted me to go to HBU and I felt truly blessed to receive an offer from the football team back in 2013.”

-AUSTIN HOLLEY

“It reminds me of God’s grace when we are walking into things we cannot see or aren’t able to understand. This program is a testament of faith for me, my teammates, and staff.”

-KAMERON LECOQ

“An opportunity like this does not come around very often, so when I was presented this opportunity, I jumped on it. All the hard work that all of my brothers have put in to get our program to where it is now is something special and something I will always cherish.”

-GARRETT DOLAN

“It is a constant reminder that God’s always working even when you are too blind to see.”

-TYLER HELAIRE



S “ORIGINAL 13”

known as the “Original 13,” and each has shared his feelings on building a team from the ground up.

“I take a lot of pride in being one of the first football recruits and laying the foundation for HBU football. The HBU family has meant everything to me the last five years, and I look forward to seeing the program grow.”

-TYLER BROWN

“It means a lot that I can say that I started a football team from the ground up. Also, it makes me feel happy because I know I always had a family away from home and that I’m always fighting alongside my brothers.”

-EDUARDO OSEGUEDA

“Building anything from the ground up is never easy, but through hard work and persistence we have seen this program grow exponentially. I’m proud to say I helped lay the foundation for HBU’s football team.”

-CODY MONCURE

“It’s been an amazing growing experience to start something with people who are now my brothers, and it is a feeling I will never be able to replace.”

-TERRELL BROWN III

“It is always special to be the first to start something from scratch. It’s a brotherhood that will always be family even after football is over.”

-CHRISTIAN GUZMAN

“It was an honor to start something new and see it through with teammates who have now become family to me.”

-DANNY GARZA

“It was a learning experience through dedication and commitment. But I believe it’ll mean more to us down the road when we’re 40, and get to look back at what it has become, and what we created and were the roots of.”

-ETHAN FRY



HBUSPORTS

DYNAMIC DUO

**BAILEY BANKS AND JESSICA WOOTEN
MAKING MOST OF UNEXPECTED SEASON**



Banks and Wooten

The HBU volleyball program expected the torch to pass naturally from one outside hitter, Jessica Wooten, to another, Bailey Banks. Then, two weeks prior to the Huskies' season-opener last season, Wooten, a two-time all Southland Conference selection, suffered a severe ankle injury in practice that would sideline her for the entirety of what was supposed to be her final season.

"The injury was the hardest thing I've ever been through, but I respect it, because I got to be on the bench and build the relationships with people that I never would have had if I'd not been injured," Wooten said. "The hardest thing was not finishing with my seniors, because we had been here together, and I know they wanted me to play with them and I wanted to play with them. It was tough, especially being here with Kayla (Armer) for four years."

In Wooten's absence, Banks grabbed the torch and became a dominant force in the league in her own right, earning first-team all-conference honors by averaging 3.68 kills and 3.29 digs per set.

"When Jess got hurt last year, we really had to step up, and I was one of those who had to take on a bigger role," Banks said. "I had to push myself and be the best I could for my team. I became a more confident player—I had to—I had no choice. I played all out and grew up a lot."

"Bailey stepped up a ton when I was out," Wooten said. "I remember the coaches telling me, not that it was good that I was hurt, but that it allowed Bailey to blossom as a player. She has, as a leader, and I think it's good now, because we're both able to lead and not feel like we're stepping on each other. We really have a respect for each other."

Wooten received a medical redshirt and has returned to the court to join Banks for what is now both of their senior seasons. They have similar skillsets as they are outside hitters who play all-around and are committed as much to defense as they are to offense. On September 9, Wooten became only the third player in HBU history to record 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs for her career, and Banks is not far from becoming the fourth.

"Bailey and Jess compliment each other and play off of each other really well," Head Coach Trent Herman said. "When one struggles, the other can pick her up; but when they are both on, they're really fun to watch. To have both of them together on this team is special. They bring so much experience and they've both had to carry the load at different times."

