

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF **HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY** / Spring 2019

# THE DOLLARS



HBU  
Family Legacy





**W**hen you're with a group of people, or are part of a club or organization, and you feel particularly warm toward it, there's usually no greater compliment to pay than to say something like, "This feels like family to me." It's a meaningful expression because it says the people involved are close and that they care for one another and spend enough time together to feel like the relationships are full of love, respect and caring. To say something "feels like family" is to say that we grieve with one another and we laugh with one another, and we support one another sacrificially.

This is the kind of thing that Paul said about Timothy (Philippians 2:19-23) when he sent him to Philippi. He said that Timothy was like a son to him, and also, that he knew of no one who would care as much for the Philippians as Timothy would. The words throughout this passage have strong family connections.

We often refer to "the HBU family," and when we do, we are referring broadly to several ways that the idea of a family relates to HBU.

First, there are some historic families (see, for example, the article about Jim and Sherry Smith) who have led us in time, talent and donations throughout all the decades of HBU's existence. Without them, we wouldn't be here.

Also, by "family," we are referring to the networks of support that we continue to build for alumni and friends.

And, of course, by the word "family," we are referring to the care that HBU faculty and staff have for students. There are very few universities in our country where, for example, if a student is absent from class more than once, the professor will ask about her or him and reach out to help. I know of many instances in which a student was absent from a major exam or even the final exam, and the professor would get a fellow student to call and check on the one who is absent or do so personally.

It is commonplace here at HBU for professors and staff members to spend multiplied hours counseling with students and even praying with them. I know – though these must remain anonymous – of instances where HBU faculty and staff have given sacrificially of their time and resources for their students.

I know of a recent initiative undertaken by one of our

professors – and he is spreading what he is learning to others – that points to his own concern for students who don't succeed on the first test in his class. He has developed new strategies for mentoring and guiding toward academic success. It takes a lot of time, and there's no extra pay for it, but the truth is, he simply cares. In fact, our entire Looper Learning Commons is dedicated, not just to academic success, but personal success, involving emotional, social and spiritual development.

When I first came to HBU – in fact it was in an opening round of interviews – one of the faculty members told me about the sense of community and fellowship here. I can honestly say after almost 13 years that I found that to be true then and it continues to grow today – exactly what you expect love to do. I'm confident it all begins with the shared devotion to Christ that is the foundation for all that we do at the University. You won't always find here a uniformity of strategies or ideas, but you will find genuine warmth and care for one another and a common commitment to all the things that truly matter.

When Hurricane Harvey hit and there was great flooding, students went immediately into the community to help those in need. Faculty and staff formed teams of people who went throughout Houston to help in the neighborhoods hardest hit. They helped strangers, fellow faculty members and staff, alumni, and the families of students. We continue to share resources as a University with those who still suffer the lingering effects of the floods.

This issue of The Pillars points in many ways to the character of HBU as a community that has the feel and the habits of a caring family. I think you're going to enjoy reading about the many activities going on here in recent months. The nature of the University is a place that loves and cares, just like a family.

Dr. Robert B. Sloan

HBU President

@ DrRobertBSloan



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The Pillars is the news magazine of Houston Baptist University and is published quarterly in print and online.

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*Faith & Reason in a Great City*

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*"HBU has great professors who are very helpful, knowledgeable and empowering."*

**-Student Olga Champagne**

**HBU.edu/Admissions**  
**281.649.3211**



# Stewarding Resources Well:

## A WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN

HBU Advancement invites you to join us for the inaugural HBU event, Stewarding Resources Well: A Workshop for Women. This free event for women of all ages will feature informative and inspirational sessions, lunch and the opportunity to hear from current HBU students. The workshop includes the important topics of personal estate planning, charitable contributions and women in philanthropy.

### STEWARDING RESOURCES WELL: A WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (check-in at 9:30 a.m.)

Thursday, May 16

Belin Chapel  
Morris Cultural Arts Center

**HBU.edu/WomensWorkshop**  
**281.649.3350**



Brena Baumann-Gonzalez '87



Klare Bambrick



Marion Armstrong, associate  
general counsel for  
HighGround Advisors



Honorable Georgia Akers '70

## PRESIDENT'S CONCERT

6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Sunday, April 28

Dunham Theater, Morris Cultural Arts Center - HBU Campus



*Celebrate with HBU's  
Department of Music and  
a professional orchestra,  
featuring NATHAN LERNER,  
the student winner of the  
annual Concerto/Aria  
Competition.*



# HBU is Home Huskies are Family



**A** home is a place for spending formative moments, learning values, growing and creating strong bonds. Likewise, HBU has become that place for so many. It is a setting in which students have discovered their callings, grown their gifts, matured, committed to the Christian faith and made lifelong friends. For many, HBU isn't just a family in itself, but has become a family affair too.

## ALUMNI

Damon Maddox, '00, MBA '03, is one of a three-generation set of Huskies. His mother, Brenda Hodges Maddox, '69, was among the first graduates of the newly formed Houston Baptist College. She wanted her son to attend HBU, but it seemed God himself opened the way when he received a scholarship to run the sound for Focus, a University worship band. As a Christianity and business major, he gained a strong foundation for his main areas of interest.

"I definitely grew as a person at HBU and I matured immensely," Maddox said. "I got an education on how to interact with people and how to do business. Even now, I still refer to a lot of things I learned at HBU regarding faith and business."

Choosing HBU meant that Maddox had the ideal environment in which he could grow closer to God

too. "I went from a young man who thought everything revolved around me to helping other people. I didn't go crazy because I was grounded in my faith," he said. "I completed growing up there."

Maddox met his wife, Jennifer Covington Maddox '99, on an HBU mission trip. Their eldest daughter, Kaylynn, will be entering HBU in the fall. "She's excited to go to HBU. It was neat that my mom went there, I went there, and now my daughter is going there," Maddox said.

HBU remains close to his heart. "I still have great relationships with several people from Focus and we get together on a regular basis," he said.

Like Hodges Maddox, Helen Ludtke Anderson '68 was an early HBU trailblazer. She entered the school in the fall of 1964. "It was very small," she remembers of the campus. "Everybody knew everybody. It was quite an adventure; the students bonded and we are friends even to this day."

Anderson met her husband, Don Anderson '68, during her college years. He and his twin brother, Bob Anderson '68, were caretakers of the HBU mascot. A generation later, the Andersons' daughter, Tamara "Tammy" Anderson Banks '97 earned her degree from HBU.

"HBU was formative in that we met new friends and we kind of formed our outlook on life and our philosophy on life," Helen Anderson said. "It really gave us a basis





for going out into the world and being ready for what we would face outside of school. The Christian component was also very important. I am grateful for that foundation."

For David Appleby '69, the professors enriched his college experience as a student and during the decades later when he was a pastor. During his time as a student, Appleby founded Christian Service Fellowship for people who were going into ministry. Student teams went to churches in the area as part of the outreach.

"The focus wasn't only on getting the facts, but on thinking through them. The professors weren't just academics, they were practitioners. They were extraordinarily helpful. Most of them became my friends. I got a letter from one of them every year," he said. "They were men who loved God and wanted to do something to help others."

Later, his daughters, Tabettha Appleby Franklin '93, and Stacie Appleby Bailey '03, followed in their father's footsteps. "There is a sense of gratification knowing that your children selected to go to the same place that you went," Appleby said. "You like to think they recognized you made a good choice and they wanted to make a good choice as well."

## CURRENT STUDENTS

Student Cody Ward first heard of HBU from his father,

Dwight Ward '92. "He really loved the University and the Christ-centered atmosphere it provided," Ward said. When considering college options, they traveled from Burleson to allow Cody to tour HBU, and the sense of connection was immediate.

"When I walked around here, I felt like it was where I was supposed to be," Cody remembers. "I could sense the Holy Spirit here. It felt like home. I went to the summer and winter previews, got connected with some students and made friends really fast."

Now a junior, the Honors College student and Christianity major has made his own mark on HBU history. He helped found Husky Hype, a school spirit group, serves as a resident assistant, and has been involved in numerous student groups and volunteer service projects. He notably helped organize a cleanup operation during and after Hurricane Harvey.

"What sets HBU apart is the community; there is an emphasis here on discipleship and growth," he said. "To have others to walk down a similar path is very significant. It's unique to have men you can pray with. Coming to HBU has been part of discovering my calling."

Beeville native Leah Brewer first came to visit HBU when her brother, Philip Brewer '15, and now sister-in-law, Morgan St. John Brewer '16, were students. "I was able to speak with other students and faculty when I





came to visit," she said. "My faith has always been the most important thing in my life. Being able to speak with other professors and see the sound worldview they came from was probably the most attractive thing to me when I came here."

A Nursing major, Brewer has carved out a unique experience, participating in Bible studies, intramurals and being a student worker. "I'm a very naturally outgoing person. The on-campus experience is what you make of it," she said. "I didn't have family here so I sought out people and I have a lot of friends who are fantastic people."

Brewer appreciates personable professors as well. "Your professors know who you are; they're all very genuine people. Most of my professors begin class with prayer and say, 'Come by anytime' – and I do," she said. "I like it here a lot. I think it's a very God-honoring place."

For Maria Louise-Cook, transitioning to HBU from her time as a student at The Academy felt very natural. Her HBU lineage includes her great uncle, Edward Flores '72; uncle, Michael Alan Anderson '77; sister, Sophia Cook Seehausen '16; brother-in-law, Daniel Seehausen '17; and her brother, Nicholas Cook '17.

"My family has been growing up with HBU. It's kind of a second home for all of us," Cook said. "I've been coming to this campus for years."

Her time as an Honors College student and an English major has been exceptional. "Learning is fun here," Cook said. "There's such a friendly take to learning. There's this feeling of the upperclassmen and professors as spiritual mentors who share their experiences and their walks with God with you."

Now a Husky, Cook wouldn't change a thing. "When I was deciding where to go to school, I really looked back on how my siblings had loved their time here. I remember my sister coming home from school every day and telling me of the wonderful times she had – and my brothers too," she said. "And I knew I would not want for friends at HBU. Everyone is so welcoming. I would say that, coming to HBU, you will leave a better person who has been given every opportunity for spiritual and educational growth, and you will leave with the best friends you'll ever have."

## EMPLOYEES

Gairot Snow '16 and Jakora Frazier Snow '16 were HBU sweethearts, crowned homecoming king and queen in 2015. Now they give back to the University they love. Gairot is the Graduate School admissions coordinator, and Jakora is resident director of the Women's Residence College. In addition to their work roles, they disciple students and serve in the college ministry at their church.

"We never thought HBU would be our alma mater,





workplace, community, home and mission field all at once, but we are so grateful," Gairot Snow said.

Jakora Snow said, "I'm thankful for how we have grown, and that we now have the opportunity to help other students as they discern how they are to glorify God in their classes, friendships and relationships."

Luke Humphreys, a first-year success coach, serves students in many ways including through a basketball-based Bible study and individual mentoring and discipleship. His wife, Tori, worked at HBU until the birth of their son.

"Not only have I been blessed by the genuine family culture of HBU, I've had the opportunity of sharing this HBU experience through intentional discipleship with our students," Luke Humphreys said.

Elysee Watson '14, copywriter for the Pampell Online Division, said, "HBU has always been home for me." Her mother, Loree Edson Watson '80, is HBU associate vice president of Financial Operations. Elysee's brother, Christopher Watson, graduated in 2012 before also serving the University for a time.

"We would go to basketball games as children to cheer on the Huskies, as well as attend other campus events," Elysee Watson said. "HBU has been part of my whole life, and I feel very fortunate that, every day, I am surrounded by so many people who also call HBU home."

Administrative assistant to the president, Karen Francies, said, "Since beginning my time here many years ago, there has been a loving and caring spirit that exuded across the campus. I can remember when I was pregnant with my first child, I was surrounded by wonderful colleagues who prayed for us and were kind and attentive. Colleagues became friends and family and have practically watched my children grow up. Now, my son is in high school and my daughter has become a student here at HBU."

HBU's longest serving faculty member, Dr. Doris Warren, joined the University ranks in 1967. She has found a place in the hearts of students and colleagues past and present. Many look to Dr. Warren as a longtime family member. "We are a community here – of students, staff and faculty," she said. "I am really proud of that."

First Lady Sue Sloan, wife of HBU president, Robert B. Sloan, said, "Home is where the heart is, and our hearts are here. We love HBU – the students, faculty, staff and friends of the University. Home is where you experience belonging and working together for a common goal. We are grateful to the Lord our God for bringing us to this place, HBU, our home, where we deem it an honor to live, study and work with the finest people anywhere."

Did you know the Legacy Scholarship provides generous funds for those with family ties to HBU?

**Learn more at [HBU.edu/Admissions](http://HBU.edu/Admissions).**





**S**herry and Jim Smith, Sr. are providing a gift of \$20 million to Houston Baptist University for the construction of classroom space and laboratory facilities to be used by the College of Science and Mathematics, the College of Engineering, and the School of Nursing and Allied Health.

It is the largest single gift in the history of the University, and will allow for innovative learning and laboratory space in each area. In appreciation of their gift, the University will name the building in the Smiths' honor.

"We're very interested in this school as far as the intellectual and character-building opportunities. We'll continue to support it and I hope everyone else does too," Jim Smith said.

"This amazing gift by Jim and Sherry Smith is consistent with their family's long history of generosity, beginning with

Jim's father, Orrien Smith," said HBU president, Dr. Robert B. Sloan. "Jim and Sherry have, for decades, worked tirelessly on behalf of the University, and have used their gifts, as well as their wisdom, to further the Christian mission of HBU. This gift will produce spectacular results in the important STEM-related areas of engineering, science, and nursing, not only for HBU, but also for Houston and well beyond. We will forever be indebted to this great family."

The Smith family has been strong supporters of HBU for decades. Orrien Smith was among the 25 men who each made a personal donation to purchase the land for the then Houston Baptist College in 1958. These men are forever known as Founding Fathers of the University. Orrien Smith was the first chair of the University President's Council in 1964.



# SMITHS DONATE LARGEST SINGLE GIFT IN UNIVERSITY HISTORY



*Sherry and Jim Smith Sr.*

Jim Smith, Sr., said, "I remember my dad's involvement in the purchase of the HBU 'triangle' from Frank Sharp when the route of Hwy. 59 was just shown on a map. Many years later, I was involved in the development of the commercial areas on the freeway as a volunteer and board member."



*Orrien Smith*



*View of undeveloped campus tract in 1960*

Sherry Smith said, "My early connection with HBU came when Ray Mayfield joined the staff there. His family and mine went back three generations. I had fellow high school classmates who went on to HBU. I attended part-time early after Jim and I married, studying piano with Dr. Lew Zailer in 1969-70."

In his book, "An Act of Providence: A History of Houston Baptist University," Dr. Don Looser records, "Trustee Jim Smith and his wife, Sherry, [are] long-term University donors and powerful instruments of institutional development. Over many years, Jim Smith served to develop properties for the University as income-producing investments. The Smiths' commitment to the University [has also] served as a catalyst for encouraging the involvement of their friends and associates."





*Tracey Smith Hassett, Billy Hassett*



*The Dupuy family (left to right) Kaitlyn, Stuart, James, Kathy, Jordan and Grace*



*The Smith family (left to right) Savannah, Jim Jr., Jaci and Jimmy*



*The Smith Organ*

Jim Smith, Sr. served as a member of the University Board of Trustees from 1990 to 1999, and currently serves as an advisory trustee. Sherry is a lifetime member of The Guild, a dedicated group of women who support graduate scholarships in education and theology. The Smiths have served in a leadership capacity in the President's Leadership Council. They were among the first donors of the University to fund an endowed chair, the John Bisagno Chair of Christian Origins in the School of Christian Thought.

The Smiths also founded the Orrien R. Smith Endowed Academic Scholarship. In 2009, the couple funded a one-of-a-kind Létourneau pipe organ, the Smith Organ, installed in Belin Chapel. The Smiths are partnering with the Koch Foundation for significant annual gifts to the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty. They were the recipients of the Spirit of Excellence Award in 1995

and the President's Award in 2018. Additionally, they've chaired the Spirit of Excellence Gala and supported HBU in countless ways. Their son, Jim Smith, Jr., served as a member of the HBU Board of Trustees. Their daughter, Tracey, earned a master's degree from HBU in 2009.

"We funded the John Bisagno Chair of Christian Origins in honor of our dear friend, and we gave the pipe organ due to our love of music, and with the desire to help in student recruitment. HBU, under Dr. Sloan's leadership, has a very bright future," Jim Smith, Sr., said. Regarding their latest contribution to HBU, he said, "I believe a world-class STEM building will be an unbelievable recruitment vehicle for serious students wanting a great education in a safe and wholesome campus environment. Hopefully our 'lead' gift will encourage others to help make this happen ASAP."

**Visit [HBU.edu/Giving](https://www.hbu.edu/giving).**



## "The World of Jesus" Exhibit Showcases Life in the First Century

Get a glimpse of what Jesus might have seen and experienced during his earthly ministry through Dunham Bible Museum's special exhibit, "The World of Jesus: How Art, Archaeology & Artifacts Illuminate the First Century." The exhibit will be on display through April 16.

Featuring about 70 artifacts from the early Roman period, the exhibit focuses on the time when Jesus and the disciples walked the earth. The exhibit was assembled at the University of Pikeville in Kentucky under the direction of Tommy Chamberlin with the consultation of archeologist, Dr. Scott Stripling. An adjunct professor at HBU, Stripling is the provost of The Bible Seminary in Katy, and is director of Excavations for the Associates for Biblical Research at Khirbet el-Maqatir and Shiloh, Israel.

Items in the exhibit include a burial ossuary of a child from first-century Judea; first-century carpentry and building tools; Roman military weapons; common glassware and pottery; coins, including the silver shekel of Tyre used in the temple; and much more. Guide signs

with maps and artwork further elucidate the items.

Chamberlin said the exhibit "focuses on the world that Jesus knew. Our understanding of this period of history is often blurred by living 2,000 years later in a different culture. Our goal is to bring to life the first-century world."

Stripling will provide weekly tours of "The World of Jesus" at 10 a.m. each Tuesday.

[HBU.edu/BibleMuseum](http://HBU.edu/BibleMuseum)



## Houston Theological Seminary

*Close to Home • Renowned Scholars • Ministry Focus*

Houston Baptist University provides learners with an unbeatable opportunity to get a world-class, advanced Christian education close to home. The Houston Theological Seminary prepares pastors, ministry leaders and lay people for work and service.

*"In the Houston Theological Seminary, every student is valued and receives the very best we have to offer. What students can expect from an HTS education is high level of academic preparation together with a high level of applicable ministry practice."*

**-Dr. Todd Bates**

*Dean of the HBU School of Christian Thought*

### DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

Learn from renowned scholars and pastoral leaders with years of leadership experience. Scholars gain insight around the historical and cultural relevance of Christianity through the ages. Coursework integrates discipleship and internships, and maintains a ministry focus.

*"Interested students may take the courses as surveyors as well."*

### PROGRAMS

**Master of Divinity (MDiv)** - The MDiv graduate program offers a multi-dimensional approach to Christian theological graduate education, preparing graduates for the theological and pedagogical concerns of Christian ministry and teaching. Courses include biblical languages, history of Christianity and systematic theology, along with an internship.

**Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (MACL)** - The MACL graduate program equips learners for vocational and lay ministry. Biblical and theological knowledge is combined with pragmatic application. Graduates may carry out roles such as pastor, Bible teacher, ministry leader, missionary or organization director with professional and doctrinal confidence.

