

FALL 2014

# HBUNNEWS



## A DREAM BECOMES REALITY

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HOW THE REMARKABLE  
ACCOMPLISHMENT OF HUSKY FOOTBALL IS  
TRANSFORMING CAMPUS

> PG 22

First kick-off in #HuskyHistory





Dear Friends,

We have much to celebrate at HBU this fall. We have welcomed another record-breaking freshman class, and our undergraduate and graduate enrollments are at an all-time high. We have also welcomed a record number of exceptional new faculty, and we continue to expand our academic programs, enrich our student life experiences, and develop University facilities through implementation of our Master Plan.

If you have visited the campus recently, you have seen some of the exciting changes to the landscape, including the construction site for Belin Tower; the newly completed Belin Drive, which will provide access to the campus from US Highway 59; and, of course, the stands and other features of Husky Stadium completed prior to our first home football game on September 6. Hosting HBU's five home games in our new stadium this fall represents a milestone in University history, and we are extremely grateful to Archie and Linda Dunham, Robert and Janice McNair, and the many other University friends and donors whose commitment and generosity have allowed us to move forward in constructing this wonderful facility.

Head Coach Vic Shealy and his staff have worked hard to prepare our football athletes for their first official Southland Conference NCAA Division I FCS season, and crowds of enthusiastic Husky fans are turning out to support the team. These include numerous alumni who are re-engaging with the University while renewing ties with one another. As you will discover in the pages that follow, this issue of *HBU News* spotlights some of the exciting ways that football and our new stadium are impacting the campus. It also features an ad for our 2014 Spirit of Excellence Gala on November 11, where we will especially celebrate our fine arts and athletic programs and their roles in enriching student life experiences while helping to renew our campus and community. With legendary football coach Lou Holtz serving as our keynote speaker, the Gala promises to be a memorable event.

Other significant new developments involve our faculty and academic programs. Just recently the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges approved a variety of new graduate and undergraduate programs, including a Bachelor of Music in Keyboard Performance and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Multimedia Arts. We also continue to expand our online options—having launched HBU's first fully online Master of Education degree program last year—and plans are underway to offer a PhD in education within the next several years. In addition, we welcomed a record number of outstanding new faculty to our colleges and schools this fall, including Dr. Jeremiah Johnston, who has joined the exceptional group of scholars in our School of Christian Thought. HBU has entered into a collaboration agreement with Dr. Johnston's apologetics ministry, Christian Thinkers Society, and we look forward to the many benefits this partnership will bring not only to our students and our apologetics program but also to our community.

I know you will enjoy reading about many of these recent developments, all of which reflect progress toward the goals in our *Ten Pillars* vision. We have much to be thankful for this fall as HBU remains on track to become a national, comprehensive Christian university.

Blessings,

Robert B. Sloan Jr.

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AN EXCITING NEW PARTNERSHIP TO PUT HBU AND THE GOSPEL BEFORE MILLIONS



CURRENT AND FORMER HUSKIES FIGHTING SLAVERY ON THE FRONT LINES



FIRST FOOTBALL SEASON BRINGS NEW STADIUM AND INVIGORATES CAMPUS

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# Fall 2014 Class Sets New Enrollment Record

FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, total fall enrollment is the highest in University history, with 3,128 undergraduate and graduate students attending classes, an increase of 7.5% over last year's record of 2,910 students. Climbing 8.2% higher than last fall, freshman enrollment is also one for the record books, with 615 first-year students currently attending classes.

Graduate students continue to make up a considerable proportion of overall growth, with enrollment up 13.7% over last year.

Vice President for Enrollment Management James Steen said HBU is bucking the national trend. "According to data from the National Student Clearinghouse, four-year private colleges have

“**FOUR-YEAR PRIVATE COLLEGES HAVE SEEN GROWTH OF ONLY 1% SINCE 2012. IN THAT SAME PERIOD OF TIME, HBU HAS GROWN 20%.**”

seen growth of only 1% since 2012. In that same period of time, HBU has grown 20%," explained Steen.

He noted that improved year-to-year retention rates for every student population, including freshman and minority undergraduates, contributed to the new high for overall enrollment.

President Robert B. Sloan, Jr. attributes rising enrollment to several factors, particularly strong trustee support for the University's *Ten Pillars* vision. The twelve-year vision, adopted in 2008, includes a commitment to historic Christian faith combined with aggressive goals for improving student academic, social, and spiritual growth opportunities.