Banks transferred to HBU from North Texas when Wooten and Armer already had two seasons under their belts and had established themselves as team leaders. When Wooten returned to the team, though, she deferred to Banks. They used

to have a friendly rivalry that has turned into a healthy competition to push each other and bring out the best in one another and their teammates.

"The competition has been good between them, but it's also been good for our freshmen outside hitters," Herman said. "They all push each other and it's developing the depth that we haven't had in the past. They have a little bit of a rivalry, but they also like to see each other succeed."

Banks and Wooten will be remembered as two of the most dynamic outside hitters in school history, but they have put aside their personal accolades to focus on leading their teammates to even greater heights.

"We communicate a lot better; we're more excited for each other," Wooten said. "We root for one another now, whereas before there may have been more competition between us. It's helped the team a lot, and the way she took over last year has made me respect her even more."

"We're both pretty independent people and we can both be on the quiet side sometimes," Banks said. "We're always looking for ways to push the team and we tend to lead more by example. It's about the present time with your teammates and focusing on winning a conference championship and the conference tournament, which is something we all want to accomplish."

ABUKISHK: AN INTERNATIONAL HUSKY LEGACY

By Jeff Sutton

While attending HBU has become a family affair, for freshman Noor Abukishk, it wasn't always a foregone conclusion.

Noor, a member of the HBU women's soccer team, was born in the U.S., but spent the majority of her youth abroad. Growing up, she knew that she wanted to return to the states for college, and it was when she started thinking about where to go that she started to learn more about her father's collegiate experiences.

Waleed Abukishk '88, MS '92, Noor's father, played soccer at HBU from 1984-1987. During that time, he established himself as one of the best soccer players to ever set foot on campus. Waleed's name dots the HBU record books, and he is still second in school history in career goals (36), assists (21) and points (93).

Noor recalls being dismissive of her father's achievements, chalking it up to fatherly boasting. "You know when your dad tells you stuff, but you just kind of wave it off?" she asked. But, Noor

continued on, saying "I started leaning toward HBU, thinking it would be really neat if I went to the same school as my father. Then we were here on campus for a visit and he took me to the Walk of Fame where I saw his name and I thought, 'Wow, this is real.' I was shocked and also so proud of him."

Houston is more than 7,000 miles from Cairo, Egypt, where Noor went to high school and called home, but group chats allow Noor to stay in constant contact with her family. She refers to her dad as her "motivator abroad," and speaks specifically of their close relationship. "My dad told me about his time here and he said, 'Noor, it was the best time in my life,' and I look up to my dad, so whenever he says something I take it to heart." She also adds, with a bright smile, "I'm daddy's soccer girl."

In addition to her father, two of Noor's aunts and two of her cousins attended HBU. She cites the smaller class sizes and campus community as something that drew her to HBU, comparing it to

nearby Texas A&M where her brother, Mohammad, is a senior. Noor admits the move back to the U.S. was "nerve-wracking," as she thought about the cultural differences she would experience after living abroad for 14 years.

Those cultural differences exist, certainly, but Noor has a built-in support system in her soccer teammates and coaches. "The team has really, really helped. They're super friendly and it's good to know that they understand there are differences. I was really happy when I heard, 'Not only are you adapting to us, but we're adapting to you.' It goes both ways and people on campus are super friendly. It's easy to approach people for help."

As she works toward a degree in marketing and strives for Southland Conference championships on the soccer field, Noor will always have that brick that reads "WALLY ABUKISHK '89, MS '92," as a reminder of her dad and motivation as she carries on his legacy at HBU.