### LOCATIONS

- Houston Baptist University
- Second Baptist Church Woodway Campus
- Second Baptist Church West Campus

### LEARN MORE

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281.649.3383





# THE FAITH STORY OF SALEIM KAHLEH IN HIS OWN WORDS

**Saleim Kahleh, '84 HBU Associate Minister**

**M**y father was from Jerusalem – Palestinian. My mother is Lebanese. All five of us kids were born and raised here in the US. We were raised Muslim; my parents just wanted to have a peaceful home and be successful. We prayed to Allah, to God, and I was devoted. There was no promise of salvation, per se. We would say, “God willing.” Even if my good outweighed my bad, then Allah would still make the decision on that day. So, I never really knew, but I would live my best hopefully to be accepted.

After my first year of college, I went back home. At this time, we were living in South Florida. While I was on the beach, a high school girl came up to me and she actually started to share a little of the Christian faith with me and she ended up inviting me to this Christian coffee house. I wasn't interested in going because it was Christian, but she was really cute, so I went. Not as cute as my bride, Melanie (Hancock '95). That's how it started. It was an invitation, and because Christians had loved me and accepted me and didn't judge me even though I was Muslim – and maybe because of their prayers and love more than anything else – one night I was trying to sleep and I couldn't sleep.

I didn't have a dream or vision, but I just had a question. The question was, “Well, why am I Muslim?” And I started talking, really, to myself: “Well, of course I'm Muslim. My mom and dad are Muslim. They're loving, they're godly, they're amazing.” And I'm thinking, “Islam must be right.” And then while I'm lying there, I thought, “Well, how come the Christians think they're right?” There are Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, atheists – and I knew they couldn't all be right. And that night I cried out to Allah. I said, “God, I just want to know the truth.” But I don't want it based on my family, religion or tradition. And I said, “God, if you show me who you are I will serve you and follow you all of my life.” And I meant business.



Well, I started to just research and study. I became more confused and I started making a list of religions as I studied, and faiths and beliefs. I was kind of astonished at the numbers that were out there. And some of them I could quickly scratch off, but there were many I wasn't sure about. I started going out at night by myself. My dad had some restaurants in Fort Lauderdale, primarily; we were fairly well-off at the time and lived on the water. I started going out on our boat by myself at night. And I didn't know what I was expecting. I was just crying out to Allah – to God: "I just want to know the truth." I prayed, "God, I'll make it easy for you. Just give me a sign like a shooting star."

It was interesting, because, as I studied different religions, even in the Christian faith, God spoke through a donkey, He spoke through a burning bush, He spoke through people, prophets, writings... I knew God was well able to speak, so I didn't know how he was going to speak. I just wanted to know. Time went by and I wasn't really getting an answer; I became pretty consumed with this. We had a good life, a good home, a good family, but I got to where I wasn't sleeping much and was weeping through the night.

And this may sound strange, but I got so desperate, I said I was going to try each religion. I didn't know what that meant. But I decided to get Christianity out of the way first. So, I went back to the coffee house – the first place I was invited. I wonder if the Christians had any idea of the influence they had with just connection, with prayer, with friendship... I didn't want anybody to know what I was doing, because it was going to be between me and God. But I thought, well, in the Christian faith I'll need at least one person to know, because I'm sure I'm going to have some questions about the Christian faith.

The director wasn't there at the coffee shop; I ended up with the associate director. I told her what I wanted to do. (You've got to understand, there were hundreds of students praying for me for almost a year, by name.) And when I told her what I wanted to do, her eyes got so big. Then, she shared the story of God and then the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At the end, she gave me a prayer where you can confess your sins and become a born-again Christian.

And I understood that. Even to be a Muslim, there's a confession, the Shahada, you know. So, there I was,

and she said, "Would you read the prayer?" So, I read the prayer to myself and she said, "Would you read the prayer out loud?" Well, I went ahead to read the prayer out loud and when I got to the name of "Jesus," I stopped. Now, as a Muslim, we believe in Jesus. As a matter of fact, Muslims believe that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, was sinless, did miracles, ascended to heaven and is coming back. Sounds pretty Christian, right? But they do not believe that He was the incarnate son of God, nor that He was truly crucified on the cross. So, our whole payment, justification and atonement for sins is not in there.

But in Islam, the way I was taught, the one unpardonable sin is to associate a partner equal with God. And I was taught that's what you Christians did with the prophet Jesus – that you corrupted the Scriptures and made Him to be the son of God. So, for me to confess Jesus as Lord as a Muslim would condemn myself to hell. So

that's why I stopped at the name of Jesus. So, I've learned it's not just what you believe, but why you believe it.

So, I stopped and I was so hungry and so desperate and she wanted to encourage me and she said, "Come on, you can do this," almost like cheerleading. I was fearful of what would happen with my life and I said, "Okay, Je-... Je-... Jesus! Come into my life! For one week." And she goes,

"One week?" I said, "Yeah. Next week I'm going to the next religion, because I have a list." Well, the moment I prayed that prayer – for most people, there's joy or relief – and in all sincerity, my first thought was, "I just condemned myself to hell."

The Christians just kept loving me and accepting me as they had. I was riding my bicycle home after midnight. It was a couple of hours since I prayed that prayer and I was fearful of what was going to happen and I caught myself singing a line of one of the hymns we had sang when I visited church: "Wonderful grace of Jesus; greater than all my sin..." I stopped myself: "Boy, what did you say?" I had never sung that song with the name "Jesus." And I started singing that song with the name of Jesus. I had no idea that I had actually asked Jesus to come into my heart, into my life. I didn't know He would actually come in. I thought, "I never knew God wanted to walk or talk with me." I believed God was holy and sovereign, and if I lived right and my good outweighed my bad, then maybe,





God-willing, I'd get to be with Him. I had no idea God wanted to be with me then."

All of the sudden, I knew that Jesus was in my heart. Jesus was the son of God. Jesus was Lord of all. I knew my name was written in heaven. God had a plan for my life and I'd never be the same. I was crying, laughing, weeping. I got home and went out on the boat, like I always had at night. I started saying, "Father, God, I am so sorry. I've been praying, and every night, asking You to speak to me, to give me a sign." I said, "Lord, I'm so sorry that I looked for a sign like a shooting star. You were speaking to me the whole time I was searching." He was speaking through His people, the believers, and through the Word of God. When I was studying Christianity, I was in Romans and John, and that was the Spirit of God. And I said, "God, I don't need a sign like a shooting star. I now know that Jesus is the Lord, and Jesus is my Lord." And it's like God said, "Amen." Right then, I witnessed the first one I ever saw – the shooting star shot across that whole horizon and I was never the same. My life was radically changed.

I didn't tell my parents right away, but I soon shared with them. And then during the next 10 years, all my brothers and sisters became followers of Christ. Then, after 23 years of prayer and when my parents were over 70 years of age, the Lord removed the veil from their eyes, and both my mom and dad received Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior. My dad and my mom moved back to their village, north of Jerusalem. Their apartment became the first underground church for Muslims coming to Christ in Israel. Since then, my dad has gone to heaven. My mom turned 90 in March. She's now living here with my sister, and my mom is the wildest preaching machine for Jesus on the planet. And what's amazing is, it all started with a girl giving me an invitation.





# IT'S A LONGBOARD STORY

It's hard to miss senior Tyler Kelly as he makes his way across campus on the way to classes. The 6'5" HBU football defensive end is even taller as he stands on the platform of a longboard. The board, with its vibrant hues and orange wheels, transports him smoothly across the sidewalks.

Kelly got his first introduction to longboards as a teenager when his family lived in Georgia. "My dad has been a pastor a lot of my life. He started this small group for guys," he said. "A bunch of them were interested in longboarding."

Longboards are similar to their skateboard cousins, but with some key differences. "Skateboards are meant more for doing tricks. A longboard is a lot easier to learn and is a smoother ride," Kelly said. "You can be as crazy or as relaxed as you want on it."

At home in the garage, Kelly and his father, Shannon Kelly, along with their small group, began to construct their own longboards. "Everybody drew their own design. We got a bunch of people from around the neighborhood, and we all started making them," Kelly said. "It really took off."

The process to create a homemade longboard is multi-step. It starts with strips of Baltic Birch. Six of the strips are then glued together. Having several pieces of wood rather than one gives the board strength and flexibility. The designer draws an image of the desired



longboard shape, which can resemble waves, a bird, a scallop pattern, a sword, a cross, or countless other designs. Then, a jigsaw tool is used to cut out the design.

As the board takes shape, sanding makes the edges smoother. Then, the maker can get as artistic as he wants, using a blowtorch to add color dimension and an engraving pen to draw designs and words.

On his go-to longboard, Kelly added a smoke effect on half of the bottom and drew in a large cross, representing going from death to life through salvation. He also engraved Revelation 21 and Ephesians 2 – both passages which address new life in Christ. At the corner, he drew a personalized logo.

He used vivid paint to fill in the cross. Around the board, shades of yellow, orange and red invoke a sunset. Several coats of sealant weatherproofed the design. On top of the board, he placed an impressive rendition of the Dallas skyline, made with a utility knife and black grip tape. Finally, two offset wheels on each end complete the longboard.

Making the boards with spiritual significance and verses was special to Kelly from the time he was a teenager. "Putting some meaning behind it and making it art is a hobby for me, so I enjoy it," he said.

While he finished his latest board at HBU, Kelly doesn't have the tools to complete the whole process on campus. He's had to turn away a number of students who have offered to buy one like his.

"Ever since I've started making boards, people have been asking for them," Kelly said. "They've really loved the design. I've thought about making it a business opportunity and selling to college students."

When he graduates with his degree in international business, Kelly looks forward to embarking in a vocation and plans to go on for his master's degree. "Being a Christian is a big reason why I came to HBU, and also the football scholarship," he said. "It's been a good education and a good place to build on for the rest of my life."





## Nursing Professor

**N**ursing is Dr. Khara Breeden's calling. Her father was a physician and her mother a nurse; caring for people, families and the community at large is her passion.

"I know I'm here to help people," she said. "The best way for me to do that is through nursing."

Breeden, an HBU assistant professor of Nursing, worked her way through the healthcare industry for the better part of the past two decades. She earned an Associate's Degree in Nursing from Houston Community College in the early 2000s and began serving as a labor and delivery nurse.


Breeden moved into emergency room nursing and completed her bachelor's degree in 2011. She was passionate about caring for patients, but felt frustrated with gaps in the healthcare system when it came to accessing prescriptions and follow-up care for patients.

"I felt like there had to be another area where I could really make a bigger difference for people," she said.

Around that time, one of Breeden's friends began working for Harris Health. She encouraged Breeden to work in forensic nursing. There, nurses worked with victims of violence, including domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual abuse and elder abuse cases. "I immersed myself in the field, and almost immediately, I felt like that this was where God intended me to be. You make such an impact on your patient when you can spend three or four hours with them," she said. "You're able to provide a moment of healing."

Even though she was busy as a wife and mom, Breeden continued with her education, earning a master's degree in 2013. She went on to earn a Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2016 from Duquesne University.

She became the program manager of the Harris Health Forensic Nursing Department shortly after. It was in this role that Breeden's professional passion for physically healing victims evolved into a desire to give more comprehensive treatment. "Nurses can form a trusting

A portrait of Dr. Khara Breeden, a woman with blonde hair, smiling, wearing a black top and a necklace with a heart pendant. She is also wearing a bracelet and a ring.

***"I feel like whenever you take care of these patients, you're giving a voice to the voiceless."***

**-Dr. Khara Breeden**



# r Begins Nonprofit for Victims of Domestic Violence

relationship with a patient, and can, not only focus on medical issues, but plug them into other services in the community and help them get back on their feet," she said. "Victims can prosper and heal and be functional, or can end up broken."

Around the time she was completing her doctorate in 2016, Breeden serendipitously met Dr. Renae Schumann, dean of the HBU School of Nursing and Allied Health, at Crossfit. "She asked if I was interested in teaching. I took this big leap of faith into coming to HBU to teach full-time," Breeden said.

Breeden's current courses include Pediatrics and Maternal Health, but she does her best to integrate the hard realities of forensic nursing into her lessons, as her students will undoubtedly one day see these things in their work.

"Most nursing curriculums have no inclusion of forensic nursing elements," she said. "There's often no discussion of domestic violence, sex abuse, or any of the really horrible things victims deal with — it's just not talked about in nursing and medical school."

Because of her expertise, Breeden was invited in 2017 to be part of a local Strangulation Task Force. The act of strangulation is a precursor to homicide, and it is crucial that an intervention be made, she explained.

"I feel like whenever you take care of these patients, you're giving a voice to the voiceless," she said. "There are so many people who have been impacted by violence. Most of the time, people aren't empowered to share their stories and seek healing and comfort. As a forensic nurse, you're really able to spend that time and you're really the glue to all the things the patient needs."

In her role on the Houston task force, Breeden advocated for the necessity of forensic exams. Despite the alarming incidence of domestic violence, there are few places in the Houston area in which victims can go for forensic exams.

"I had this idea in my head for a long time about developing a community model where we can meet patients nearer to where they are in a more conducive

environment," she said. As a result, Harris County Forensic Nurse Examiners (HCFNE) was made a reality.

It is a labor of love for Breeden, who is chief executive officer of the program. "We're working with a lot of partners and trying to fix the gaps in the treatment of patients," she said.

The goal is to make the current system more victim-centric and convenient for patients to access care, Breeden said. "We're going to partner with the Houston Police Department and the Harris County Sheriff's Office and give medical intervention in an offsite, safe location," she said. "If the victims have other medical concerns, we'll then direct them to a partner hospital."

Organizations including Rescue Houston, Houston Area Women's Center and The Bridge Over Troubled Waters are providing clinic space. Breeden continues forming partnerships with law enforcement agencies and nonprofits alike.

Fundraising is a crucial component of building the necessary infrastructure to fill this vital gap in care. HCFNE recently received several grants to get started, seeing the first strangulation patients in August 2018. By the first quarter of 2019, the organization is expected to be fully operational.

"It's been door after door opening," Breeden said of launching the organization. "This process has made my faith so much stronger. I've said, 'God, this is going to be your will and you're going to lead this and I'm going to trust you in this path.' I think I'm just a facilitator. The people and opportunities that have been put in my life are not by chance."

Throughout Breeden's nonprofit work, Dr. Schumann and the HBU team have been supportive. "It feels like family here. I think HCFNE aligns with the University's mission," Breeden said. "It is my mission as an instructor to teach my students how to care for their patients, and also to instill in them the importance of caring about them. If, at the end of my life, I know I've helped my students and my community, I'll know I did what I was supposed to do."

**To learn more about Harris County Forensic Nurse Examiners, and to donate, visit [HCFNE.com](http://HCFNE.com).**





# CHRISTIAN BUSINESS REVIEW

A JOURNAL BY THE CENTER FOR CHRISTIANITY IN BUSINESS AT HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

FOCUS  
ON ETHICS

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STEWARDSHIP

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NO OTHER GODS

FALL 2016

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ISSUE 6

FALL 2017

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ISSUE 7

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## Center for Christianity i

The Center for Christianity in Business at Houston Baptist University is dedicated to challenging and equipping present and future business leaders to integrate biblical values and principles in their personal and professional lives.

The Christian Business Review is an annual publication edited by Center director, Dr. Ernest Liang. The organization is also known for a podcast featuring some of the best in business. The CCB organizes a number of conferences, seminars and networking events each year to help equip business professionals and students to become shrewd stewards, effective leaders and bold witnesses in God's economy.

Recently, the Center released the book, "Christianity in Business: Applying Biblical Values in the Marketplace," edited by Ernest P. Liang.



### BACKSTORY

Dr. Ernest Liang, associate professor of Finance, has brought a wealth of experience with him as a leader in HBU's Archie W. Dunham College of Business. Before he came to HBU a dozen years ago, Liang worked in the business world

for more than 25 years. He served as a chief economist, financial planning manager, chief financial officer and director of a corporate finance group for business sectors including retail, travel, energy and finance. His resume includes Montgomery Ward, United Airlines and Halliburton.

He was an investment banker by day and an adjunct professor at a local university when Rita Tauer, HBU associate provost for Academic Operations, called Liang to tell him about a full-time teaching position at HBU. Being a professor wasn't something that Liang initially had in mind, but he decided to pray about it.

"One of the things that attracted me to HBU is the opportunity to run a center," he said. "God planted it in my mind to integrate the academic institution's approach to learning with how we actually practice God's mandate in our lives. The world of commerce can be dark and cutthroat and merciless, but God has a mandate for every sphere of activity in the universe."

Liang envisioned a resource by which current and future businesspeople could be equipped with real-world knowledge for carrying out their work with integrity and wisdom. "I've been a Christian so long and I've seen a lot of things in the business world. I have a lot of anecdotal evidence I can talk about," Liang said. "If Christians are not equipped to handle what God has placed us into, we'll be much less effective witnesses for Him. That kind of training is needed for every Christian who is in the business world. I call it 'lifelong learning experiences' for Christians."

Early on, Liang conducted research to see if there was a comparable center or resource; he didn't locate anything



# y in Business

like it in the world. As a full-time faculty member at HBU, Liang began work to establish the center. A matching gift moved generous benefactors to give, and the Center for Christianity in Business began with a \$110,000 endowment. From there, Liang formed a Board of Advisors, and the Center began.

## TODAY

In 2019, the reach of the Center is global, with people in 70 countries receiving material. The Center produces resources including a podcast in which experts weigh in on topics ranging from workplace culture to mission work. There have been more than 20,000 downloads of the CCB podcast.

Liang and the Center produce a beautiful annual journal, *The Christian Business Review*, a top-notch publication featuring bright minds and respected leaders in business. The Review is available in print and online. The CCB offers luncheons three times per year featuring impressive speakers who have carved a niche in the world of business while living their Christian faith.

Additionally, the Center offers a Business Executive Training Certificate Program, conferences and seminars. The content and camaraderie are sought out by many who value it, Liang said. "There's a huge demand for this kind of thing. We're always trying to find a way to reach out and inspire," he said. "We give practical hints and

ideas to businesspeople."

The thing about business is that it is versatile and applicable in every sphere, Liang said, including healthcare, education, law and even ministry. "The world of commerce is basically in every line and fabric of society," he said. "Uniformly, people are very appreciative of what we do. Many of them walk away with a better understanding of how they can be effective. They're hungry for this kind of thing."

Recently, the Center released the book, "Christianity in Business: Applying Biblical Values in the Marketplace." It contains compelling essays which answer some of the questions that the business environment and culture pose. In 2019, the CCB will offer a series of seminars on topics like human resource management and leadership.

"In business school, you probably learn about negotiation and leadership, but we try to fill in some of the gaps. How do you develop and manage teams for example? How do you become an effective servant leader?" Liang asks. "Our objective is to use God's resources to build up the body of Christ."

Learn more at  
[HBU.edu/CCB](http://HBU.edu/CCB).