“**FRESHMEN ENROLLMENT IS ALSO ONE FOR THE BOOKS, WITH 615 FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS CURRENTLY ATTENDING CLASSES.**”

"We are reaping the benefits of greater public awareness of our outstanding faculty, the addition of new undergraduate majors and graduate programs, increasing visibility of our strong Honors College, and the strategic marketing and recruiting efforts of our admissions team," said President Sloan.



## A New Front Door

BELIN DRIVE & BELIN TOWER GROUNDBREAKING

**THE FORMAL GROUNDBREAKING** ceremony on May 13 for Belin Drive and Belin Tower marked an important milestone for the University. Though planning and preparations have been underway for several years, this project is the first stage of construction of HBU's Master Plan for expanded and upgraded academic, administrative, and recreational facilities on 30 acres at the corner of Fondren and US 59.

The project also includes bringing the necessary drainage, sewage, and electrical infrastructure up to code to lay the groundwork for future stages of the Master Plan.

Both the memorial tower and the new road are named in honor of HBU benefactors Mary Ann Belin and her late husband, Bruce. A successful real estate developer, Bruce helped construct the first administrative

*THE PROJECT MARKED THE FIRST STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION OF HBU'S MASTER PLAN.*

building in the early 1960s; he was later appointed to the Board of Trustees and eventually served as its Chair.

The Belins supported many critical projects over the years, including the Mary Ann Belin School of Nursing and Allied Health Simulation Lab, and the construction of The Morris Cultural Arts Center. Though Bruce passed away in 2011, Mary Ann continues to be a close friend of the University.

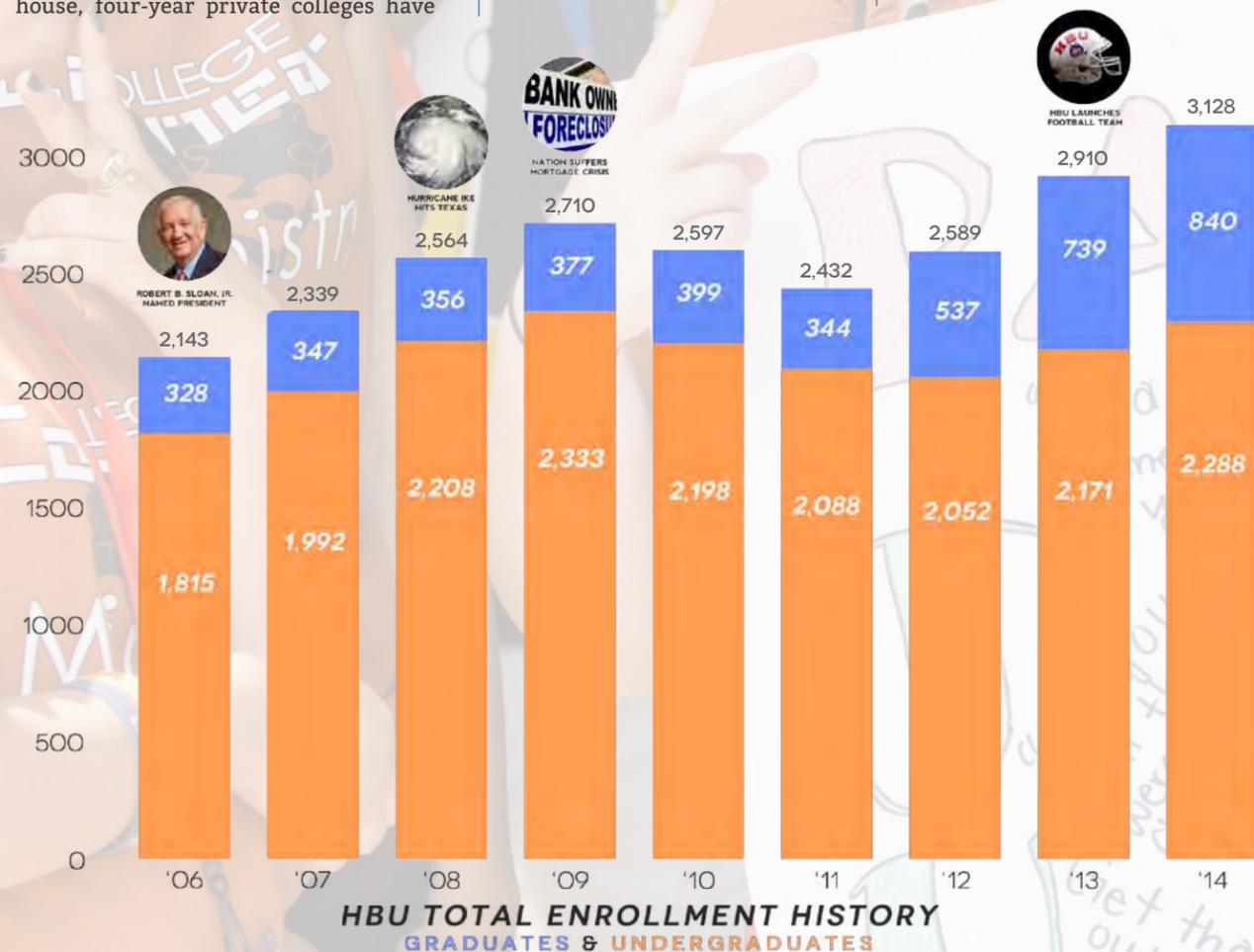
*THE TOWER WILL PROVIDE A STATELY ENTRANCE THAT MORE THAN 275,000 PASSING COMMUTERS CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE*