Waleed Abukishk '88, MS '92

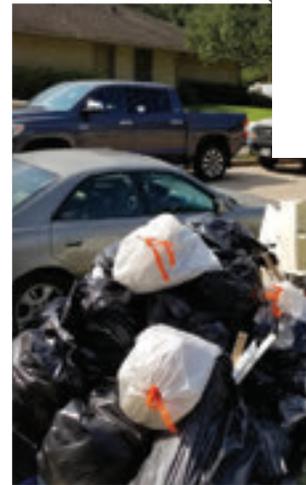
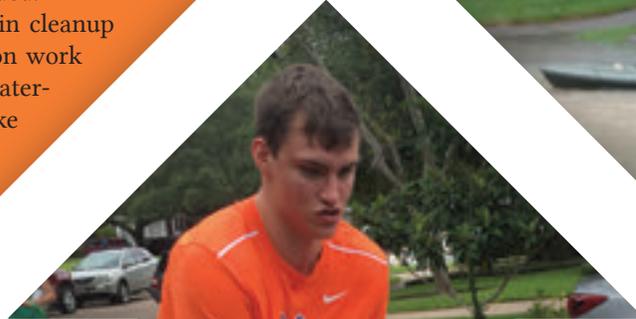
HUSKIES DO THEIR PART AFTER HARVEY

Submitted by HBU Athletics

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey and the more than 50 inches of rain it dumped on parts of the city, Houstonians of all kinds were quick to show their resiliency and compassion for their neighbors. Amidst the outpouring of support for those hit hardest by the storm were HBU student-athletes and coaches.

For Head Baseball Coach Jared Moon and Assistant Softball Coach Roger Willhite, their homes suffered significant flood damage, and the Moon family had to be rescued by boat. For many others in the HBU Athletics department, though, their roles came after the rains subsided.

Members of various teams banded together to assist in cleanup efforts in neighborhoods around the city. From demolition work and taking out drywall to helping empty homes of water-logged furniture, Husky student-athletes were able to make a difference at dozens of homes. Additionally, the HBU Athletics department took donations of children's books, coloring books, toys and activities, along with athletic shoes, to shelters for the thousands displaced by the storm.





KIZA III TO TAKE OVER
AS NEW HUSKY MASCOT





The Houston Baptist University family welcomed Kiza III, the new four-legged mascot, during the first convocation of the 2017-2018 school year on September 6. The husky garnered the admiration of new fans as she began her career in service to HBU.

Whit Goodwin, associate provost for Student Life, said that his three children were the main influencers in selecting the chosen pup.

“I believe that mascots are a huge part of the ethos of a university,” he said. “We wanted a dog who would really represent us well and continue a strong tradition. I went out one day to look at a kennel’s pups and my children immediately went to Kiza. She had the piercing blue eyes and such a sweet face and good demeanor with them. She’s a great dog with tons of personality and is exceptionally smart; it all worked out.”

Kiza III still has to learn the ropes for such an important role. There are six students on the HBU Sled Team (managed by Student Life), led by Head Musher Sarah Galena. The dog will also be trained professionally, Goodwin said.

“We want her to be good around people and obedient. She’s kind of like a full-time employee,” he said. “She’ll be at events in the community, sporting events and recruiting events. The mascot is one of the most photographed dogs around.”

The Williams and Trozzo families established an endowment for the care of the University mascot several years ago. Jared and Payne Trozzo have continued the program to honor the memory of their mother, Dawn Trozzo, in collaboration with their father, Clay Trozzo, and grandparents, Dr. Diane and Stanley Williams. The scholarship program supports students who serve on the Sled Team in the mascot program.

Dr. L.D. Eckermann of Westbury Animal Hospital and his wife Marsha Eckermann, HBU Class of ’68, are graciously providing veterinary care.

The former mascot, Kiza II, who has served the University since 2010, will now have the chance to enjoy life with a family as a “normal dog,” Goodwin said.

Ultimately, huskies are ideal University representatives, Goodwin said.

“They’re hard-workers, they’re good-natured and they’re smart. All of those things represent a piece of what HBU is about,” he said. “It’s a great fit.”



“I don’t think I would be who I am today if I hadn’t gone to a Christian university. I had many professors mentor me. Those years really formed and solidified my faith.”
-Jolie Schafer

ALUMNI PROFILE:

DALTON AND JOLIE SCHAFER CARRY THEIR HBU ACADEMIC, ATHLETIC AND SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES WITH THEM

Growing up five miles away from the Houston Baptist University campus, Dalton Schafer didn’t consider going to HBU until the school reentered Division I athletics. He transferred to the school his sophomore year in 2009, where he was a starting pitcher for the Husky baseball team.