## "Christianity in Business: Applying Biblical Values to the Marketplace"

### A REVIEW

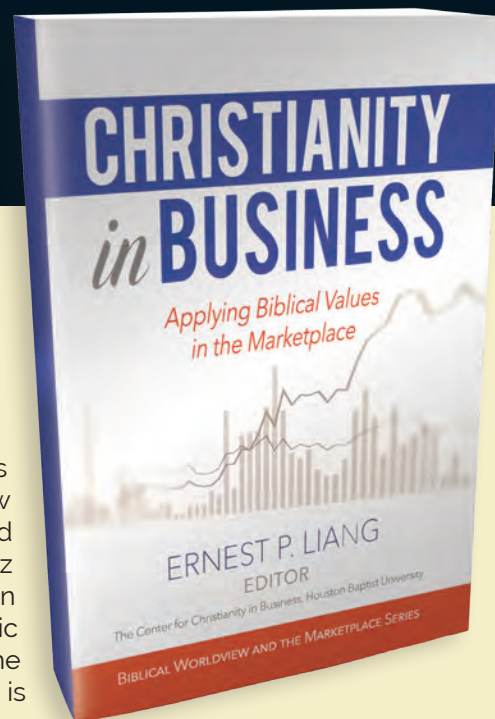
The first book by the Center for Christianity in Business at Houston Baptist University, "Christianity in Business: Applying Biblical Values in the Marketplace," is truly a read for every stage of life and background. As it says in the introduction, "This is a book for all Christians who interact with the world of commerce, and that practically means every believer. From the full-time housewife who is engaged in what economists called non-market production, to the retiree."

Essays in the book by business experts explore the lordship of Jesus Christ over each area of our lives. They assert the centrality of biblical teachings in solid business and personal decisions. The Bible-basis for ethics is also the foundation by which proper treatment of others, including employees and customers, can come. David W. Gill and Al Erisman write, "We argue that the Decalogue clearly teaches that the first way we must treat God right is by granting him a place that no one else can have and valuing him as he deserves. Because people are made in his image and likeness, they too wish to be so treated."

Ethical leadership is examined with a view for the profound and practical. Doris Gomez writes, "The temptation to compromise basic Christian values ... for the sake of expedience is very great." She conveys how Christian leaders can avoid such traps. Making a profit and worshipping God with one's management of resources is expounded upon.

Al Erisman and Denise Daniels provide their take on the Fruits of the Spirit in the business setting. Other essays explore finding balance in a changing world, and renewing one's mind through Scripture.

Book editor Ernest Liang writes, "As wise stewards of the talents, gifts, and time God has given to us, we need to be studious life-learners so that we become the best worker we can be and the shrewdest manager of God's resources."







## DR. JERRY WALLS COMPLETES BOOK IN HONOR OF ADMIRER PHILOSOPHER ALVIN PLANTINGA

In 1986, Christian philosopher Alvin Plantinga presented a lecture entitled, "Two Dozen (Or So) Theistic Arguments." Given in a summer seminar on philosophy of religion in Bellingham, Washington, the ideas that Plantinga presented were both fascinating and profound. The message he shared spread far and wide.

Plantinga wrote 20 years later in an appendix to the notes from the speech, "My intention had always been to write a small book based on these arguments, with perhaps a chapter on each of the main kinds. Time has never permitted, however, and now the chances of my writing such a book are small and dwindling."

In 2017, Plantinga was awarded the prestigious Templeton Prize. He is credited for making theism, or belief in God, a plausible matter within the secular, academic philosophy community.

Dr. Jerry Walls, scholar-in-residence and professor of Philosophy at HBU, first heard Dr. Plantinga speak while Walls was a student in the Princeton Theological Seminary. Later, while Walls was earning his doctorate at The University of Notre Dame, he had the privilege to study with Plantinga, who was a professor there.

"He made an enormous impression upon me and my thinking in so many ways," Walls said. "He was my teacher and my personal hero; a first-rate philosopher and a man of courageous Christian integrity – somebody to emulate. In 'Two Dozen,' he basically says, 'You really don't need all these arguments for your belief in God to be fully rational,' but then gives this brilliant virtuoso performance and says, 'Here they are anyway.'"

In his eight years at HBU and before, Walls has been a prolific writer, known for engaging in complex issues like Calvinism, hell and purgatory. "I write about stuff that matters, pure and simple," Walls said. "I've never been interested in writing just for the sake of the academy. I tend to write about issues that are not being addressed."

Walls has maintained dynamic working relationships with fellow professors and with students – many of whom he's collaborated with on projects. One of Walls' students, Brian Marshall, gave Walls an idea that he hadn't thought about. What if he finished what Plantinga began by fleshing out Plantinga's ideas into a book?

"It's one of those ideas that's so wonderful, you wonder why no one else has done it," Walls reflected. So began "The Plantinga Project: Two Dozen (Or So) Arguments for God," edited by Walls and Trent Dougherty.

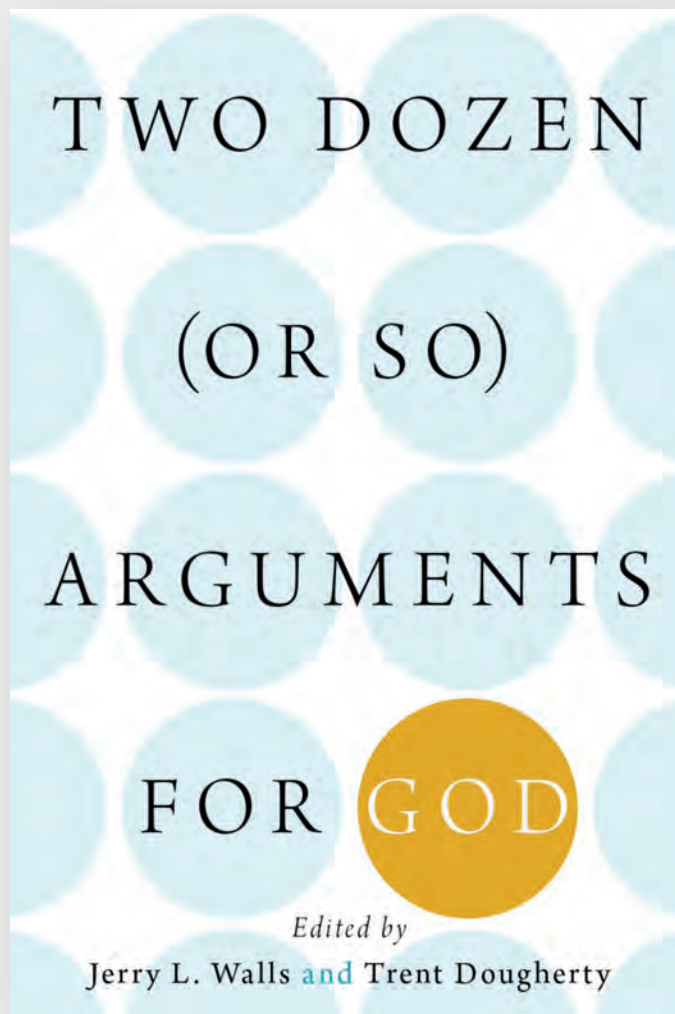
The book features essays on each of Plantinga's theistic arguments, and a few additions, by some of the most respected scholars and apologists. Among the essayists are HBU professors Walls, Dr. Philip Tallon, Dr. William Lane Craig and Dr. Bruce Gordon.

Published by Oxford University Press in 2018, the compilation has something for everyone. "The book deals with some of the classical arguments that have been around for centuries – classic and novel," Walls said. "It's a diverse collection. The evidence for God is all over the place – in everything from beauty to logic. It's in lots of places that people haven't thought to look. It's definitely a book that I think a lot of people would enjoy and find worth reading."



*Philosopher Alvin Plantinga*





## Contributor Thoughts

*"A big part of my essay was on the argument from beauty, which is basically the argument that the beauty around us is evidence for God's existence. The great abundance of beauty in the world is much more likely on theism than atheism. In other words, we'd expect that a beautiful God would create a world with lots of beauty. There is lots of beauty all around us, so this is evidence for God."*

**-Dr. Philip Tallon**

*HBU Chair of Apologetics  
and Assistant Professor of  
Theology*

*"Contributing to a collection honoring Alvin Plantinga's work meant a lot to me because Al served as an external advisor for my doctoral work years ago, and the essay I contributed was an outgrowth of that. Al's treatment of modal metaphysics has been important in my ongoing project evaluating the implications of nature's causal-ontological incompleteness at the quantum level for the possibility and necessity of unmediated divine action, a theme that runs through much of my work, and one that Al himself has recently explored."*

**-Dr. Bruce L. Gordon**

*HBU Associate Professor  
of History and Philosophy  
of Science, and Scholar-in-  
Residence*

*"I dedicated my trilogy on God and time to Alvin Plantinga with these words: 'To Alvin Plantinga, who by his life and his work has shown us the way.' There is a double meaning to those words. On the one hand, he has modeled for us what it is to be a Christian philosopher. But he has also pointed us to him who said, 'I am the Way.' I am honored and grateful to be a part of this volume celebrating his work."*

**-Dr. William Lane Craig**

*HBU Professor of Philosophy*



# HBU Serving Hispanic Students and Families

**TOP  
5%**

In College Factual's 2019 Ethnic Diversity Rankings, HBU is ranked in the top five percent of all colleges and universities in the United States.

**TOP  
1%**

HBU is ranked in the top one percent of all colleges in the state when it comes to diversity.



**H**BU faculty and staff members desire to reach all students and help them achieve at their highest potentials. For students of Hispanic heritage, higher education can come with unique challenges at times. Many students experience conflict between their role as a student and their place within their families, say Cristina Nader, HBU director of Student Support Services, and Annel Gonzalez, a first-year success coach. Additionally, Hispanic students make up a higher percentage of the general population that is classified as low-income.

The University is considered a Title V, Hispanic-serving institution because at least 25 percent of students are Hispanic or Latino. In the fall of 2016, HBU began a specialized effort to reach these students and address their specific needs called the Latino Student Success Initiative (LSSI). That fall, the Hispanic Student Organization (HSO) was formed. Among staff and faculty members, employees throughout the University stepped up to provide guidance and support to students.

In 2017, the University was represented at the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Conference, and again in 2018. This school year, for the second consecutive year, HBU has celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month. During Family Weekend in September, a presentation was available to families in Spanish. Spanish-speaking parents can now connect online through the "Somos HBU Padres" Facebook page.

The Student Success and Student Life departments collaborated for several key events during the heritage month like "Taste and Sounds of Salsa," an event featuring food and dance. The Baugh served up a "Latin Flavors Day," and several professors hosted a Spanish movie night on campus.

All of the outreaches and events are meant to foster a sense of welcome and belonging. "We want to help our students feel connected to the University and to let them



know, 'There is a space for me here,'" Gonzalez said.

Jonathan Rangel-Salazar, a senior Education major, didn't realize HBU was an option until he explored financial aid. His experience has been a positive one; he helped with the LSSI initiative and with planning the first Hispanic Heritage Month. He also helped establish a Spanish Bible study and was Homecoming King in 2017. "The professors at HBU are really welcoming to Hispanics," he said.

Dr. Miguel Estrada, a Spanish professor and a member of the LSSI committee, said, "Community is important inside and outside of the classroom for Hispanics. Over my time at HBU, I have seen the Hispanic population become more visible because of their leadership."

Nader recently served as a moderator of an employee panel in which faculty and staff members learned more about the needs of Hispanic and first-generation students. LSSI committee members continue to work together toward best reaching this specific population.

All students have benefited from the recognition of unique identities and cultures, Nader said. "Students want to feel celebrated," she said. "It builds community overall."



# Honors College Offers Distinguished Study Program



Visit [HBU.edu/HonorsCollege](https://www.hbu.edu/HonorsCollege)

*The mission of the HBU Honors College is to provide students with an interdisciplinary curriculum rooted in the Christian faith that cultivates knowledge, character and wisdom by examining the great works of Western civilization and exploring timeless questions.*

**F**ounded by HBU's president, Dr. Robert B. Sloan, the HBU Honors College accepted its first enrollees in the fall of 2008. More than a decade later and with more than 200 Honors Scholars graduates, the College has become a distinguished academic program for high-achieving students, offering a small-group learning environment and a challenging course of study that serves students well for postgraduate and career pursuits.

The University's campus-wide honors program, the Honors College is open to undergraduate students of any major. (The Honors College enjoys a joint-admissions program with HBU's School of Nursing and Allied Health for students who work toward a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.) Typically, students enter their freshman year;

the average student has a GPA of 3.6 and a SAT score of 1280. There is no additional cost to be a member of the Honors College, and typical Honors College students qualify for healthy financial aid due to their strong academic standing.

Students in the Honors College take a specially designed set of courses to fulfill their liberal arts requirements. The curricula are centered around the reading and discussion of great texts. In addition to enrolling in the small, discussion-based classes at the heart of each semester's Honors College coursework, Honors Scholars participate in a weekly writing workshop, giving them specialized writing training. A weekly lecture series complements their learning experience.



Dr. Gary Hartenburg, director of the Honors College since 2013, said, "The Honors College lectures are given by dynamic faculty from around the University, and it's become something of a tradition that the very last Honors College lecture our graduating students attend is given by Dr. Sloan, who draws on his expertise in Pauline theology to help our students think about how to fit everything they've studied in the Honors College — from Homer to C. S. Lewis — into the big picture provided by Christian theology and tradition."

Benefits of the Honors College include more than a strong foundation in the classics, writing training and meaningful discussions. Students benefit from faculty mentoring relationships and cultural experiences throughout the area. "Students regularly tour the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and the Lanier Chapel and Theological Library, as well as attend performances at the Houston Grand Opera, the Houston Ballet, and the Houston Symphony," Hartenburg said. "Honors College students often choose to continue to participate in other art and culture events on their own time because they come to understand the emotion-laden and sensory experiences these cultural outings provide enable them to draw connections in the classroom that might have otherwise gone unobserved. As students near graduation and are applying for jobs or places in postgraduate education, their Honors College mentors are able to write strong and detailed letters of recommendation for them."

One of the unique components of HBU's Honors College compared with other universities is the final course in the Honors College curriculum, "The Story

of Scripture: The Biblical Narrative from Genesis to Revelation." Hartenburg said, "This course was inspired by a remark that Dr. Sloan made to me about the value of a great-books education in a Christian setting: 'We must help students to read and interpret the Bible well.' If we don't do that, we are failing them, regardless of whatever other great works we might introduce them to. With this in mind, the Honors College faculty created the Story of Scripture course in which students read through the biblical narrative of the people of God from the beginning of the Old Testament to the end of the New Testament. Their reading of the Bible goes hand-in-hand with reading (and watching!) some great works of Western civilization that are either inspired by certain parts of the Bible or serve as commentaries to help us understand the Bible better."

Students who enroll in the HBU Honors College gain unique understanding of both study material and their world, Hartenburg said. "The reading requirements, the method of discussion-based education used in the twice-weekly seminars, the intensive writing instruction in weekly writing workshops, and the weekly lectures by faculty experts from across the University are all designed to help students develop better reading, writing, thinking, listening and speaking skills. These features distinguish the program at HBU and from honors programs at other universities. Our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and the diversity of the Honors College reflects the (nation-leading) diversity of HBU in general. And among other honors programs, no others I know of cover the amount of credit hours we do while also providing one-on-one faculty mentoring and intensive writing instruction in a classroom setting."



### **Alexy Karam, Biology Major**

"Biology courses lean towards the rigorous memorization of material. The Honors College differs from this linear style of thinking and takes a broad-based approach to education by emphasizing individual learning in a discussion-based environment. Through the Honors College, I am able to incorporate and cultivate my creative and critical thinking skills and prioritize teamwork, communication, and effective reasoning in my Biology major."



### **Shelby Doyle, '13 Philosophy & Government, Double Major**

"The Honors College brings together all kinds of seemingly different people who actually share something very unusual and specific: a reflective, diligent approach to their education. When you share something like that, friendships develop with unexpected people and with unexpected depth."

Shelby is currently the director of Communications and External Relations for National School Choice Week.





### **Grace Braun, Legal Studies Major**

"My experience at HBU has been largely defined by my experience in the Honors College. As a Legal Studies major, there is a remarkable intersection between the texts we read in the Honors College and the history and philosophy of the law. In the Honors College, we learn how to read, discuss, and write about many of the great thinkers who shaped our legal tradition, and the Honors College provides a solid classical foundation for new knowledge in other law-specific classes. Balancing the Honors College workload with classes for my major can be difficult, but it has taught me time management, prioritization, and the importance of a good work ethic in my studies. The Honors College provides a well-rounded education and a tight-knit community of students and professors working and learning together, and it is a journey well worth taking."



### **Christopher Atkins, '17 Christianity Major**

"As I pursue graduate and postgraduate studies, I am confident that the Honors College at HBU provided me with a solid foundation upon which to build. In addition to providing me with a knowledge base, the Honors College helped me cultivate a disposition toward honest, critical, and charitable inquiry, as well as a desire to read deep and wide, placing primary texts in primary position. Perhaps most importantly, the Honors College at HBU set me on a path of interdependent and interdisciplinary learning, wherein divergent and diversified voices receive due attention."

Christopher is currently pursuing a Masters of Arts in Religion in the School of Divinity at Yale University. He is specializing in Ancient Judaism, Early Christianity and Hellenistic Philosophy.



### **Callan Clark, Fine Arts Major**

"The years I have spent so far at HBU in the art department and the Honors College have been some of the most enlightening and influential of my life. The best thing about HBU's studio art program is how close-knit and encouraging it is. After your first year or so in the program, most of the professors will know your name and, if you let them, really invest themselves in helping you grow and preparing you for the future. In the end, though, the content and style you choose to pursue in your work is up to you. Because, in this sense, art majors are left to their own devices, my experience in the Honors College has been invaluable. In the arts, no matter what field, you will always be faced with the questions 'What do I want to express?' and 'How do I want to express it?' The great texts we study in the Honors College have really shaped and reinforced my worldview and helped me to understand what characterizes great, enduring art. While the art program teaches you how technically to make art, the Honors College has taught me what true art is."



### **Kenneth Peters, Psychology Major**

"The Honors College has impacted my life academically and spiritually. The curriculum pushed me to work efficiently and to make connections between what I am learning and how I am living. The discussions and teaching have expanded my knowledge of who God is while also helping me learn how to love others in an honest manner. I have been blessed with a loving community of peers, genuine relationships with professors, and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ during my time in the Honors College."



# HBU Piper Professor Nominees for 2018-2019

**T**he Piper Professor Award, given by the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award Foundation, recognizes outstanding achievement in teaching in colleges and universities throughout Texas. Established in 1958, the foundation gives 10 awards annually to teachers who are devoted to their professions and have made a special impact on their students and their community. Each year, the colleges and schools of HBU select their Piper Professor Nominee. These individuals represent the best in teaching and professional development in each college. A single nominee is selected each fall to represent HBU as our University nominee to the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation.

Past Piper Professor recipients from HBU include Dr. Calvin Huckabay, professor in English, 1970; Dr. Joyce Fan, professor of Chemistry, 1972; Dr. Marilyn Sibley, professor of History, 1976; Dr. Marion Webb, associate professor in Spanish, 1982; Dr. Doris Warren, professor of Chemistry, 1991; and Dr. Linda Brupbacher, professor in Education, 2008.

## UNIVERSITY NOMINEE



### College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

**Dr. John Travis Spoede, Jr.** teaches in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences in various doctoral and master's degree programs, including classes in research methods and multivariate statistics, education, counseling and psychology. He holds credentials as a Licensed and Ordained Minister, Licensed Professional Counselor-

Supervisor, Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor, National Credentialed Counselor, Certified School Counselor, and Teacher Certification in Texas. He serves as the director of the Center for Research and Doctoral Studies and assistant professor of Education at Houston Baptist University. He has contributed in more than 50 publications and presentations in the areas of counseling, psychology and education. Dr. Spoede has chaired, co-chaired or served as a committee member on more than 25 dissertations and theses. He has a wide range of experiences including 20 years of ministry experience, more than a decade working in the PK-12 public schools, and more than 15 years of experience as a counselor.