A scenic plaza and eight-story Georgian-style tower will provide a stately entrance that more than 275,000 passing commuters can't help but notice. The formerly incomplete street dubbed "the road to nowhere" now provides direct access from the US 59 entrance to the heart of campus, though it will remain closed off until January, when construction of the tower is expected to be complete.

HBU Vice President for Financial Operations Sandy Mooney noted that the road, now called Belin Drive, "will create a new front door for the University and connect our campus to the world that passes by everyday."



Sue Sloan, Mary Ann Belin, Robert Sloan



# Teaching Christians to Become Thinkers

## & Thinkers to Become Christians

AN INTERVIEW WITH JEREMIAH JOHNSTON

**THE MODERN CHURCH IS MALNOURISHED**, says New Testament scholar and Christian Thinkers Society (CTS) founder Dr. Jeremiah Johnston. Many Christians are biblically illiterate and theologically shallow, which has led to the tragic consequence of mass de-conversion across all denominations. The most fragile group, 18-34 year-olds, is abandoning the faith at alarming levels. But there is hope, says Dr. Johnston, because people are hungry for substantive answers to their questions and doubts.

Dr. Johnston joined HBU as an associate professor of early Christianity in July, adding still more firepower to the already formidable cadre of professors in the School of Christian Thought. In addition, HBU and Christian Thinkers Society have an exclusive agreement to work together on strategic initiatives to engage both believers and unbelievers with the historic truths of the Bible.



ALLEN CLARK PHOTOGRAPHY

### WHAT CONVINCED YOU OF THE NEED FOR A MINISTRY LIKE CHRISTIAN THINKERS SOCIETY (CTS)?

I was a teaching pastor in a large, vibrant church for ten years. After awhile, I began to notice that sincere Christians who attended church week after week, listening to sermon after sermon, did not understand their faith well enough to explain what and why they believed. As a consequence, the Church is ill equipped to provide the answers that seekers and objectors need. In short, CTS aims to teach

Christians to become thinkers and thinkers to become Christians.

### SO IS CTS ESSENTIALLY AN APOLOGETICS MINISTRY?

Yes, but I really don't like to use the term "apologetics" in nonacademic settings. The second I stand up and use that word I've lost 80% of the room because they think it's the science of how to apologize for something. I prefer to explain that we are helping Christians follow Jesus' command in Matthew 22:37 to love the Lord with all our heart,

soul, and mind. We also want to challenge people to doubt their doubts. We do that by commending the faith inside the Church and defending it outside the Church.

### SOME CHRISTIANS BELIEVE WE SHOULD TEACH AND DEFEND THE FAITH USING ONLY THE TEXT OF THE BIBLE. YOUR ACADEMIC BACKGROUND INCLUDES A FOCUS ON STUDYING EXTRA-BIBLICAL SOURCES IN ADDITION TO THE BIBLE. WHY DO YOU FEEL THOSE SOURCES ARE IMPORTANT?

When I was getting my Master of Divinity degree at Midwestern Seminary, I heard

Dr. Craig Evans give a presentation on the Dead Sea Scrolls. It was the first time I heard someone base their lecture on extra-biblical sources such as archaeology, coinage, and historical inscriptions to support the Bible. It was a seminal moment for me because I saw the power these different portals to the past can have for faith, especially in our postmodern, post-Christian culture.