“My whole life I played baseball; when I got the opportunity to come to

HBU and build a program, that seemed really special to me,” he said.

For Dalton, the university experience was much more than he was expecting.

“Entering into HBU, I was not a Christian,” he said. “Looking back, I like the intentional focus of pointing people to Jesus at HBU.”

Through classes on Christian thought, attending convocation, and especially through the example

of Christian peers, he soon felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the love of God, and gave his life to Jesus Christ.

He became involved with FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). At the same time, Jolie (Graf) Schafer, an Austin native and a middle blocker on the volleyball team, was also involved in FCA.

“I loved playing volleyball at HBU;

it was the reason why I came,” Jolie said. “I wanted to go to a Christian school and I wanted to play Division I volleyball. HBU fit that.”

The two crossed paths and realized during their years together that they had found their match. Jolie and Dalton married the winter after graduation in 2012.

Now, several years removed from their undergraduate experience, they reflect on their time at HBU. Athletics participation was a valuable training ground for life after college, they said.

“Being in sports is a great way to learn to excel in a very high-stress environment,” Dalton said. “You learn to compete individually and to function as a team.”

Jolie said, “Practicing for three-plus hours and going to class, you really had to prioritize what you needed to get done. You also had to learn to work well with others and to set goals.”

During her time at HBU, Jolie majored in biochemistry and molecular biology. The year after graduation, she worked as a research assistant for The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, then enrolled in the MD Anderson Cancer Center UT Health Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences PhD in Immunology program. For her doctoral defense and graduation in August of this year, Jolie invited former HBU professors.

“Without a doubt, I think many of the HBU science professors really helped me get ready for graduate school,” she said. “That’s when I fell in love with immunology and knew I wanted to do that. I think the purpose and wonder of science were there with a Christian perspective. The classes also prepared me for researching and writing papers.”

After HBU, Dalton earned his master’s in marketing from Texas A&M University. He currently works as a business director for Chick-Fil-A.

“We did a lot in marketing classes in my undergraduate time that prepped me for what I did in graduate school,” he said. “I still remember professors praying in class. It instilled in me the desire to not only be successful, but to

be successful in order to show off my creator. At HBU, the emphasis was on living with higher character, and being a thoughtful and stewardship-minded business leader who cares about and loves people.”

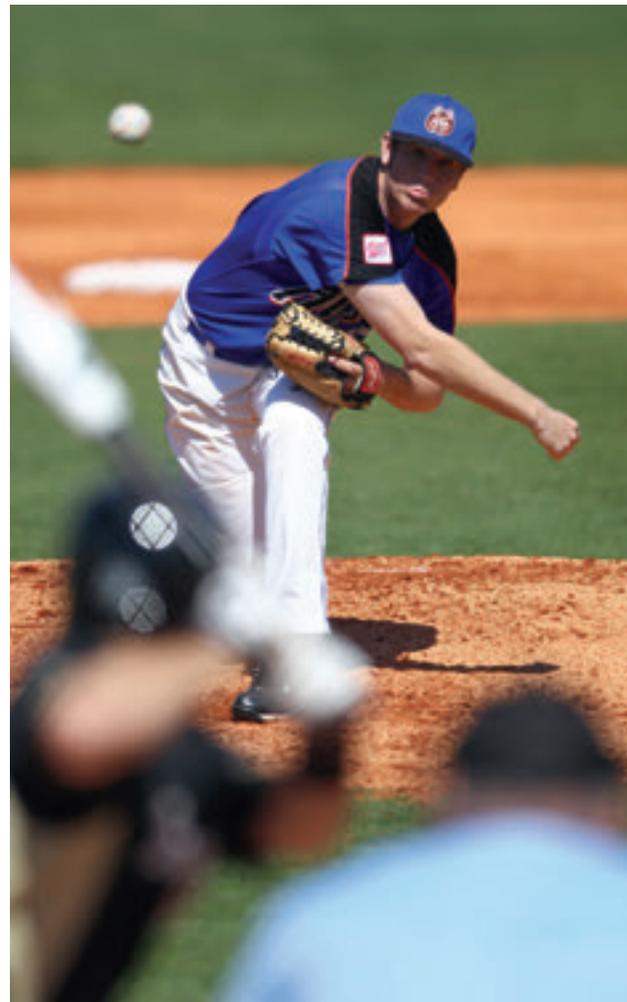
In addition to their relationship with one another, Dalton and Jolie cherish the other connections they made.