Dr. Spoede has a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with a minor in Chemistry, a Master's of Education in Counseling, and Alternative Teacher certification in EC-12th Special Education, and two earned doctorates; a PhD in Educational Psychology and Individual Difference, with a specialty in Research, Measurement and Statistics, and a Doctorate of Ministry.

*"He reminded me of my potential and believed in me."*

**-Detharickale Bradshaw, former student**

*"It is Dr. Spoede's extraordinary poise and style in contributing his best in all situations that creates an environment to draw the very best from his students."*

**-Malissa Childers, doctoral student**

## COLLEGE PIPER NOMINEES



### Archie W. Dunham College of Business

**Rev. Dr. Tim Ewest**, MBA program director and associate professor of Management, has worked in higher education since 2002 teaching management, leadership, ethics, corporate social

responsibility and stewardship. His research interests include issues surrounding the integration of faith at work, and prosocial leadership. He has published journal articles and books on prosocial leadership and faith at work. He has also been invited as an editor for academic journals. Ewest has worked as a visiting research collaborator with David Miller at Princeton University's Faith & Work Initiative and as a member of the United Nations Think Tank on Responsible Management. He also consults with organizations focusing on strategy, ethics and leadership development. His prior work experience includes 11 years in ministry, 16 years in higher education and five years in corporate America.

Dr. Ewest holds a master's degree in Theology from Wheaton College, a master's degree in Theology from Regent University, an MBA from George Fox University, is an ordained minister in the Christian and Missionary Alliance, and holds a DMgmt from George Fox University. He is also completing an MDiv from HBU's school of Christian Thought.

*"When I reflect on college, I will always remember the impact Dr. Ewest had on my life to make me want to make the world a better place."*

**-Bryan Brody, former student**





## College of Science and Mathematics

**Dr. Barbara Benitez**, associate professor of Mathematics, has been teaching undergraduate math since 2008. She obtained all three degrees, including her doctorate in mathematics, at the University of Houston. Prior to teaching, she spent four years doing actuarial consulting work in Houston. Currently, her research interests include exploring changes in metabolism and disease using dynamical system models. She is also exploring the incidence of Tourette's Syndrome in children as related to compression of the trigeminal nerve. At present, she is focused on leading students to think about mathematics critically and to motivate them to find the beauty in the subject matter before them.

*"I am so grateful for Dr. Benitez's enthusiasm, her brilliant teaching style, and the sound advice she delivered. She contributed to my undergraduate education significantly in her approach to mathematics and teaching."*

**-Vincent Meyers, former student**



## School of Fine Arts

**Dr. Daniel Kramlich** has served as full-time faculty member at HBU since 1981, teaching music theory, piano and composition. His varied professional compositional activities include chamber works for woodwind quintet, brass quintet, a major work (as well as a pair of shorter pieces) for duo pianos, three major works for chorus and orchestra, a documentary film score, song cycles, numerous commissioned sacred choral works,

diverse orchestral and ensemble arrangements (including work for "Theater Under the Stars" productions in Houston), both sacred and secular, as well as several commissioned improvisatory works for choreographer Joan Karff, and an orchestral work commissioned and premiered by the Arkansas Symphony. Additionally, Dr. Kramlich did string arrangements for the Grammy-nominated jazz album, "Slide Side," which featured trombonist Thomas Hulten, as well as other recorded arrangements and improvisations. Dr. Kramlich has served on the executive board of MTNA, and also as National Chairman for the MTNA Composition competition and commissioning program for four years. He is presently music director at Mission Bend United Methodist Church, directing a 50-member chorus there and administering the music program for more than 15 years. He also conducts The Lighthouse Choir, a vocal ensemble for the blind in Houston.

Dr. Kramlich holds a Bachelor of Arts: Piano Performance from Lebanon Valley College; a Master of Music: Theory from Indiana University (with distinction); and a Doctor of Musical Arts: Composition from the University of Houston.

*"Having Dr. Kramlich as a teacher really gave me a new view on music and teaching. He is one of the greatest teachers I've ever had. He is captivating, hilarious, intelligent and a good storyteller."*

**-Claudia Gonzalez, former student**



## School of Christian Thought

**Dr. Ben C. Blackwell**, associate professor of Early Christianity, has been with Houston Baptist University since August 2011. He teaches and publishes in the areas of the New Testament, the first few centuries of Christian theology, Systematic Theology,

and Christian Ethics. Dr. Blackwell is known for investing in students through personal relationships and research, and even through retirement guidance. He is chair of the Department of Theology, and he has previously served as the interim dean of the School of Christian Thought and as director for Graduate Theological Programs. Besides various articles and essays, Dr. Blackwell has published four books, and two more will be published in 2019. Before coming to HBU, he studied and taught in Durham, England. During that time, he had the wonderful opportunity to work with two eminent New Testament scholars — N.T. Wright and John Barclay. Dr. Blackwell continues to lecture annually in England.

He received his PhD in New Testament and Historical Theology from Durham University, a ThM from Dallas Theological Seminary, an MBA from Henderson State University, and a BA from Ouachita Baptist University. He also worked as an actuarial consultant for seven years with Willis Towers Watson.

*"Dr. Blackwell is able to take complex theological topics and make them understandable without diluting their content. He is not only a teacher, but he is also a mentor and friend."*

**-Adam Chaney, former student**





LESHA WINCHER, MISS HOUSTON



# MISS HOUSTON EARNING HER MASTER'S AT HBU

**L**esha Wincher has a ready smile and speaks with charming alacrity. After graduating from Clear Brook High School in Friendswood in 2012, she entered the University of Houston, where she majored in Human Development and Family Studies. From 2013 to 2017, she was also a Houston Texans cheerleader.

When she graduated with her bachelor's degree and completed her time as an NFL cheerleader, Wincher was ready for her next challenge. "I thought, 'What will I do with all my time now?' I'm the type of person who likes to be extremely busy," she said.

She began HBU's MSHRM (Master of Science in Human Resources Management) program in the fall of 2017, and started working as an HR manager for a medical billing and coding company. Wincher was drawn to the HR field for the opportunity it presented to help others.

"I never have a dull day or moment at work," she said. "You're not a counselor, but you're there for your employees."

Wincher chose HBU's graduate program specifically for its high-care, small-group learning environment. "I wanted to be in a classroom where I could talk to my professor if I had a question," she said. "For some reason, when I step on the HBU campus, I feel a peace, I feel at home, and all the professors are so accommodating."

In the midst of her busy schedule, Wincher saw an advertisement for the Miss Houston competition. She had never competed in beauty pageants, but secured a coach and decided to give it a try. In the spring of 2018, she competed among 60 women, many of whom had years of experience in the industry.

"I thought, 'Just because they're more experienced than you doesn't mean you can't win.' It's honestly about having tunnel vision," she said. "You can't compare yourself to the person to the left or the right of you."

At the Hilton Post Oak Hotel, Wincher went through an interview panel, swimsuit and evening gown competition, and found herself among the top three finalists. Then came the dreaded interview question

that often makes or breaks candidates. Wincher took a risk on a controversial topic by giving a pro-Second Amendment answer. Her self-assurance paid off, and she was crowned "Miss Houston."

"My heart fell to the floor," she said. Since then, Wincher has served throughout Houston in her role, helping underprivileged Houstonians. "Houston is home for me," she said. "I've been a lot of places in this country, but I always want to go back home. The people, diversity and culture we have here is unique. We have so much to offer and a lot of other cities don't compare."

Also in 2018, Wincher competed in the Miss Texas competition. Out of 84 women, Wincher was the

second runner-up. "Here's a girl who never thought she could do a pageant," she said. "My takeaway is, if there's something that anybody wants to do, just do it. It doesn't matter if someone else has done it for six years, eight years ... do what's in your heart."

Taking a mix of on-campus and online classes at HBU, Wincher is advancing her education and receiving benefits in her current job position at the same time. "I believe that education is one thing that no one can take away from you," she said. "I just wrapped up a course on employment law and we actually had a situation at our office at the same time that related. I told our CEO, 'Don't panic.' Everything I'm learning

in my master's degree – from legal issues to employee handbooks and policies – we're using in real life."

The lessons learned from her time as Miss Houston, and as a student and employee, are profound. "Be yourself," she said. "People are going to like you for being authentic. You can be any color or any height. Just be you. If you have an idea, voice that idea."

In the future, Wincher plans to earn a doctorate and become a CEO or company president. "Life is short and it's not to be taken so seriously. Life is not guaranteed, so live your life in the moment," she said. "Faith plays a huge role in my life; it's something I live by. 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Without that, I am nothing."

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*"Everything I'm  
learning in my  
master's degree –  
from legal issues to  
employee handbooks  
and policies – we're  
using in real life."*

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**-Lesha Wincher**





## The Online MBA at HBU

A master's in business administration is one of the most versatile advanced degrees. Its takeaways are applied across industries and fields, and its career value is virtually universal. For more than four decades, HBU's business program has been a cut above, offering students an unparalleled experience. In the HBU Archie W. Dunham College of Business, students learn ethics-based business principles and modern methodologies from professors who have lived what they teach.

To more fully serve students in the area and throughout the world, the HBU Pampell Online Division began offering the MBA Online option in 2018. Students may take courses from their current locations, and fit coursework around job and personal responsibilities.

In "What an Online MBA Can and Can't Do for You," Forbes contributor John Byrne compares and contrasts residential and online MBA programs. While residential MBA tracks are more likely to draw students who wish to change careers, online MBA programs often draw those who wish to advance in their current careers and gain additional skills, he said.

In a survey of more than 1,200 recent MBA online program graduates from top universities, participants reported the outcomes of furthering their education. "Nearly a third of the graduates told us they actually switched jobs directly as a result of the online MBA program," Byrne says. "That finding was a complete surprise because online MBAs ... are typically recommended to those who want to accelerate their careers – not transition into another industry or field. The more likely outcome was, not surprisingly, a promotion at work. Other than a promotion with increased responsibility, another indicator of positive career outcome [was] an increase in pay."

The practical skills and strategies students gain from an online MBA program, and the boost they get from having master's-level credentials, are beneficial. "The bottom line," Byrne says, is that "the best online MBA programs are delivering pretty solid career outcomes."

Dr. Steve Peterson, HBU vice president for Online/Digital Learning, said, "The reality is the MBA is a great degree that professionals need and want to gain an advantage in the marketplace."

**Learn more by visiting [HBU.edu/MBA](http://HBU.edu/MBA) and [HBUonline.com](http://HBUonline.com).**

*Reference: Byrne, John. "What an Online MBA Can and Can't Do for You." Forbes Online. Oct. 29, 2018.*

## The Latest HBU Programs

# 69

undergraduate  
degrees

# 45

graduate  
degrees

# 19

certificate  
programs

Recent HBU Degree Program Approvals from The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

### FEBRUARY 2019

- MFA in Creative Writing
- MFA in Screenwriting
- MA in History
- MA in Intercultural Studies

### JANUARY 2019

- EdD in Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services

### NOVEMBER 2018

- Master of Divinity and MA in Christian Leadership approved for Second Baptist Katy location

### OCTOBER 2018

- BFA in Graphic Design
- MA in Classics and Early Christianity

**Visit [HBU.edu/Majors](http://HBU.edu/Majors).**



# Becoming a Christian Psychologist

By Eric L. Johnson,

*Director of the Gideon Institute of Christian Psychology and Counseling at Houston Baptist University*

**U**nderstanding human beings and how to address their psychological and spiritual problems is a massively complex project. Such complexity has led to some sharp disagreements among Christians about counseling and psychology, and my story strangely reflects some of those disagreements.

I was not raised in a Christian home, but I gave my life to Christ one day in 1975, and the direction of my life radically changed. Within the year, I went to Toronto Baptist Seminary and was taught some great theology. While there, I was exposed to Jay Adams' model of Bible-only counseling. My reading and meditating on Scripture had helped a lot to reorganize my lifestyle, and I was very skeptical of secular psychology, so I thoroughly embraced biblical counseling. During my undergraduate days, however, I also learned about the Reformed doctrine of common grace – God's goodness given to cultures – that made possible the arts, science and technology.

After graduation, I got married to Rebekah, a fellow seminary student, and I worked for a couple of years in a drug abuse treatment center in the inner city of Detroit. While there, I became aware of three things: 1) Christians had different views about psychology and counseling; 2) secular psychology had some value; and 3) you can't make much money in people-helping without a master's degree. So, I went to Calvin College to get a Master's in Christian Studies, and I focused on the behavioral sciences. The program helped me appreciate more the contemporary science of psychology, as well as the importance of reinterpreting it according to a Christian worldview, and I began to believe Christians could develop their own version of psychology, based on the Bible and the resources of the Christian tradition and the best of contemporary psychology. By the time I finished that degree, I wanted to teach psychology at a Christian university, so I went to Michigan State University to get a doctorate in educational psychology. When I graduated from MSU, I called my approach "integration," along with many other faculty members at Christian colleges.

I taught psychology at Wheaton College for a year, and there I met Robert Roberts, the noted Christian philosopher of ethics, who was also writing on psychotherapy at the time. He encouraged me to call my project "Christian Psychology," following the example of Soren Kierkegaard, who had written of such in the mid-1800s, before modern psychology was founded or Sigmund Freud was even born.

That year, I obtained a permanent teaching job at another Christian college in the Midwest, but I was beginning to wonder if integration was the best term for my approach. I loved the goal of integration, but the more I learned about how integration was actually being practiced at Christian colleges, the more I realized that not much integration was happening, resulting in teaching and practice that was not that different from the public universities, where most of the faculty members had gotten their graduate education. Most the time, if there was any Christian content at all, it was used to show that the modern

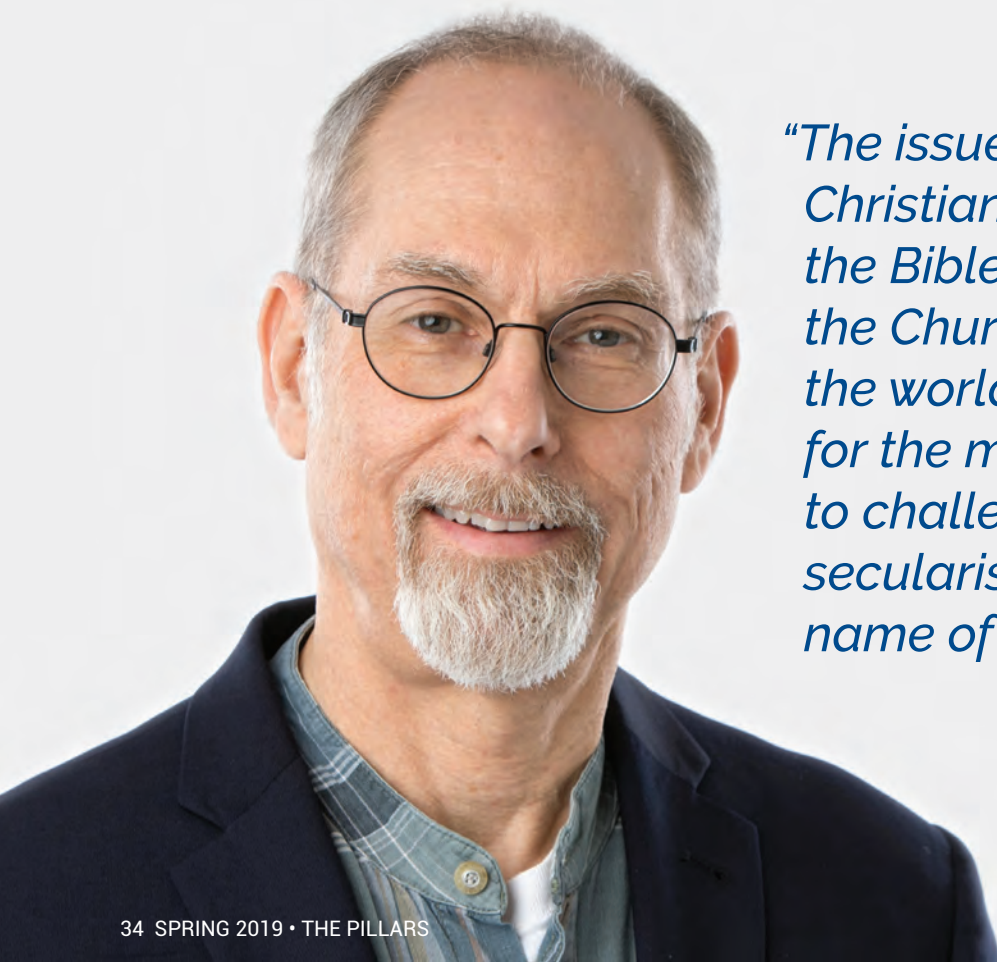


versions of the disciplines were thoroughly compatible with Christianity.

However, my studies and my own life had convinced me by then that Christianity was capable of developing a scientifically respectable version of psychology that was distinctly Christian at the core. Humans are made in God's image and sinners; and Christians are joined to Christ and capable of having a close relationship with God. Such assertions are about humans and are psychological in nature, so they belonged to the science of psychology, not just theology – at least according to a Christian worldview. As a result, in my psychology courses, I would begin every course with a consideration of relevant scriptural teaching about the subject matter, before spending the rest of the semester going through the best secular textbook I could find, knowing that all of them were devoid of reference to God, salvation or the Bible. I wanted to prepare my students for a career in psychology, so they had to know the contemporary state of field, but I was torn because it was all based on the worldview of naturalism. As a result, I began to feel that this way of teaching psychology was inadequate. In addition, I began not-so-subtly suggesting to my psychology colleagues that they could/should become more concerned about this too, sometimes pointing out how they had been unwittingly influenced by secularism. After a few years there, I was kicked out of the department. Thankfully, the administration of the college wanted me to stay on, so I was placed in the Bible department. Looking back, I realize now that I was naïve, defensive and not a little arrogant about my increasingly Christian approach to psychology, and I probably deserved to be kicked out.

During that time, I also noted that other Christians in the field were moving toward a "middle way," that combined strong Christian themes with psychological science. People like Larry Crabb, Leanne Payne, and Diane Langberg, among others, bolstered my confidence that we were on to something. It also became increasingly obvious that Christians in psychology and counseling who held different positions were not talking to each other, but would instead just criticize "the opposition." This bothered me, because they all had something important to say. Consequently, I got the idea to co-edit, with Stan Jones, a four-views book on psychology and Christianity, and invited four representatives of the major Christian positions to present their approach and respond to one another. On one side of the spectrum was the "levels-of-explanation" approach, which considered psychology and theology such distinct perspectives on reality, they rejected the use of the Bible in psychology and accepted modern psychology as it was, without critique. On the other side was "biblical counseling," the view that the Bible was all that was needed to care for the souls of God's people, especially since contemporary psychology was too secular to be of much help to Christians. In between were integration and Christian psychology. I was very happy for this book to get published.

However, things didn't improve significantly at my college. I enjoyed teaching courses in Bible, but I was a psychologist, and I loved the science of psychology. Unable to find a Christian university at that time that would support a radical Christian approach to the science of psychology, I was intrigued when a couple of my theologian friends suggested I teach counseling in a seminary. Eventually, my wife and I



*"The issues at stake involve Christianity's relation to culture, the Bible's relation to science, the Church's call to evangelize the world, as well as care well for the mentally ill, and the need to challenge the dominance of secularism in our culture in the name of our Lord."*

-Eric L. Johnson



decided it was the right move. When I arrived, the counseling department espoused the integration paradigm, but the administration was eager for the department to move in a more biblical direction, and I was hired to help that process along. So, while everyone was not on the same page, we had a greater sense of solidarity than I had experienced at the Christian college.