“The friendships you make in college are typically those that hold a little bit more firm than those in high school,” Dalton said. “And, when you can share the Holy Spirit with someone, it’s a really great relationship.”

The couple carries on the Gospel focus they experienced at HBU. For the past four years, they’ve served as apartment missionaries. They will continue to share their faith as they relocate to Ohio, where Jolie will use her expertise for Teva Pharmaceuticals.

“I don’t think I would be who I am today if I hadn’t gone to a Christian university,” Jolie said. “I had many professors mentor me. Those years really formed and solidified my faith.”

Dalton added, “We’re proud of the identity of the school. Whenever we’re out and HBU comes up, we throw up the ‘Dawgs’ sign.”



Alum-A-Grams

1980s

Curt Floyd MBA '81, is adjunct professor of Management Information Systems at Dallas Baptist University.

John D. Blacklock '83, retired from Sentry Security Investigations. John is now a licensed minister by First Baptist Church of Leander where he serves as a minister of praise and worship. John and his wife, Darlene, reside in Leander, Texas.

Paul Tran '84, is cyber technical analysis program manager at DOJ/FBI.

Karen LaFavre Collins '85, is a RN at Northwest Hospital.

J. Keith Newman '86, was elected as the 15th president of Southern Nazarene University. He previously served as the the chancellor for Indiana Wesleyan University - Marion.

1990s

Demetre Grivas MBA '90, has recently published a book entitled "Hellenism and Global Politics: The Artist's View." In his book, Demetre has included photos of 26 of his paintings explaining his emotions

on the political, social and economic issues affecting Greece over the last 4,000 years, and especially the 2009 Financial Crisis.

Wilson Lo '92, was recently honored among Best Dentists in Dallas 2017 by D Magazine.

Tommy Gerczak '93, is a live television producer at NASA's Johnson Space Center. He lives in Pearland with his wife, Tory, and three children, Ella, 7, Megan, 5, and Jane, 2.

Dennis Wales '93, is a general practitioner at Hastings Health Centre.

Maricela Manteca '94, is the owner of Interactive 3D and Office Systems. She and her husband recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

Lillian Grajeda Alvarez '95, is a dual language fourth-grade teacher. Lillian recently celebrated the graduation of her son, **Victor Martinez '17**.

Albert Gonzalez '97, is a vascular surgeon for Vein and Vascular Institute of Tampa Bay.

Diana Wick-Hershey '95, is a RN clinical coordinator for Project Transitions-Doug's House in Austin, Texas, returning

to work with AIDS patients in both hospice and recuperative care. Art, music and photography continue to be her mainstay.

Rachel Marie Long '98, is a social media consultant and Word Press developer.

Eddie Serrano '98, is the CEO for Decency Home Healthcare. After 18 years of nursing, he decided to open his own home healthcare company, Decency. "Thank you HBU for making this possible!"

2000s

Karen Hoaglin '00, is a bilingual PK teacher for Alief ISD.



Jess Rogers '00, MEd '02, is the CEO and founder for Tutorville Foundation, which provides scholarships to children who are unable to attend traditional school due to medical reasons.

Sourabh Sanduja '00, is the senior VP for Altus Healthcare Management Services.

D'Andrea Virgil '00, is a HR team leader for Chevron Corporation.

James "Kris" Stratton '01, is an associate pastor for Cornerstone Bible Church in Wichita, Kansas.

Ben Benner '03, is a director for Utah & Idaho with Enterprise Fleet Management.

Dr. Gregory Rodriguez MEd '03, is the new superintendent for Carlsbad Municipal School Board in Carlsbad, New Mexico.



COLIN MONTGOMERIE '87

Colin Montgomerie '87, emerged as the winner of the Japan Airlines Championship. Montgomerie fired a final round five-under-67 to win the Japan Airlines Championship, the first PGA Tour Champions event in the country.

Alumni may submit for inclusion in Alum-a-Grams at HBU.edu/AlumniUpdate

Crissy Zarzana Siarski '03, is a licensed specialist in school psychology for Klein ISD.

Heather Huber '06, MEd '07, is the owner of Massage Heights New Braunfels. Heather opened Massage Heights New Braunfels Body and Face in December of 2016.



Mandi Tubbs Tieman '07, is the director of bands at Null Middle School in Sheldon ISD. Mandi is in her 11th year in the the education field. She and her husband, Ryan, have been married for five years. She has two children, Jude, 4, and Layla, 3, and two wonderful stepchildren, Eli, 9, and Lily, 8.

Joseph Dittfurth '08, is a band director in Willis ISD and in his ninth year of teaching. He and his wife, Amber, have three children, Emma, 6, Rebecca, 4, and James, 19 months. Joseph received his Masters in Instrumental Conducting from Sam Houston State University. He also completed the Houston Marathon in January 2017.

Zeppelin Legler '08, is an export licensing analyst for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Sandahl Ahmad '12, is a laboratory chemist for Total Petrochemicals and Refining.

Christin Penrice Banks '12, is a research assistant for MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Meghan Christensen '13, is an account executive with LoneStar Associates.



Aaron Cox '12, and **Chelsea (Clinton) Cox '17**, were married on June 16. The wedding was held at HBU in the Belin Chapel and the Bettis Quadrangle where the couple experienced what they call their "perfect day!" Chelsea is a third-grade teacher in the English side of a dual language program for Sorters Mill Elementary in New Caney ISD. Aaron is pursuing his Master's of Arts in Theology at HBU, and is serving as a worship leader at various local churches. "We are so blessed by our HBU family and friends in this exciting season!"

Jennie Heinze Boucher '15, is a licensed professional counseling intern.

Kaylyn Court '15, is a seventh-grade math teacher at Mayde Creek Junior High in Katy ISD.

Camila Rhode Fontes '15, recently contributed to the University of Texas Medical Branch research on the development of a Zika vaccine that protects the fetus from infection and birth defects.

Samantha Thompson MEd '15, just completed her second year as a kindergarten teacher at Peterson Elementary in HISD, where she served on the foundations committee.

Carlos Cruz '16, received the 2017 National Alumni Achievement Award from Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA/FHA). From the millions of alumni, Carlos was chosen as the annual recipient because of his leadership, commitment and dedication toward the organization. FCCLA/FHA is a career and technical student organization (CTSO) with the family as the central focus. Carlos is in assurance services for Earnst & Young.



Taylor Watson '17, is an accounting specialist for Municipal Accounts and Consulting. Taylor recently celebrated his engagement to **Tia Wettman '16**.

2010s



LaToya Deese-Richardson '10, is an IT specialist for Bracewell LLP. Latoya was married to Noah Richardson on April 29 in Spring, Texas.

Houston Baptist University commemorates more than 50 years of tradition during Homecoming 2017 events.

More than 20,000 graduates strong, HBU alumni carry their experiences with them; we are delighted that they continue to share their journeys with us. We celebrate each HBU graduate, student, supporter, faculty member and staff member.



HUSKY PUPS



Brandon Noonan '13, and his wife, Jenny, along with big brother, Lincoln Michael Noonan, welcomed **Finn Harrison Noonan** on July 13, 2017.

Brooke Jennings Badger '14, and **Colt Badger '11**, welcomed **Bailey Mae Badger** on August 31, 2017.