During those early years, I also discovered Christian psychology advocates in Europe. Some folks at IGNIS: The Institute for Christian Psychology in Kitzingen, Germany, had come across an article of mine, "Christ, the Lord of Psychology," and they reached out to collaborate. Their work over 20 years encouraged me to form the Society for Christian Psychology (SCP) in the U.S., and I started a newsletter. Not too long afterwards, Diane Langberg introduced me to Tim Clinton, and he invited the SCP to become a division of the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC); we started a journal, at first called Edification, and had a regular place in the annual conferences of the AACC, in addition to the newsletter getting an upgrade.

A few years into my tenure at the seminary, however, changes in the seminary administration led to the decisions to disband the integration counseling department and replace it with a biblical counseling department. The integration faculty were all let go, but I was something of an anomaly (again), and they were not sure what to do with me. However, when my first book came out, "Foundations for Soul Care: A Christian Psychology Proposal," I was told that my strong theological orientation was clear enough, and I could remain in the department, so I stayed.

For the next 12 years, I was allowed to teach the psychology and counseling courses that fulfilled the requirements for state licensure, even though the department as a whole

reflected a strong, Bible-only approach to counseling. During that time, I was working on "God and Soul Care: The Therapeutic Resources of the Christian Faith," written to help Christian therapists think biblically and theologically about their work, while appropriating the relevant knowledge amassed by modern psychology and psychiatry, shorn of its secularism. When the book was published, the seminary decided my approach was simply too psychological and too divergent from its biblical counseling aims, so it was necessary to part ways, and I was asked to retire early.

Without making too much of it, my story illustrates something of the complexity of understanding human beings that I mentioned at the beginning of the article. The issues at stake involve Christianity's relation to culture, the Bible's relation to science, the Church's call to evangelize the world, as well as care well for the mentally ill, and the need to challenge the dominance of secularism in our culture in the name of our Lord. More to the point, it also shows how God was all along preparing me to come to Houston Baptist University at a time when a number of Christian universities are wanting to develop and disseminate scholarship and education that provide distinctly Christian alternatives to their secular versions, insofar as worldview makes a difference. I am so very excited to participate in what will be, in some respects, the first master's programs of their kind in the United States: dedicated to the training of Christians who desire to practice counseling and psychotherapy in distinctly Christian ways, according to a Christian worldview. The aim of the Gideon Institute for Christian Psychology and Counseling is to be Christ-centered, biblically rooted and clinically informed. After all these years, God is granting me the desires of my heart (Psalm 37:4), and richly fulfilling His calling on my life.

**HBU.edu/Gideon**

# HBU | THE GIDEON INSTITUTE of CHRISTIAN PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELING

announces a conference to be held  
at Houston Baptist University

Living in the Larger Story: The Christian  
Psychology of Larry Crabb

May 16-17, 2019

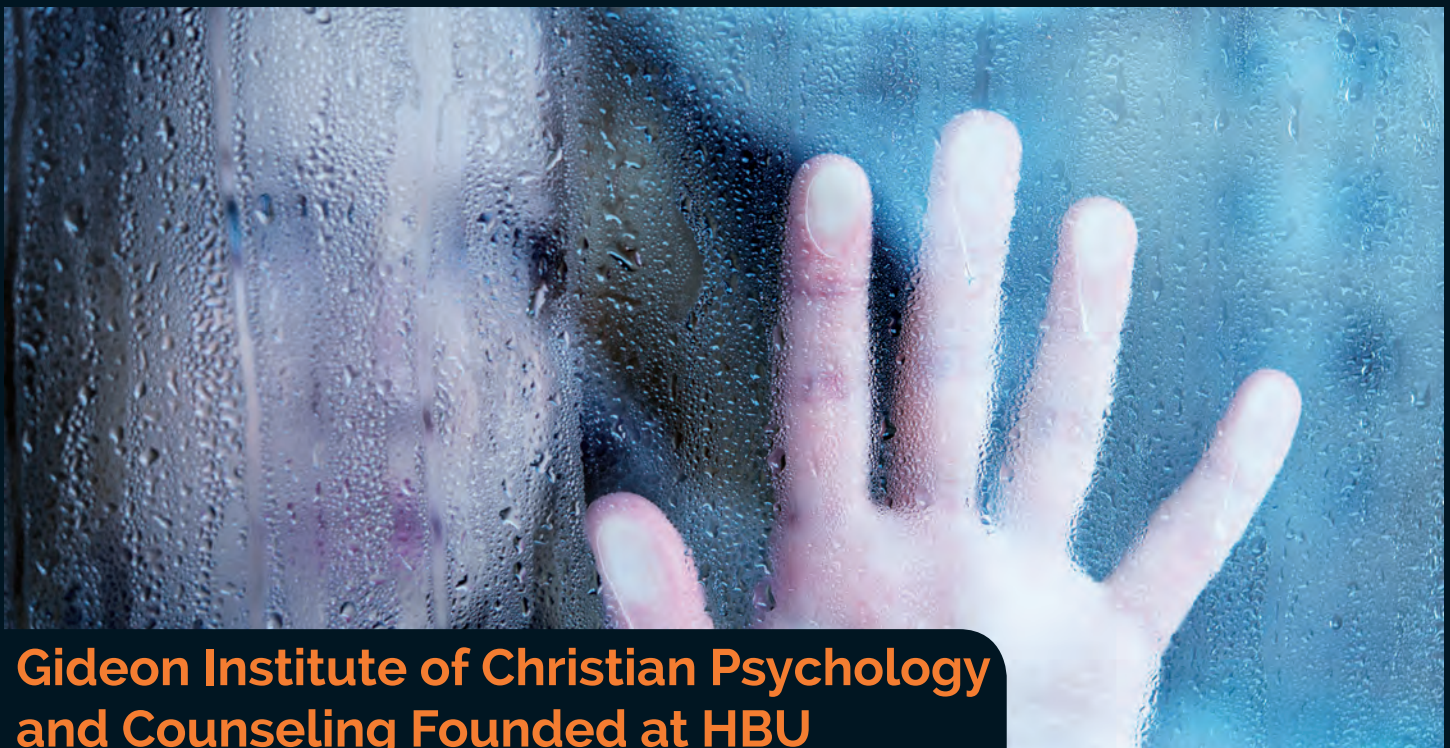
Mabee Theater at HBU

Registration: \$100 & \$25 for students  
**HBU.edu/GideonConference**



*Christ-Centered, Biblically Rooted,  
Clinically Informed*





## Gideon Institute of Christian Psychology and Counseling Founded at HBU

**H**ouston Baptist University is pleased to announce the establishment of the Gideon Institute of Christian Psychology and Counseling at Houston Baptist University. The Institute is a new initiative at HBU that is generously funded by the Gideon Charitable Foundation.

Dr. Robert B. Sloan, HBU president, said, "God the Creator should be worshipped with all the heart and mind. The Gideon Institute at HBU will help students, counselors and scholars better understand and keep this great commandment. We are very enthusiastic to see the work of the Gideon Institute now and going forward, enabling Christian psychologists to have greater resources to work more faithfully for the healing of the mind, the understanding of how our minds and inner selves work, and producing research that will disseminate their discoveries."

The Gideon Charitable Foundation leadership emphasized its support for the Institute: "The Gideon Charitable Foundation has a passion to see people helped in a manner that is biblically rooted and clinically informed. Rarely have we seen an approach to psychology and counseling that places a high value on both biblical and clinical knowledge that is put into practice by the therapist. The Gideon Institute of Christian Psychology and Counseling will be a place where both are unapologetically taught, studied, promoted, and utilized in the classroom and in the practice of therapy. We could not be more excited to support such a work, and thank the leadership of HBU for allowing us to join them in this extremely important work."

### THERE ARE THREE MAIN SPHERES OF ACTIVITY THAT THE INSTITUTE WILL BE ENGAGED IN:

- 1) The Institute will be **Academic**, and will operate within the HBU College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. Program offerings are the Master of Arts in Christian Psychology\* program (which leads to an LPA license) and the Master of Arts in Christian Counseling program (which leads to an LPC license).
- 2) The Institute will entail a **Christian Counseling Clinic** on or near HBU's campus that will provide counseling to both HBU students and the greater Houston community.
- 3) Finally, the Institute will be engaged in **Public Intellectual Work**, including developing conferences, overseeing a journal, Christian Psychology, and providing educational opportunities for the community.

*\* Program is pending The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, (SACSCOC) approval*

The Institute is directed by Dr. Eric L. Johnson, an academic psychologist and author of "God and Soul Care: The Therapeutic Resources of the Christian Faith." He is adept at combining faith with traditional psychological research and broadly accepted tenets. Johnson taught undergraduate psychology for 10 years at University of Northwestern, and Christian psychology and counseling for 17 years at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was the founding director of the Society for Christian Psychology, a division of the American Association of Christian Counselors.

"The primary goal of the Institute is to promote professional soul care that is 'Christ-centered, biblically rooted, and clinically informed.' Christian psychology is a classic orientation to the care of souls, practiced for centuries, shaped equally by theology and science," Johnson said. "These will be the first master's programs in America established from their inception according to a Christian psychology orientation."



# ON WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY: Can We Still Look to Washington?

*This piece originally appeared on the School of Humanities blog, "Reflection and Choice."*

By Dr. Chris Hammons, Professor of Government and Director of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty

I love teaching students about the American Founding. I like the philosophical debates over the nature of liberty and necessity of government. I like the use of pen and paper as weapons in a war of ideas. I like the manner in which gentlemen addressed one another, even when they disagreed. I appreciate the emphasis on honor and duty exhibited by statesmen and soldiers. Everything about early America appeals to me – the architecture, the long coats, the tricorne hats – even the weather. I always think of late-18th century America as perpetually stuck in autumn, with air that is cool and crisp, and a sun that always shines. I know that isn't true, but that's how I envision it.

It's easy to romanticize the American Founding as a period of unbridled optimism, achievement and glory. The truth is that the period right after the Revolution, before the Constitution was drafted, was a dangerous time for the United States. For about ten years, after the battle for independence was won, the fight for freedom gave way to the darker side of human nature.

Had less enlightened forces prevailed, the American Experiment would have failed before it began.

Like Greece and Rome before her, the infant United States almost fell victim to a military cabal bent on using force of arms to take charge of the government. The incident involved soldiers who were angry about not receiving their pay.

During the Revolution, citizen soldiers were often promised payment for their service only to be told later that no funds were available. In some instances, soldiers who had served five or six years in the fight for American Independence were still not paid when the war was won.

In 1783, some of our Founding Fathers, including Alexander Hamilton and Gouverneur Morris, concocted a scheme to use the unpaid, angry Army as a means of pressing Congress to assume the power to collect taxes

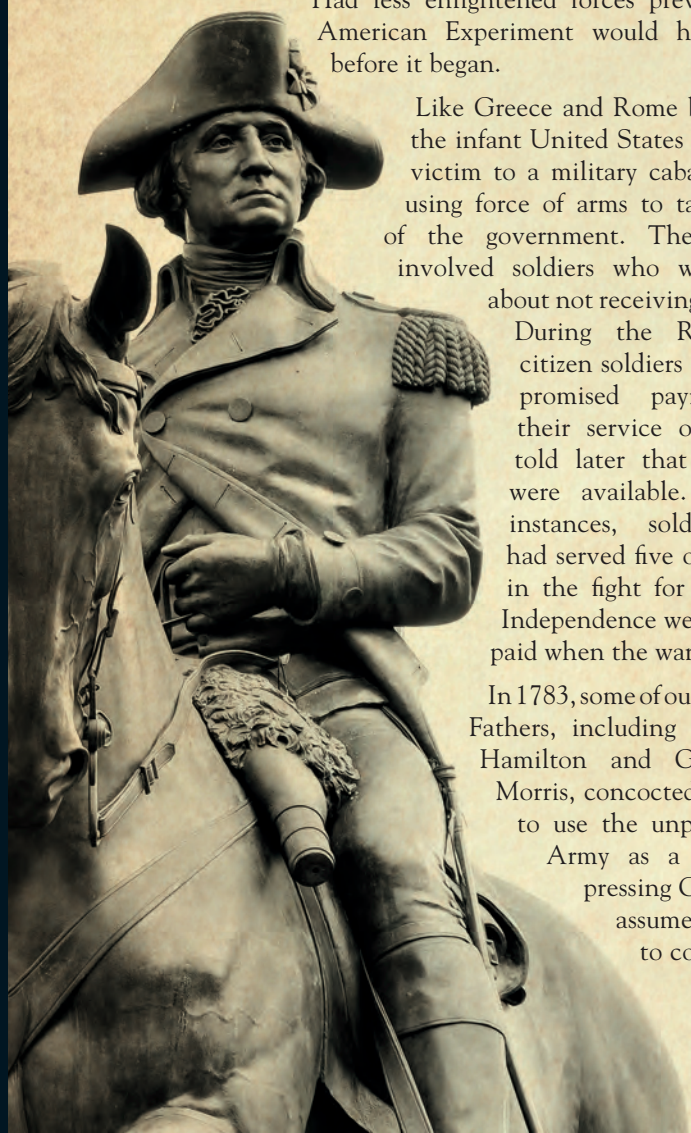
from the new American states. The Army was enlisted to march to the capital (then Philadelphia) and threaten to seize power by force if necessary in order to receive their back pay. Since Congress was broke, Hamilton and Morris wagered that the legislature would be forced to adopt strong taxation powers as means of quickly raising funds to buy off the besieging Army. The plot, conducted in secret, was designed to use the Army as a means of shaping public policy. In essence, what Hamilton, Morris and their confederates planned was a return of the principle of military involvement in government affairs that characterized much of human history, particularly the histories of Greece and Rome. Had the coup been successful and Congress subdued, American democracy would have been crushed before it began, and our subsequent history might look much different.

One thing, or to be more precise, one man, saved the infant nation. George Washington was recruited to lead the military coup by Alexander Hamilton. Washington received Hamilton's letter to lead the charge, rejected the idea outright, and immediately called an impromptu meeting of his military officers on March 15, 1783. The officers (unaware of his response to Hamilton) suspected that Washington was supportive of the plot and would announce his intention to ride at the head of the Army to collect the treasure that was rightfully theirs. He would, in essence, pull a Julius Caesar.

Instead, Washington spoke gently but firmly to his fellow officers about duty, honor and love of country. And then, in the most well-staged use of theatrical flair to ever save a nation, Washington asked to read from a letter he had received from Congress. In doing so, he pulled from his breast pocket his new reading glasses, which he had just received. In fumbling to put them on, he asked his men to forgive his clumsiness, as he had "grown both old and blind in the service of my country."

The guilt and shame of seeing Washington – the hero of the Revolution, who had sacrificed so much for others – in this humbling and human condition, shamed the officers into reconsidering their motives and plans. According to witnesses, men openly cried and asked Washington for forgiveness. The coup that could have been, never was. The republic was saved.

The future of American democracy wasn't guaranteed by the rhetoric of the Revolution or the victory at Yorktown. The United States could have gone the way of Greece or Rome – systems based more on power and might than principles of liberty and equality. Our nation is an experiment – an experiment to see if men really can govern themselves by "reflection and choice, rather than accident or force." How this experiment ends is largely up to us.







## STUDENTS VISIT COLONIAL TRIANGLE

Dr. Chris Hammons, professor of Government and director of HBU's Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty, says that constitutionalism is a culture that must be passed from generation to generation, or it will fade away. "The principles, traditions and stories that bind us together as Americans are in danger of being forgotten," said Hammons, who has been teaching at HBU for 20 years this fall. The Center is dedicated to making sure that students understand and appreciate the traditions and principles on which our nation is based.

During the past summer, Hammons and Dr. Tony Joseph, professor of Early American History, led a group of eight students to the Colonial Triangle in Virginia. The area is central to the American story. "Jamestown is where the American story really starts. This was the first successful English colony in North America," said Dr. Joseph.

Students were able to walk through the historic Jamestown fort in the footsteps of John Smith and Pocahontas. The group ended the day with a boat ride up the James River. "It was a special moment for me as we traveled the river and saw where the settlers chose to plant their colony," said David Stripling, a senior History major. "I could put myself in their shoes and gaze upon the same ground they did as we traveled the waters they did. It was a moment I will never forget."

Hammons and his group spent a few days in Colonial Williamsburg, a reproduction of the colonial capital of Virginia. The students interacted with historical reenactors,

served as the Governor's Council in a fictional, 18th-century trial, and fired black powder muskets at a rifle range (with supervision from licensed instructors). The shooting exercise was a favorite of many students. "I am a military veteran and it was a thrilling experience to fire weapons used in the Revolutionary War to win our country's freedom," said Michael Alexander, a senior Government major. "The experience drew me closer to the American ideals of individualism and liberty. The musket is a symbol of the American spirit."



The educational expedition concluded with a trip to Yorktown to explore the battlefield and town where the American Revolution ended. Students were able to see the famous fortification stormed by the Marquis de Lafayette and Alexander Hamilton, walk through the village of Yorktown, and touch cannonballs imbedded in the house used by General Cornwallis as his headquarters.

Hammons stressed that American Heritage trips are a means to appeal to a generation that looks beyond textbooks for their education. "This trip helped me understand our nation's principles by exposing me to the stories of the people that came to colonial America," said Karen Lizama, a senior Government major. "Most of them were looking for a fresh start and freedom. We're a nation of self-starters." Legal Studies senior Gabriela Barros echoed those sentiments. "I was left with a realization that the United States was created by people just like me," said Barros. "And now it's up to me to carry on what they started."



## UNIVERSITY EVENTS



## HBU Homecoming!

Mark your calendars now to be part of HBU Homecoming on **October 26, 2019.**

Start your day by joining us for the 18th Annual Husky Hustle 5K Run & Walk. Sponsored by the Alumni Advisory Board, we are currently looking for sponsors to join us in raising dollars for scholarships and Alumni Association initiatives.

If you are interested in sponsoring the Husky Hustle, **email [AlumniAssociation@HBU.edu](mailto:AlumniAssociation@HBU.edu) or call 281.649.3413.**

Later in the day, make plans to make your way to the Hinton House for the Alumni Gathering and then show your Husky spirit at the football game.

Renew connections and friendships and see for yourself all the great things happening on campus!







Nancy Schissler was honored, shown here with her family, Mary Schissler, Lynn Red '79, Nancy Schissler, Laura Jenkins, Richard Schissler



Sharon Saunders, Dr. Diane Williams '93 luncheon chair, Jane Jester Marmion '68 Dean's Development Council Executive Committee Chair

## School of Nursing and Allied Health Celebrates 50 Years

**T**he HBU School of Nursing and Allied Health hosted their fall luncheon, "Celebrating 50 Years!" at the River Oaks Country Club. The luncheon was presented by the Dean's Development Council and honored Dr. Nancy Yuill, '72, and Nancy Schissler, along with the Good Samaritan Foundation. The chair was Dr. Diane Williams, '93, and Dr. Barbara Taylor-Cox, '81, was the speaker.

Since 1968, HBU has built a reputation of producing exceptional nurses and healthcare professionals. After 50 years, there are many successes to celebrate! The School now offers two Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degrees, (Family Nurse Practitioner and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner), as well as a Master of Science in Kinesiology (MSK).

### NURSING LUNCHEON SPONSORS

#### •Gold

- Memorial Hermann
- Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.

#### •Silver

- Bramble and Bee
- Jane Jester Marmion
- Dr. Diane Williams
- Judy Craig,
- Pat Griffin

Nursing alumni from all five decades gather around Dr. Nancy Yuill '72 who was presented with the Margret Newman Outstanding Alumni Award







Sharon Saunders, speaker Dr. Barbara Taylor-Cox '81, Ray Cox '81, Georgia Taylor



Dr. Nancy Yuill '72 accepting the Margret Newman Outstanding Alumni Award

## HBU Nursing Program is Top-Notch

**15<sup>TOP</sup>%** | **31<sup>ST</sup>** | **43<sup>RD</sup>**  
 in the United States | in all of Texas | in the southwest region

**N**ursing Schools Almanac recently released its 2018 rankings of the top US nursing schools. Among more than 3,000 institutions, HBU's is among the top 15%! In fact, we're #31 in all of Texas and #43 in the southwest region.

The mission of the School of Nursing and Allied Health is to prepare individuals to be leaders within interprofessional teams as they provide quality services in diverse settings as a result of our central confession that "Jesus Christ is Lord."

### DEPARTMENT OF NURSING DEGREES

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Honors)
- RN to BSN (Online)
- Master of Science in Nursing (Hybrid)
  - Family Nurse Practitioner
  - Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-PC

**Learn more at [HBU.edu/Nursing](http://HBU.edu/Nursing).**

## Third Annual Graduate School Chili Showdown Brings Campus Together

The Third Annual Chili Showdown warmed up chili tasters in the Bettis Quadrangle. A record 11 teams signed up for the challenge. The titleholder of "Best Chili" was "Dormstyle Chili," a Residence Life team comprised of Taylor Whitfield, Jakora Snow, Grace Gervais, Giovanni Arellano, Kameel Atweh and Hahn Bielfeldt. The winner of "Best Decorations" was "Mai-Sher's Chili Sarriette" of Student Life, comprised of MonSher Spencer and Mai Borges.

Allyson Cates, director of HBU Graduate Admissions, said, "The Third Annual Chili Showdown was our favorite one yet! We love to bring the HBU community together with fun, games, and good food. We look forward to this event every year!"





## 2018 GALA SPONSORS

### PILLAR OF EXCELLENCE

- Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. McNair
- Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.

### PILLAR OF FAITH

- Sherry & Jim Smith

### PILLAR OF SCHOLARSHIP

- Linda Davis & Bruce Williams
- Doris & Terry Looper

### PILLAR OF WISDOM

- Lisa '76 & Jerry Simon

### PILLAR OF HONOR

- Betty Beard
- Barbara '81 & Ray '81 Cox  
| The Cox Law Firm
- Dr. Archie & Linda Dunham
- Linda & Earle Higginbotham  
| Anne & Hank Roper  
| Dr. Diane '93 & Stanley Williams McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc.
- Mischer Investments, L.P.
- Sue & Robert Sloan
- Stewart Title
- Tellepsen

# HBU Gala Features CHIP GAINES



**T**he 2018 HBU Spirit of Excellence Gala featured special guest speaker Chip Gaines, co-founder of Magnolia, author of New York Times bestseller, "Capital Gaines: Smart Things I Learned Doing Stupid Stuff," and star of the HGTV program, "Fixer Upper."

The Gala funds University scholarships; more than 90 percent of students receive significant financial aid. The event and auction raised \$658,434 to help endow

more University scholarships. Guests were treated to student and staff performances and presentations, along with a Chip Gaines Q&A.

Dr. Robert B. Sloan, HBU president, said, "We celebrate as we reflect on the past and the things that have gotten us to this point. Still, we're playing the long game, and are continuing to innovate, with your help, to change the world."

**Visit [HBU.edu/Spirit of Excellence](http://HBU.edu/Spirit of Excellence).**

#### Spirit of Excellence Award

Colin Montgomerie, '87  
Pinky Pampell

#### Founders Medal

Dr. Archie W. & Linda Dunham  
Janice and Robert C. McNair

#### Gala Chairs

Linda Davis &  
Bruce Williams

#### President's Award

Sherry and Jim Smith, Sr.

#### Honorary Chair

Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.

#### Underwriting Chairs

Becky and Steven Kerns





*Randy '84 & Alex Sorrels  
with Bert Lohse*



*Mark Rylander, chair, Dr. and Mrs. Sloan, Chip Gains,  
Alatheia Holt*



*Sherry & Jim Smith, President's Award*



*Chip Gaines, Dr. Robert B. Sloan*



*Chip Gaines, Kiza III*



*Steve & Becky Kerns,  
Underwriting Chairs*



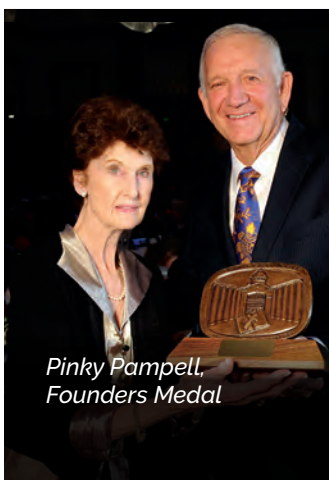
*Dr. Barbara Taylor-Cox '81 & Ray Cox '81*



*Linda & Archie Dunham,  
Founders Medal*



*Dr. Stewart Morris, Honorary Chair; Jerry & Lisa '76 Simon*



*Pinky Pampell,  
Founders Medal*



*Cindy Canevaro and Kristi Cooper,  
Founders Medal on behalf of  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. McNair*



*Todd Forester & Kelli Kickerillo with Mary & Vincent Kickerillo*





## Guild Institute Hosts Statue Dedication and Birthday Celebration of Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.

Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr., Houston businessman and philanthropist, is known widely for his roles as president and co-chief executive officer of Stewart Title. He is a founding father of Houston Baptist University, serving an essential role in establishing the institution (then Houston Baptist College) in 1960.

Morris' involvement in HBU has been ongoing. His recent gift established the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty at HBU, allowing for the construction of a classroom building modeled after Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Morris turned 99 years old in October, and the HBU Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies, chaired by Marsha Eckermann and Jane Marmion, honored his continuing legacy with a statue dedication outside of Belin Chapel. Generous friends donated to make the statue possible.

## Prince-Chavanne Lecture Series Features Michael DeVito

The Archie W. Dunham College of Business presented the annual Prince-Chavanne Distinguished Lecture. This year's guest speaker was retired NFL player and HBU alumnus Michael DeVito, MA '18. DeVito established a scholarship in honor of HBU professor of philosophy, Dr. William Lane Craig, who was recognized at the lecture.

As a defensive end, DeVito played for the New York Jets and the Kansas City Chiefs. After earning his MA in Philosophical Apologetics from HBU, DeVito is pursuing a MSc in Philosophy, Science and Religion from the University of Edinburgh.

**Learn more at [HBU.edu/Business](http://HBU.edu/Business).**



## TEDx Held at HBU

An inspiring TEDxHBU was held on HBU's campus. Speakers were Jim "Mack" McIngvale, businessman and philanthropist; Dr. Robert B. Sloan, HBU president; Dr. Peter Hotez, physician and scientist; Jeff Frey, innovator and educator; Jermaine Tolbert, artist and author; Scott Hatch, church minister and fitness coach; Dr. Katie Alaniz, technology educator; Marian Taylor, registered nurse and artist; Jade Shuffler, student; and Asma Mirza, entrepreneur.

Dr. Meredith O'Hara, HBU associate professor of Biology, organized the slate of engaging Texas speakers to cover the topic of "Transformations." "The first-ever TEDxHBU was a success!" she said. "I'm excited to start planning TEDxHBU for 2020 in the coming months, which will have a significant amount of HBU student input and involvement – from choosing and inviting speakers, to fundraising and curating the talks."

**Watch past talks and learn more at [TEDxHBU.com](http://TEDxHBU.com).**



# The Guild

Sue Sloan, Donna Bahorich,  
Dr. Sloan



Jeanne Walker, Cheryl  
Kaminski, Gail Layne



Lynn Kiesewetter, Cheryl  
Kaminski, Rhonda Ekholm



Trish Greaser, Susan Redding,  
Tommie Lejeune



Mary Jo Sharp,  
Dr. Sloan



Sharon Saunders,  
Maria Franshaw



## GUILD FALL COFFEE Supports University

The Guild Fall Coffee served as a fellowship opportunity and welcome for new members. Donna and Mike Bahorich were gracious hosts, and the event was chaired by Gail Layne and Jeanne Walker. The Guild supports graduate education and theology scholarships.

Visit [HBU.edu/Guild](http://HBU.edu/Guild).



Jan Witham,  
Allene Lucas

## THE GUILD HOSTS PROFESSOR MARY JO SHARP FOR

### *Annual Christmas Luncheon*

The Guild's Annual Christmas Luncheon at River Oaks Country Club was a delight to more than 320 guests. Chaired by Rhonda Ekholm and Lynn Kiesewetter '92. HBU professor and author, Mary Jo Sharp, was the keynote speaker.

Attendees heard from Maria Franshaw, a Guild scholarship recipient and soon-to-be EdD graduate in HBU's first doctoral class, who said, "Because of your work and your promise, I've gone from a fairly impactful educator to speaking at national levels."

HBU president, Dr. Robert B. Sloan, shared insights on Advent, and Sharp shared about the importance of the Church as God's vehicle for reaching the world. "The Church is still the primary means of God's work on the Earth," she said. "We are the mirrors with which God has decorated the world to reflect His character."

Visit [HBU.edu/Guild](http://HBU.edu/Guild).



## HBU School of Education Literacy Lab Dedicated

The Houston Baptist University College of Education and Behavioral Sciences School of Education Literacy Lab was dedicated in February. An interactive demonstration with Education students highlighted the importance of the space.

The full-sized classroom in the Hinton Center is equipped with reading and writing materials, technology and teaching manipulatives funded by a \$2.8 million U.S.

Department of Education grant. Renovations to the space were made possible by the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation and Centerpoint Energy. The room allows future educators to train in a realistic environment, and is a resource library for student teachers.

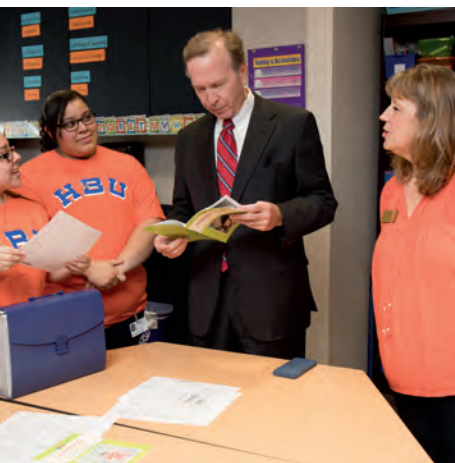
Neil Bush said at the dedication, "We have a great city and country. We're so very proud to be part of

this. I want to thank the teachers and students. My mom had a belief that every child is born with a gift. Teachers in classrooms are providing the greatest foundation."

Dr. Angelia Durand, an HBU Department of Curriculum and Instruction program coordinator, said, "We are so thankful for all of the donors, both public and private, who have allowed us to provide an educational lab for our students to learn and work. We are fortunate to have all of our reading, bilingual education and English as a second language (ESL) undergraduate and graduate courses in the Literacy Lab. Having a set-apart space and the opportunity for students to work with research-based materials is tremendous. We are thrilled that the Literacy Lab allows HBU to offer the very best possibilities for future educators!"

Julie Baker Finck, president of the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation, said, "It is critical that both educators and students have the essential resources for teaching and learning. We are proud to be a part of HBU's Education Literacy Lab and hope it will not only stimulate and enhance education for current students, but that it will help those students be even better educators to our youth."

Diane Englet, community relations senior director of CenterPoint Energy, said, "CenterPoint Energy is pleased to support the development of future teachers, especially in the area of literacy. Education experts tell us that children must learn to read so that they can later read to learn. We congratulate HBU on this innovative literacy laboratory."





## CCB Luncheon Features James T. Hackett

**S**pecial guest speaker James T. Hackett shared lessons learned in business and life during the Center for Christianity in Business spring luncheon. Hackett is known for his role as executive chairman and midstream CEO of Alta Mesa Resources, Inc., and as former CEO of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation. He was featured by Forbes for his desire to integrate faith and business.

He said, "When material goals and self-recognition are not the goal, we experience more of both." Hackett encouraged listeners to expect and grow from trials. "Most of us would agree that we're striving, however imperfectly, to fulfill our spiritual purpose," he said. "I'm not sure that part of the plan isn't to test free will through challenges."

In his leadership roles, Hackett incorporated faith principles, giving employees a moral compass with which to abide. Practical steps included developing a company mission statement and outlining a set of shared values. "It's a significant advantage to have strong, spiritually held beliefs in the workplace," he said. "Trust in the law of the harvest: we will reap what we sow."

Hackett encouraged listeners to not be afraid to let their light shine at work. "Your faith can be a living example," he said. "Make your profession – whatever it is – a sacred mission."

**Learn more about the Center and its events at [HBU.edu/CCB](http://HBU.edu/CCB).**

## HBU School of Christian Thought Hosts Apologetics Day Conference

**T**he Houston Baptist University School of Christian Thought hosted the HBU Apologetics Day Conference on Feb. 23 at The Woodlands United Methodist Church. Some of HBU's most renowned scholars and authors presented at this one-day event, educating and equipping those who wanted to learn more about the Christian faith and how to defend it.

HBU professors were central to the event. Keynote speakers and their messages were Dr. William Lane Craig, "Arguments for God's Existence," Dr. Louis Markos, "Sophists v. Plato: How to Escape from the Dark Cave of Relativism and Nominalism" and Nancy Pearcey, "Love Thy body: Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality." Breakout sessions included biblical, scientific and cultural issues, as well as a Spanish language track.

**Visit [HBU.edu/ChristianThought](http://HBU.edu/ChristianThought) for more information about HBU Apologetics.**

## Hittites...fact or fable?







## Covenant Society Luncheon

The Covenant Society Luncheon in February recognized members of the Covenant Society who have invested in HBU's future through a planned gift. Cindy and Randy Garbs, '76, MBA '83, were special guests of the preceding convocation, and Randy was the featured speaker.

Covenant Society members are vital partners whose legacy of giving allows the University to cultivate future leaders.

**Visit [HBU.edu/PlannedGiving](http://HBU.edu/PlannedGiving).**

*(Back) Randy Garbs '76, MBA '83, Cindy Garbs, Col. Newt Cole, Sharon Saunders (Front) President Robert Sloan, Dr. Stewart Morris*

## American Museum Society Luncheon Celebrates History

The American Museum Society of HBU celebrated American history and promoted the furtherance of HBU's Museum of American Architectural and Decorative Arts through the AMS Luncheon in February at The Junior League of Houston. Joanna Poor, '58, was honored for her role as a member of the American Museum Society, The Guild and the Dean's Development Council of the School of Nursing.

Lunch goers enjoyed a performance by the A.D. Players entitled "Four Fantastic Fathers."

**Learn more at [HBU.edu/Museums](http://HBU.edu/Museums).**



*A.D. Players debuted "Four Fantastic Fathers" for luncheon attendees*



*Dr. Robert Sloan presents a Bible page to Joanna Poor for her donation of a melodian to the Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts*



*American Museum Society Luncheon Committee (Front) Betty Beard; Shirley Asel; Peggy Jane Gibson, luncheon chair; Judy Craig, AMS president; Dana Grigsby; (Back) Mary Lou Riley; Lou Beth Mulqueen; Glenda Ireland; Linda Higginbotham; Lois Shanks Orr; Jan Witham*



## Houston Theological Seminary Hosts Theology Conference

**H**ouston Theological Seminary of Houston Baptist University proudly hosted the theology conference, "Why Does the Old Testament Matter: Dead Weight or an Anchor to Christian Faith?" on March 1 at Second Baptist Church's Woodway Campus.

Respected Old Testament scholar, Dr. Daniel Block, of Wheaton College was the plenary speaker. A number of faculty members from HTS gave presentations exploring how to understand and incorporate the Old Testament.



**MONDAY, JULY 15 THROUGH  
FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2019**

*Camp HBU*

**Join us for worship, community service,  
games, classes and lots of HBU spirit!**

**Campers: Ages 10-15**

**Counselors In Training (CITs): Ages 16-18**

**Cost: \$450 for Campers and Free for CITs**

**An alumni discount is available when  
you contact HBU Events at 281-649-3047.**

**Camp HBU is a weeklong, overnight camp in which students ages 10-15 can enjoy academic and extracurricular sessions hosted by HBU faculty and staff, along with discipleship by HBU students, community service opportunities, and lots of HBU spirit and fun!**

**Visit [HBU.edu/CampHBU](http://HBU.edu/CampHBU)**





# RUBEN GONZALEZ

*An Unlikely Olympian: HBU Alumnus Ruben Gonzalez Reaches Height of Luge Sport*



**R**uben Gonzalez, '88 remembers several key moments that set his life on its course. One of those was at Houston Baptist University. Gonzalez had entered in the fall of 1980 after graduating from nearby Dulles High School. HBU's main appeal back then for Gonzalez was that he could play on the soccer team.

"I was raised Catholic but I was kind of a rebellious kid," he said. "I never wanted to go to church and did not have a personal faith. One day, while sitting in the HBU student center, a student who knew I was a science major asked me what I knew about the Second Law of Thermodynamics."

As pre-med major, Gonzalez was eager to show his knowledge. He shared that things in the world generally move from order to disorder. Your bed doesn't make itself. The friend then challenged him with the query: how could evolution, then, have created order?

"He floored me," Gonzalez remembers. "He said, 'Why don't you read these Scriptures and we'll talk next week.' He didn't shove Christianity down my throat; he just created a relationship. Later on, I got saved. I still have my first Bible, and in it, is my re-birthday: February 5, 1982."

On the soccer team, Gonzalez had a hard time standing out athletically, but he still showed he had as much heart as anyone on the team. He had flyers made and put them up around the

school, inviting fellow students to come to the games.

In February 1984, Gonzalez was reminded of a childhood dream he had – to go to the Olympics. He watched footage of the Sarajevo Winter Games and saw American Scott Hamilton take the gold medal in men's singles figure skating.

"I thought, 'If he can do it, then I can do it.' I was only good enough to be a soccer bench warmer, but I believed. That's the power of belief," Gonzalez said. "I went to the HBU library, and first, I looked up the summer sports. It took me five minutes to realize I would have to be a super athlete to do that. My nickname in high school was 'Bulldog' because I was very tenacious. I thought, 'I have to find a sport that's so tough, a sport with so many broken bones, that there will be a lot of quitters. Only I won't quit.'"

Gonzalez turned to winter sports and narrowed it down to three he could envision himself doing: the ski jump, bobsled and the luge. Ski jumping would be suicide, he thought, and bobsledding required three other people. That left the sport of luge, which he could compete in by himself.

From there, Gonzalez wrote Sports Illustrated a letter asking how a person went about learning how to luge. The magazine wrote back with information about a training center in Lake Placid, New York. Gonzalez immediately called

the center and talked with a man who wasn't eager to chat with Gonzalez at first. Most luge Olympians started practicing by age 10, he said. At 21, Gonzalez was quite behind.

"I kept him on the phone; hanging up wasn't an option," Gonzalez said. "I knew if I hung up the phone, it was all over. I happened to tell him that I was born in Argentina."