ZACH DODD AND FAMILY



Zach Dodd '05, currently living in Florida, stopped by the HBU campus on his recent visit to Houston. Joining in the Husky spirit were Banner, Vivi, Mercy and Luca. Zach serves as executive director of WEGO Ministries.



Sarah Wilkinson Ganger '03, and Zach Dodd

IN MEMORIUM

ALUMNI

Rebecca Susan Meek '72, passed away on July 4, 2017. Becky is survived by her brother **Richard Meek '71**, and his wife, Paige.



Arthur "Art" Rogers '90, lead pastor of Redemption Tulsa, passed away on June 29, 2017 after a brave fight against esophageal cancer. Art is survived by his wife, Bonnie, and their children, Jimmy and Hannah. Art was an active member of Alpha Pi Kappa fraternity during his time as a student.

FRIENDS

Dr. Victor Lee Mote, a former adjunct professor of Geography, History & World Culture, passed away on July 21 to colon cancer. Dr. Mote loved learning, travel and athletics, and embraced each day with enthusiasm, curiosity and optimism. He retired in 2011 from the University of Houston.



Uldine Bisagno, wife of the Rev. John R. Bisagno, passed away recently. Mrs. Bisagno served alongside her husband in service to Houston's First Baptist Church and beyond. She was beloved by many and disciplined countless women during her 63 years in ministry.

Jo Beth Young, wife of the Rev. Ed Young, passed away recently. Mrs. Young was gracious in her service to the people of Houston's Second Baptist Church and beyond throughout the Youngs' 58-year marriage.

FACULTY



Dr. Nabeel Qureshi was the author of several books including "Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus." He shared his powerful message as a visiting professor of apologetics at HBU. His writing and sermons will no doubt continue to influence the lives of many.





CAMP HBU TO REACH YOUTH

For the first year, Houston Baptist University is planning to offer Camp HBU to children ages 10 to 15. The inaugural camp is slated for July 16 through 20, 2018.

Associate Vice President for Alumni & University Relations Candace Desrosiers said, "As a child, I went to a Christian university camp, and I know how that impacted me. Through this camp, HBU

can have an eternal impact on attendees through leading them to accept Christ or deepen their relationships with Him."

Young attendees will stay in college dorms for the week, and participate in activities like morning and evening worship, sports and recreation, academic clinics, volunteer activities and events around the greater Houston area. Older students, ages 16 to 18, are also needed

to serve as camp counselors in training (CITs), working alongside HBU students who will serve as counselors.

"My hope is that we would be able to reach students from all areas," Desrosiers said. *"We want to create a camp where it's really about sharing the culture of HBU, and having kids get to know us and feel like they are returning home when they come here for college."*

**ABOUT
CAMP
HBU**

CAMPERS: AGES 10-15

CITS: AGES 16-18

DATE: MONDAY, JULY 16 THROUGH FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018

COST: \$400 FOR CAMPERS AND FREE FOR CITS

COMPLETE AN INTEREST FORM: VISIT HBU.EDU/CAMPHBU

THINK ABOUT IT ...

HBU PODCASTS AVAILABLE FREE ON iTUNES

October 2: Dr. Michael Rosato

Dr. Michael Rosato is associate provost for Academic Affairs and a professor of Education for HBU. His blend of experience in both teaching and student services helps give Dr. Rosato a well-balanced perspective. His areas of research interest include teaching methods and brain research related to student achievement and school improvement. Visit HBU.edu/Education.

HBU.edu/p54-Rosato

October 9: Dr. Doris Warren

Dr. Doris Warren is the dean of the HBU College of Science and Mathematics and a professor of Chemistry. She has served the University since 1967. As a professional chemist, she developed the analytical chemistry curriculum for HBU. Dr. Warren's writings, research, committee work and volunteer service have benefited the University and many others.

Visit HBU.edu/COSM. HBU.edu/p54-Warren

October 16: Dinesh D'Souza

Dinesh D'Souza is an author and filmmaker. He is known for making apologetics points and writing patriotic manifestos and political tell-alls. D'Souza's well-known books include, "The Big Lie," "What's So Great About America" and "What's So Great About Christianity." His film documentaries include "2016: Obama's America," "America: Imagine the World Without Her," as well as "Hillary's America: The Secret History of the Democratic Party." Visit DineshDSouza.com.