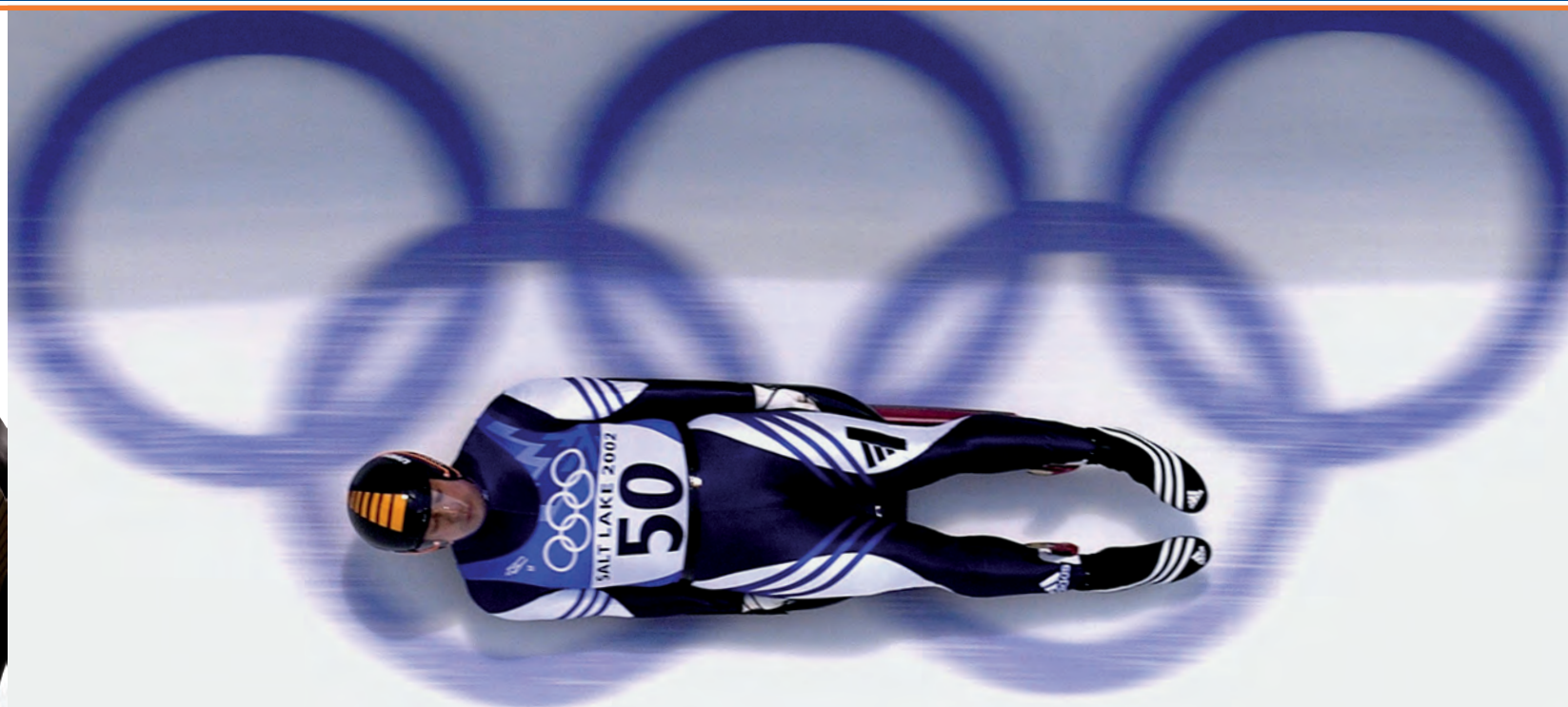
Immediately, the tone of the conversation changed. Gonzalez learned that the luge sport was on the verge of being eliminated from Olympic competition because there weren't enough countries participating. If Gonzalez would participate on behalf of Argentina, he could train with the American team.

"The man said, 'Okay, before you come to Lake Placid, you need to know it's brutal, and nine out of 10 people quit.' When he said that, I thought, 'This is perfect. It works right into my plan!'" Gonzalez said.

After garnering a near-impossible "yes" from the training center, Gonzalez traveled to Lake Placid to fulfill his Olympic dream. He soon learned that he would have to compress 10 years of training into two.

At first glance, the luge sport looks simple – lie back on a fiberglass sled and let the sleigh and gravity carry you. That's not exactly what it's like on an icy, three-quarter-mile track with 15 to 16 curves, going downhill at nearly 90 miles





per hour. Subtle and timely steering of the sled and physical strength are imperative. Due to breakneck speeds, the sport is infamous for producing broken bones and myriad injuries.

"It takes a lot of time to learn how to luge – it's very counterintuitive," Gonzalez said. "Whatever you do that is normal will get you in trouble. The first couple of years, I was crashing four out of five times. By the end of the second year, I was crashing about one out of a hundred runs."

During training, Gonzalez broke a foot twice, along with a knee, elbow, hand and thumb. But he kept coming back to train. "My mindset going in was that a broken bone was just a temporary inconvenience. You have to put on your mental armor," he said. "Everything is hard in the beginning. You have to be perseverant. You have to stay in the game long enough to learn new skills. Then you use those skills to reach your dream."

Gonzalez split his time between New York and Houston, doing odd jobs to keep himself afloat while he trained. By his fourth year, Gonzalez cracked the world's top 50 and went to his first Olympic games in Calgary, Alberta in 1988. It was a special year for Gonzalez; he reached his hard-earned dream of being an Olympian and graduated with his college degree from HBU. He went back to training and made the Albertville, France Olympics in 1992.

In 1993, he married his wife, Cheryl; the two had met working at a restaurant in Houston. Gonzalez quit the sport for a while and focused on building a career. Preceding the 2002 games in Salt Lake City, Utah, his former coach called him. Not only did Gonzalez go back and train, but his brother, Marcelo, went too. They both competed in the Olympics.

A simple invitation to speak at an elementary school became another transformative moment in Gonzalez's journey. After returning from the Salt Lake City games, he thought he was going to provide a simple show-and-tell-style description about the Olympics to students.

"The principal took me to the auditorium and told me I had 45 minutes to speak," Gonzalez remembers. "I said a prayer, 'God, what do I do now?' Then I told the story of how I became an Olympian and gave them some pointers to help them reach their goals and dreams. Afterward, the principal said, 'You're better than the people we pay. You have a gift.' I was selling copiers in downtown Houston. For the next three days, I thought about what he said. On the third day, I quit my job. I figured that if I could sell a copier, I could sell a Ruben too."

That launched a speaking and writing career for Gonzalez that took off. Leading up to the 2010 Vancouver games, the Olympic bug bit him again, and Gonzalez became the first winter

Olympian to compete in four different decades. At age 47 in Vancouver, many people thought Gonzalez was a coach. "The Olympic village is just like college – everybody's in their early 20s," he said.

After a seven-year training break, at the age of 55, Gonzalez went back to Calgary to train in 2017. "I was sliding better than ever," he said. "Mentally, I'm stronger."

With Beijing 2022 in his sights, Gonzalez is pushing himself to be the first winter Olympian to compete over the course of five decades. If he makes it, he will be 59 – the eldest winter Olympian ever.

Gonzalez's relentless drive has motivated many. He has spoken in more than 100 Fortune 500 companies. His bestselling books have been translated into more than 10 languages; hundreds of thousands of copies have been sold around the world. Based in Colorado Springs, Colorado with his wife and two children, he continues to influence others.

"I always wanted my life to be an adventure. I always wanted to be an inspiration to others," Gonzalez said. "Success is only the silver medal; the gold medal is significance – when you help other people become successful. I tell my kids you have to figure what your Olympics is. Just win the gold medal in whatever it is."

**Learn more at [TheLugeMan.com](http://TheLugeMan.com).**





## Beckham '14 Experiencing Professional Success Post-HBU

By John Holt

**F**or former HBU cross country and track and field athlete Jamie Whitt Beckham, life these days no longer includes running as it once did.

Running still means a significant deal to Beckham, yet she and her husband are expecting their first child in late April, and she's reasonably had to shift her attention away from the sport.

"I don't run and compete as much as I used to," Beckham said in late January, "but I do CrossFit now with my husband. That's a big part of what we do every day. We're there every day after work at the gym."

Staying physically fit, as well as giving 100 percent maximum effort, has been a staple for Beckham throughout her life. Whether it was a 6 a.m. college practice, or nowadays an 8 a.m. patient session in her professional career as an occupational therapist at TIRR Memorial Hermann in The Woodlands, Beckham continues to give nothing less than her best.

"That was the biggest lesson growing up and in college – just to be dedicated to something and give it your all," she said.

Beckham's primary motivation centers toward her work as an occupational therapist. She largely

works with pediatric patients, but also sees adult patients at times. Typically, she meets with seven to eight patients per day, and the patients she treats suffer from disorders or diagnoses ranging from autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injuries, Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM), Parkinson's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

"My job as an occupational therapist is to meet a patient where they are now after a traumatic life event. With kids, it starts at birth, mostly," Beckham said. "Just trying to help patients thrive and be as independent as possible. Really highlight their strengths and help them with their weaknesses. Help them to know that they can do what they want to do. It may look different now, but it's still possible."

Goals are established during every first patient session initial evaluation, and one of Beckham's challenges is to stay creative for those goals to get accomplished.

"With the kids, if you don't know what their interests are or what they'll attend to, you're not going to

get anywhere with them," Beckham said. "You have to be creative, and make it fun and entertaining for them to actually engage with you. It's the same for the adults. If I'm just doing monotonous little activities, it's not meaningful to them."

"I really try to get to the bottom of what is it that they want to do. It may not be in line with what I think they should be doing, but I'm going to look at what their goals are and help them achieve what's important to them, because if not, it's just a waste of time."

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*As more life changes will continue coming her way, Beckham's outlook is stronger than ever.*

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Since graduating from Houston Baptist in 2014, plenty of major changes have transpired for Beckham. She is now married, carries a master's degree from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, works at a prestigious rehabilitation hospital, and is preparing for life as a mother.

She credits HBU for helping her get



# Southland Gives Back

*HBU student-athletes once again partner with Special Olympics Bowling*



**T**here were 45 HBU student-athletes who volunteered at the Special Olympics Bowling event in December at Copperfield Bowling Center on the city's northwest side. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) coordinated the Huskies' participation for the fourth time in the past five years.

The student-athletes escorted the participants in the opening ceremonies, provided moral support and cheered them on at each individual lane throughout the competition. The Huskies were able to have many meaningful conversations with the athletes and their families.

"The kids enjoyed spending time with our student-athletes, especially since they were the youngest individuals there," Heather Wyatt, HBU's assistant director of Compliance and SAAC advisor, said. "Some of the student-athletes were able to jump in and play a few frames with the kids, which gave them even greater joy and the ability to interact."

Special Olympics Texas is a year-round movement, holding more than 300 competitions annually on area, regional and state levels. Event divisions are based on age, gender and ability level to give athletes an equal chance to win. Each participant receives a medal or ribbon following their events.

The SAAC committee worked in conjunction with the "Southland Gives Back" initiative, the conference's league-wide holiday service project, which is now in its 12th year. The Huskies have enjoyed working with Special Olympics Texas, working the bowling event from 2014 to 2016, and returning this year after volunteering at the Houston Food Bank following Hurricane Harvey.

Additionally, the track and field team volunteered at the 39th Annual Jingle Bell Express run by the Christian Community Service Center to provide new toys, books and holiday food packages to underprivileged children and their families.

to where she is today and remains appreciative of the opportunities the school provided her.

"A lot of the academics, they challenged me," Beckham said of her college experience. "Academics as well as being who I was as an athlete, as a student, as a Christian, just really letting me establish that, and knowing what I wanted to do and exploring all the different avenues to get there."

As more life changes will continue coming her way, Beckham's outlook is stronger than ever and she's developed a clear understanding of

perspective in the process.

"With my career," Beckham said, "I chose it because there's learning to be done daily. There's always going to be something to learn. New techniques, there's going to be new diagnoses. Always keeping up with what's new out there because I want to provide the best care for my patients."

"As a person, I am now having a baby. It sounds terrible, but I only see bad things. You know, what bad could happen to an individual at work? I never see kids that are healthy, happy, like typically

developing kids. I only see adults that have had traumatic life events happen. I always tell people that you love them because you never know when you won't be able to again, or when your life is going to change completely from going to work, and the next day you've had a stroke and you can't do anything on your own. So it's about just living life to the fullest, but also being responsible and healthy."

Beckham's done that and more, and her forever Husky Family commends her for her success and efforts.





## HBU Men's Basketball Brings North Carolina to Sharp Gym

If you take a look at the HBU men's basketball roster from the 2018-19 season, something besides a number of very tall college athletes might stand out to you. The Huskies' roster features four players who call North Carolina home, and a fifth who spent his high school years in the Tar Heel State. That's nearly as many players (six) as the Huskies have from Texas.

As you can probably guess, it's no accident that five underclassmen on the HBU roster all came from the same state.

"This relationship with the North Carolina recruits started several years ago when we were able to identify some guys who we felt fit our program, on the court and off the court, very well," said Head Men's Basketball Coach Ron Cottrell. "It kind of grew from there as we went over to see guys and build a reputation in recruiting players over there. We identified the area as a really good basketball environment for high school guys who are quality people and high academic guys who love the sport and felt comfortable as we went through the recruiting process coming to HBU."

First came the three sophomores on the roster, Ian DuBose, Oliver Lynch-Daniels and Philip McKenzie. DuBose grew up in Durham, NC and attended the Ravenscroft School in nearby Raleigh, while Lynch-Daniels is from Chapel Hill but attended high school at Oak Hill Academy, a few hours from home and just across the state line in Virginia. For McKenzie, he

was already far from home as he grew up in Nassau, in the Bahamas. McKenzie began attending the Cannon School as a sophomore in high school, living in a new country with host families.

When he began to be recruited by the HBU coaching staff, McKenzie mentioned the family feel of the staff and team as a deciding factor. He said, "With HBU, it was the family aspect. As someone coming from the Bahamas, and my parents still live there, I spent a lot of time going from host family to host family in North Carolina. It was important to be able to go with people you trust. When I came to HBU and talked with the coaching staff, I felt like I could trust them. I felt like HBU would be a good place where I could grow."

For the 2018-19 season, the Husky coaching staff signed two more players in Benjamin Uloko and Qon Murphy. Uloko came from Clemmons, NC while Murphy came from Cornelius, NC and attended the same school as McKenzie. Murphy already knew a few of the guys and remembered playing against others, and as he said, it helped make the decision to come to Houston easier.

"Just knowing that those guys were down here made it a lot easier for me," Murphy said. "Knowing that change, we all kind of made it together, going through the same thing of being far from home, it was something that helped us bond going through it together."

Cottrell added, "I think it's been great for those guys to have each other as a support





system." He also said, "They built a culture right off the bat because they all knew each other playing against or with each other through AAU ball or in high school. They brought in a chemistry among themselves that kind of spread throughout our program with guys who really do care about each other, number one, and who really like our institution and being part of our culture as a school as much as a basketball program."

It wasn't all basketball that drew the student-athletes to Houston. As DuBose noted, "The city has a lot of opportunities to offer, like medical opportunities with the Medical Center so close. The various universities in the city and different opportunities in the city are great. After basketball and after school there are a lot of people and businesses you can connect with in Houston, so that was a big thing that I looked at."

All five also mentioned the University's strong academic reputation as an important factor as well, with Murphy specifically mentioning the pros of the class sizes at HBU while Uloko and Lynch-Daniels noted the school's academics holding up to, not only their own scrutiny, but also their families'. All three sophomores were recognized by the Southland Conference as part of the Commissioner's Honor Roll after their freshmen seasons.

McKenzie helped sum things up by noting a shared desire to represent the state of North Carolina during their time at HBU: "It felt like being part of something bigger. When you find out there's a group of guys coming from your state it feels like a responsibility on your shoulders. The coaches are bringing you all in because they believe in you and that puts a responsibility on you. You represent for the other guys, their homes, and for me, my second home. It's kind of like bringing North Carolina with us to HBU and wearing that flag on our shoulders. I feel that way about the Bahamas, too."



## Fall Awards

Senior middle blocker, Kayla Davenport, was named to the Google Cloud CoSIDA Academic All-America Volleyball Team, earning the 11th such honor across all sports in HBU history. The Columbus, Texas, native was also a Google Cloud CoSIDA Academic All-District and Academic All-Southland Conference selection. Sophomore outside hitter, Mikayla Vivens, and senior setter, Madison O'Brien, were each chosen to the All-Southland Conference Team, and Vivens was named to the Southland All-Tournament squad.

Women's soccer sophomore defender, Megan Rickert, senior defender, Baylii Bieke, and senior forward, Sabriah Spencer, were named Academic All-Southland Conference honorees after each of the three were selected to the league's All-Conference Team. They were joined on the All-Conference Team by senior goalkeeper, Alanis Guevara.

Men's soccer had 10 student-athletes named to the Academic All-Western Athletic Conference Team.

Senior Darrell Johnson and juniors, Dequan Thomas and Tim Watson, each earned the third honor of their careers, while sophomores Dominic Faletto and Gianluca Natera, junior Khalil Thomas, and seniors Josue Palomino and Gabriel Camera, each earned their second honor. Junior Thomas Menke and sophomore Jordi Cobo picked up their first awards. Johnson, Faletto, Menke, Thomas and Natera were joined on the All-Conference Team by senior Devon Grant and sophomore Jorge Cabrera.



# Alum-A-Grams

## 1960s

**John Gillespie '67**, president of Gillespie Global Group, recently translated a new book written by Yomota Inuhiko called "Portrait of Ōno Yoshito."



**Diann '69 and Rike '68 Allen** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a surprise party given by their daughters, Dr. Natalie Hegwood and Angela Hogue, at the Coventry Clubhouse in Spring on January 5. A beautiful plaque commemorating the event was created by their third daughter, Alicia Haynes.

**Brenda Maddox '69** retired from teaching in 2017 and is enjoying her time traveling. Her son and daughter-in-law are HBU alumni as well.

## 1970s

**Paula Hudgins '76** recently retired as a psychiatric nurse practitioner for Medoptions. She plans to travel and enjoy her grandkids.

**The Honorable Jerry Zimmerer '78** was elected to the 14th Court of Appeals, Place 3, for a six-year term.

## 1980s



**Randy Sorrels '84**, partner of the Houston personal injury law firm of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz and president of the State Bar of Texas, is the 2018 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from South Texas College of Law Houston.

**Edia L. Velez '84**, a bilingual children's author, is publishing her fifth bilingual children's book, "The Story of David."

**John Wallace '84** is now the president at SalesRize LLC.



**Laura Richard '85** was elected for a second term as county clerk for Fort Bend County in November. Prior to being county clerk, Laura was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4.

**SAVE the DATE** **HUSKIES** **8-30-19**  
**GIVE BIG**





◀ **Benny Agosto, Jr. '86**, a partner at the Houston personal injury law firm of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz, has achieved Life Fellows membership status in the Texas Bar Foundation.

## 1990s

**Joey Serralta '93** serves as CEO/president of the Puerto Rico Soccer League and was inducted into the Puerto Rico Soccer Hall of Fame Class of 2007.

**Martin "Randy" Wuensche Jr. '93** is now the coordinator of Assessment and Accountability for Brazosport ISD.

**Ryan Thomas '98** is starting his Kellogg EMBA at Northwestern University in January.

**Russell Cravens '99** was recently listed on the 12 Books Every Man in Their 40s Should Read list. His book, "Living Connected: Experiencing Healthy Family on Mission" addresses meaningful, healthy relationships.