HBU.edu/p54-DSouza

October 23: Dr. Craig Evans

Dr. Craig Evans is the John Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins for HBU. He is an expert on the historical grounds of New Testament writings. Dr. Evans has published more than 600 scholarly studies, including more than 70 books. His book, "Fabricating Jesus: How Modern Scholars Distort the Gospels," is a best-seller. Visit HBU.edu/ChristianThought and CraigAEvans.com. HBU.edu/p54-Evans

October 30: Mary Jo Sharp

Known for her expertise in public speaking and writing, Assistant Professor of Apologetics Mary Jo Sharp emphasizes relational connections in apologetic engagement. She has written the influential Bible study, "Why Do You Believe That?" and is a contributor to several collected works of apologetics including, "A New Kind of Apologist," and "In Defense of the Bible." She also regularly writes curriculum with LifeWay Christian Resources. Visit HBU.edu/MAA and ConfidentChristianity.com. HBU.edu/p54-Sharp

November 6: Ron Cottrell

HBU Men's Head Basketball Coach and Associate Director of Athletics Ron Cottrell has one of the longest coaching tenures, and is one of the most successful collegiate basketball head coaches in the NCAA. He has risen to the challenge of every level in which HBU has competed since he began his service to HBU in 1990. Visit HBUHuskies.com. HBU.edu/p54-Cottrell

November 13: Dr. Jason Lester

Dr. Jason Lester is the dean of the School of Fine Arts, and program coordinator for the Music Department. He leads his students in developing their skills as artists, musicians and teachers. Additionally, Dr. Lester is an active performer, at ease in operatic, concert and song literature repertoires. Visit HBU.edu/FineArts.

HBU.edu/p54-Lester

November 20: Dr. Michael Licona

Dr. Michael Licona is an associate professor of Theology for HBU. He is a preeminent scholar whose expertise lies in the historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus and the historical reliability of the Gospels. His academic books include "The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach" and "Why Are There Differences in the Gospels: What We Can Learn From Ancient Biography." Visit HBU.edu/ChristianThought and RisenJesus.com. HBU.edu/p54-Licona

November 27: Dr. David Hao

Dr. David Hao is the HBU dean of the Department of Student Success & Advising. His team helps ensure student success through initiatives like the Academic Success Center, TRIO Student Success Program and the First-Year Success Program. Numerous resources help HBU students succeed in each area of college life and career preparation. Visit HBU.edu/StudentSuccess.

HBU.edu/p54-Hao

December 4: Dr. Holly Ordway

Apologetics Professor Dr. Holly Ordway's work centers on cultural and imaginative apologetics. Her writing includes the books, "Not God's Type: An Atheist Academic Lays Down Her Arms," and "Apologetics and the Christian Imagination: An Integrated Approach to Defending the Faith." Her current project is a literary-critical study of J.R.R. Tolkien for Kent State University Press. Visit HBU.edu/MAA and HollyOrdway.com.

HBU.edu/p54-Ordway

December 11: Dr. Teresa McIntyre

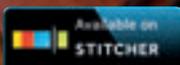
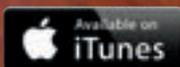
Dr. Teresa McIntyre is dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, and a professor of Psychology for HBU. She has broad experience in teaching, research and practice in clinical and health psychology. Her work is recognized in the U.S. and internationally. Her book, "Educator Stress: An Occupational Health Perspective," was released this year. Visit HBU.edu/Education.

HBU.edu/p54-McIntyre

December 18: Dr. Philip Tallon

Dr. Philip Tallon is chair of the Apologetics department. As a professor, he researches the intersection of theology, culture and the arts. His books include "The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith," and "The Poetics of Evil." Visit HBU.edu/MAA and PhilipTallon.com.

HBU.edu/p54-Tallon



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