## 2000s

**Lori Waguspeck Kern '02** was named in the Houstonia Top Lawyers of 2018. Lori practices adoption, marital and family law.

**Gregory Rodriguez '02**, currently superintendent of schools in the Carlsbad Municipal Schools District in New Mexico, has been picked for the school district's next deputy superintendent.



▶ **Sammy '04 and Beth Ramos '05**, along with their three children and a handful of other families, have planted a new church in Houston. Cistern Church launched Sunday services on January 13, 2019 at Parker Elementary in Houston.

**Stephanie Torreno '06** released a book entitled, "Keeping My Balance: A Memoir of Disability and Determination."

## 2010s

**Chelsea Hardy Lerner '10** directed "A Christmas Carol, the Musical" by Stageworks Theatre in December. She is also performing with Main Street Theater as a children's theater performer, and she will direct "Drowsy Chaperone," opening in February with Stageworks Theatre.

**Aaron Cox '12** recently started a new position as pastor to students at Northway Church in The Woodlands.

**Jeremy Klutts '13** received a promotion to business planning manager at Hewlett Packard Enterprise.

**Christine Yacoub '17**, with HBU faculty members, Dr. John Spoede, Dr. Ruth Cutting and Dr. Darby Hawley, recently published the article, "The Impact of Social

Media on Romantic Relationships" in the Journal of Education and Social Development.



▶ **Zachary Akin MA '18 and Hannah Lambert '18** were married in Loudon, Tennessee on December 28.





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LOOKING INTO BRINGING BACK THE  
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# Husky Pups



**Alex Hinojosa '97** and his wife welcomed their third little Husky, Anthony Silas, on July 18. He was five-and-a-half weeks early and has had two surgeries

to correct a congenital heart defect. A few months out of those surgeries, Silas is doing incredibly well.



On August 30, Jaemee and **Carlos Soto '10** welcomed Carlos Rene III to their family. They are so happy and grateful for the little gift of joy.



**Larry '08 and Lindsey '10 Mayberry** welcomed Selah Primrose Mayberry on November 17. Big brothers Micah (9), Noah (6), and Ezra (5) are in love with their new baby sister!



**Lesleigh and Josh Morton** welcomed James Austin Morton on January 22. He was 6 pounds, 14 ounces and 21 inches, and has brought incredible joy to his first-time parents and grandparents! Grandparents are Les and **Sharon Saunders**. Sharon is the vice president for

Advancement & University Relations and an '01 honorary alumna.



Lauren and **Bryan Porter '12** welcomed Kaycee Kristin Porter on December 26. Grandparents are Susan and **Clay Porter**. Clay is the senior director of Media Technology at HBU and an '08 honorary alumnus.



**Randy Sorrels '84** and Alex Farias-Sorrels welcomed Houston Sorrels on October 15. He was born weighing 9 pounds and 6 ounces, and was 21.5 inches long. Randy and Alex are blessed by this new bundle of joy.



**Emmelyn and Chris Stieb '12** welcomed Addelyn Joy on January 7. She is a precious little girl, and they are excited to be first-time parents.



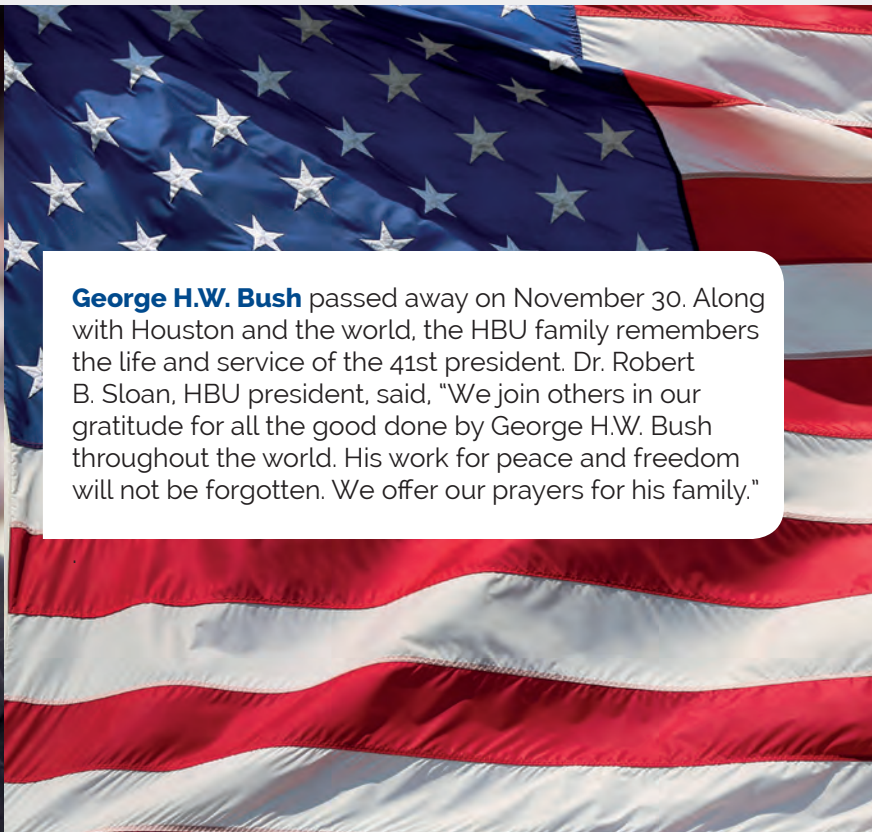
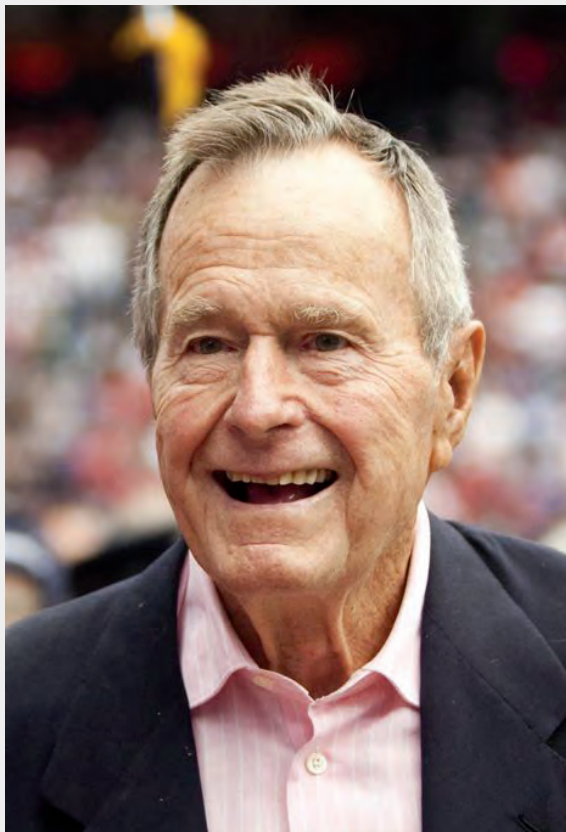


# IN MEMORIAM

A GOOD NAME IS MORE DESIRABLE  
THAN GREAT RICHES; TO BE ESTEEMED  
IS BETTER THAN SILVER OR GOLD.

PROVERBS 22:1

## FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY



**George H.W. Bush** passed away on November 30. Along with Houston and the world, the HBU family remembers the life and service of the 41st president. Dr. Robert B. Sloan, HBU president, said, "We join others in our gratitude for all the good done by George H.W. Bush throughout the world. His work for peace and freedom will not be forgotten. We offer our prayers for his family."



**Robert C. McNair** passed away on November 23. Dr. Robert B. Sloan, HBU president, said, "We at HBU join Houstonians and people all over the nation in mourning the loss of Robert McNair. His faith, lived out with compassion and integrity, has been a great example to us all. He leaves us all a legacy to be honored and followed. Our prayers are with Janice and their entire family." For more than two decades, HBU students have been the beneficiaries of his and Janice McNair's passion for providing quality education opportunities. Through the establishment of the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise in August 2016 at HBU, their vision for awakening a new generation of entrepreneurs while defending the moral and ethical underpinnings of the American competitive free enterprise system is realized. Additional locations on HBU's campus bearing their name include McNair Hall in the Morris Cultural Arts Center, McNair Plaza at Husky Stadium, and the grand entry hall of the Hinton Center. We are grateful for Mr. McNair's legacy.



## FORMER STUDENTS



**Merrily Lawson Ransom '69** departed this world to be with our Heavenly Father on December 15 at her home in Richmond. She worked as an accountant for several years and lived her entire life in the Richmond area. She is survived by husband, Real F. Ransom II, and her two daughters.

**William David Shoemake '72** of Belton passed away peacefully January 2 after a brave fight with cancer. Dave valued education, and after serving in the US Army and working for the Veteran's Administration, he became a teacher at Copperas Cove High School.



**Cliff McGee Jr. '89** passed away October 14. He is preceded in death by his father, Clifton McGee, Sr., and sister, **Cathy Neben '89**. He was an endowed academic scholar, earning a BS with Honors, and was honored with the HBU Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2002.



**Bradley Jones MED '03**, passed away in January. He worked in the Financial Affairs office at UTSA.

## FACULTY/EMPLOYEES

**Richard J. Snyder** passed away on November 9 in Wellington, FL. He held a long career in the energy industry and taught courses at Houston Baptist University as an adjunct professor.



**Oscar Turner III** passed away on January 15. Oscar graduated from Baylor University and attended Baylor Law School before receiving his law degree from South Texas School of Law in Houston. He served as the vice president of the

Office of Development and was married to Anna Claire Chavanne, a former HBU trustee.

**Bob Overton** passed away February 20. He was passionate that the Gospel was for all people and ministered at Rice Temple Baptist Church for more than 30 years. While pastoring, he began to teach classes as an adjunct professor for the seminary in its newly formed Houston campus at HBU. He also served as the moderator for the Union Baptist Association, a trustee at HBU, and as a member of the Texas Baptist Executive Board.





# THINK ABOUT IT...HBU



**December 24:**  
**Dr. Julie Fernandez**  
**Dean, COEBS**  
Dr. Julie Fernandez is dean of the HBU College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. Fernandez has served as the program coordinator of the Education Administration

Program and as the department chair of Leadership and Counseling at HBU. Fernandez has served the Texas education community for more than three decades, including extensive experience in K-12 education. She has both the knowledge and the heart to prepare effective educators and behavioral science professionals.  
[HBU.edu/p55-Fernandez](http://HBU.edu/p55-Fernandez)



**December 31, 2018:**  
**Jayme McGhan**  
**Dean, School of Fine Arts**  
Jayme McGhan joins HBU as the dean of the School of Fine Arts. He was most recently the director of the School of Stage and Screen at Western Carolina University. McGhan is

a nationally recognized playwright, theater artist and educator. His works have been produced and performed in numerous locations. McGhan is also an accomplished director, technical director, actor, set designer and lighting designer.  
[HBU.edu/p55-McGhan](http://HBU.edu/p55-McGhan)



**January 7, 2019:**  
**Dr. Michael Kenneth "Kenny" Holt**  
**Dean, Archie W. Dunham College of Business**  
Dr. Michael Kenneth "Kenny" Holt is the dean of the Archie W. Dunham College of Business. Holt brings a broad knowledge base

with a career spent in higher education, including in both educational and operational areas. Most recently, he was the dean of the Middle Georgia State University School of Business. His specialties include entrepreneurship and collaboration. He is a leader in the field of business regarding the integration of the Christian faith and business.  
[HBU.edu/p55-Holt](http://HBU.edu/p55-Holt)



**January 14, 2019:**  
**Dr. Craig Evans and Jerry Jenkins, Authors**  
Dr. Craig Evans is the John Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins at HBU. He is a

sought-after biblical scholar and New Testament expert. His books and teaching have encouraged many and led skeptics to faith in Jesus Christ.

Jerry Jenkins is a bestselling author of numerous books, including the famous "Left Behind" series. Together, they have collaborated to create the novel, "Dead Sea Rising."  
[HBU.edu/p55-Jenkins](http://HBU.edu/p55-Jenkins)



**January 21, 2019:**  
**Tyler Kelly, Student, Archie W. Dunham College of Business**  
Tyler Kelly is an HBU senior. During his time at HBU, he has been a defensive end on the HBU Football team. He is completing a degree in international business and plans to

go on for his master's degree. Tyler is known for designing and making homemade longboards, a tradition which began as a teenager with his father, Shannon Kelly. [HBU.edu/p55-Kelly](http://HBU.edu/p55-Kelly)



**January 28, 2019:**  
**Dr. Dan Kramlich**  
**Professor of Music, Program Coordinator for Piano Performance, School of Fine Arts**  
Dr. Dan Kramlich is a professor of Music and the program coordinator for Piano Performance for HBU's Department of Music.

Dr. Kramlich has served in HBU's Music program since 1981. He is an active pianist, playing in chamber recitals and leading church worship. His professional work includes commissioned orchestral work, a documentary film score, and a number of performance arrangements.  
[HBU.edu/p55-Kramlich](http://HBU.edu/p55-Kramlich)



**February 4, 2019:**  
**Jared Moon**  
**Head Coach, HBU Baseball**  
Jared Moon is the head coach of the HBU baseball team. He is HBU's all-time winningest baseball coach. Under his direction, the team has become a serious

Division I contender. As a Husky himself, Moon led the 1994 baseball team to their first-ever national ranking. He was inducted into the HBU Sports Hall of Honor in 2008. [HBU.edu/p55-Moon](http://HBU.edu/p55-Moon)



**February 11, 2018:**  
**Trent Franson**  
**Student, Archie W. Dunham College of Business**  
Trent Franson is an HBU junior and business major who is an infield player on the HBU baseball team. He is known as being a strong player who

has good barrel control and a feel for the strike



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zone. He packs a high-power hit, and has proven to be an integral member of the team. [HBU.edu/p55-Franson](http://HBU.edu/p55-Franson)



**February 18, 2019:**  
**Dr. Randy Hatchett**  
**Professor of Theology, School of Christian Thought**

Dr. Randy Hatchett is a professor of Theology in HBU's School of Christian Thought. His areas of specialty range from biblical interpretation

to philosophy. He represents the University in numerous speaking and preaching engagements. Dr. Hatchett has served as an interim pastor many times, and is cognizant of making teaching applicable. [HBU.edu/p55-Hatchett](http://HBU.edu/p55-Hatchett)



**February 25, 2019:**  
**Dr. Phillip Marshall**  
**Assistant Professor of Theology, School of Christian Thought**

Dr. Phillip Marshall is an assistant professor of Theology in the HBU School of Christian Thought. His areas of specialization are the Septuagint, textual

criticism, Hebrew and Greek grammar, and biblical exegesis. Dr. Marshall's teaching focus is Classical Biblical Hebrew and Hellenistic Greek; he teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate level. [HBU.edu/p55-Marshall](http://HBU.edu/p55-Marshall)



**March 4, 2019:**  
**Dr. Eric Johnson**  
**Director of the Gideon Institute of Christian Psychology and Counseling, COEBS**

Dr. Eric L. Johnson is the professor of Christian Psychology at HBU. He has taught for almost 30 years and published more than 50

articles and two books on Christian psychology. The founding director of the Society for Christian Psychology, he is the director of the Gideon Institute of Christian Psychology and Counseling, a new HBU program. [HBU.edu/p55-Johnson](http://HBU.edu/p55-Johnson)



**March 11, 2019:**  
**Sierra Humphrey**  
**HBU Softball player, College of Science and Mathematics**

Sierra Humphrey is a biology major, a softball player, a leader for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and is involved in Tri-Beta. She plans to attend medical school

upon her graduation. Humphrey is preparing for summer internship opportunities in the medical field. [HBU.edu/p55-Humphrey](http://HBU.edu/p55-Humphrey)



**March 18, 2019:**  
**Mary-Ellen Hall**  
**HBU Softball Coach, HBU Softball**

Mary-Ellen Hall is in her third decade as head coach of the HBU Softball team. Hall has racked up many wins, and led the Huskies through the return to NCAA Division I play.

Hall was a Husky herself, playing volleyball and graduating in 1988. Coach Hall is known for leading her players to successful competition and for encouraging academic achievement. [HBU.edu/p55-MHall](http://HBU.edu/p55-MHall)



**March 25, 2019:**  
**Mandi Humphrey**  
**Music Student, College of Fine Arts**

Mandi Humphrey is a senior Piano Performance major in the HBU Music Department. She holds memberships in Schola Cantorum and the Phi Theta

Kappa Honors Society, and has been involved in various leadership positions and organizations throughout her time at HBU. [HBU.edu/p55-MHumphrey](http://HBU.edu/p55-MHumphrey)



**April 1, 2019:**  
**Cheyenne DuPont**  
**Nursing Student, School of Nursing and Allied Health**

Cheyenne DuPont is a student in the HBU Nursing program and is president of the Nursing Student Association. [HBU.edu/p55-DuPont](http://HBU.edu/p55-DuPont)



**April 8, 2019:**  
**Saleim Kahleh**  
**Associate University Minister, Student Life**

Saleim Kahleh, HBU associate minister, is involved in leading Spiritual Life and Kaleo Discipleship programs. After being raised as a Muslim, Kahleh accepted Jesus Christ as a young

man. He graduated from HBU in 1984 and has served the HBU community faithfully. He is known for communicating profound truths in memorable ways, including his well-known "scarf illustration." [HBU.edu/p55-Kahleh](http://HBU.edu/p55-Kahleh)



**April 15, 2019:**  
**Dr. Angie Durand**  
**Assistant Professor of Education, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences**

Dr. Angie Durand serves as a program coordinator in the HBU College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Department

of Curriculum and Instruction. Her background includes teaching kindergarten in both public and private school settings, being in school administration, and helping prepare teachers as a university professor. [HBU.edu/p55-Durand](http://HBU.edu/p55-Durand)



**April 22, 2019:**  
**Dr. Khara Breeden**  
**Assistant Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing and Allied Health**

Dr. Khara Breeden is an HBU assistant professor of Nursing. As a past program manager of the Harris Health Forensic Nursing Department,

Breeden is passionate about serving abuse victims. She founded and runs the Harris County Forensic Nurse Examiners, which bridges the gap between victims, law enforcement agencies, and treatment organizations. [HBU.edu/p55-Breeden](http://HBU.edu/p55-Breeden)



**April 29, 2019:**  
**Lesha Wincher**  
**Student, Miss Houston, Archie W. Dunham College of Business**

Lesha Wincher is earning her MSHRM (Master of Science in Human Resources Management) from HBU. A graduate of Clear Brook High

School in Friendswood, Wincher obtained her bachelor's degree from the University of Houston, and was a Houston Texans cheerleader from 2013 to 2017. In 2018, she was crowned Miss Houston USA, and was the second runner-up at the state level. [HBU.edu/p55-Wincher](http://HBU.edu/p55-Wincher)



**May 6, 2019:**  
**Gil Ilutowich**  
**CEO and Chairman for Compedia**

Gil Ilutowich is co-CEO and chairman of the board for Compedia, an Israel-based technology company. Compedia specializes in immersive learning, bringing high-tech

engagement techniques that enable learners to interact with and absorb material. The company's creations include academic and religious curricula, professional and military training technologies, and more. [HBU.edu/p55-Ilutowich](http://HBU.edu/p55-Ilutowich)



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