### WHAT MAKES CTS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER MINISTRIES WITH SIMILAR GOALS?

Several things. First, we want people to interact with us at our events. I don't want to be just another talking head at the front of the room. People text questions and comments to us from their phones

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

## WAS JESUS THE PROMISED JEWISH MESSIAH?

DEBATE / NOV. 8 / 7 PM



**Rabbi Toviah Singer**  
Founder and Director of Outreach Judaism, author, Israeli radio show host



**Dr. Craig Evans**  
New Testament Scholar, author

Info & registration at [HBU.edu/SingerEvans](http://HBU.edu/SingerEvans)

HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

W. MARK LANIER



## CHRISTIANITY ON TRIAL

A LAWYER EXAMINES *the* CHRISTIAN FAITH

LECTURE / BOOK SIGNING  
THURSDAY NOV. 6

Houston Baptist University  
7 pm • Belin Chapel • 7502 Fondren





or computers during events and we try to address them. Second, we choose topics that everyday people are interested in. For example, the theme of one of our events was “Do Ghosts Exist? The Truth Behind Mediums and Psychic Phenomena.” Of course we also address traditional topics such as the evidence for Christ’s resurrection. Third, I bring in leading scholars and experts to dialogue with and answer questions. Fourth, we create an environment where atheists, agnostics, seekers,

at our first event in Kansas City in 2011. When more than 1,000 people showed up, I was shocked. In addition, people from more than 40 countries were also streaming the event online. The response has only grown since then.

Another thing I’m so pleasantly surprised about—and God gets all the glory for this—is that publishers are contacting me and saying we want to partner with you. One of them told me they have been producing lots



**CTS is unique in dealing with serious questions from a Christian perspective in a way that unites the academic, pastoral, and lay communities. As a partner with HBU, CTS speakers are tearing down the dividing wall between church and university; a wall that has deeply harmed both institutions.**

— PROVOST JOHN MARK REYNOLDS

and believers alike feel safe to ask questions. We make it fun and interesting; we don’t use “Christianese” language; and we are respectful to everyone. I think one of the big problems with some apologetics ministries is that they can come across as very condescending, even though that isn’t their intent.

**WHAT KINDS OF QUESTIONS DO PEOPLE ASK DURING LIVE EVENTS?**

One of the first questions I was ever asked was “If God created everything in the world and called it ‘good,’ then why can’t I smoke pot?” People loved that. The next question might be something really serious, like whether a relative who just committed suicide is condemned to hell. Then someone might ask why people say “God bless you” after you sneeze. The feedback we’ve had is that people really appreciate the freedom to ask any question that is on their mind.

**WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU MOST SINCE YOU LAUNCHED CTS?**

Frankly, I’ve been overwhelmed with the response. I expected fewer than 100 people

of Christian “fluff” over the years because that was what the market demanded. The popular response to CTS has proven to publishers that a lot of Christians really are interested in meaty, theologically-sound content.

**CTS DEVELOPED A STRONG FOLLOWING WITHIN A SHORT TIME ALL ON ITS OWN. WHY PARTNER WITH HBU?**

The center of credibility in our post-modern, post-Christian culture is the university, so being a resident institute at a vibrant liberal arts university like HBU gives us a layer of credibility that many apologetics ministries simply don’t have. In addition, when I do debates and engage in dialogue, I don’t want to be like Tim Tebow without a football team. I’m a Bible scholar, and I need to be on faculty somewhere for accountability and to have colleagues who help keep my scholarship



vibrant and fresh. Being affiliated with a university also allows CTS to straddle academia and a popular audience in a way that is distinctive.

**TELL US MORE ABOUT THE EVENTS HBU AND CTS ARE LINING UP.**

Plans are in the works for a multi-city conference tour over the next several years. Each event will address different issues of faith and culture and will feature prominent Christian leaders, culture influencers, and scholars. As always, people will be able to ask questions and be part of the dialogue. In the near-term we have two exciting on-campus events coming in November (see previous page).

**WHAT OTHER PROJECTS CAN WE LOOK FORWARD TO FROM THE HBU/CTS COLLABORATION?**

We just signed an agreement with LifeWay to produce a six-week group Bible study series called “How Do You Explain That?” It will be available in November 2015. This study will address the most common themes from the more than 4,000 questions we’ve received during our live events.

Topics will include questions about the Bible, Christ’s resurrection, evil and suffering, post-traumatic stress and other mental issues, and paranormal phenomena.

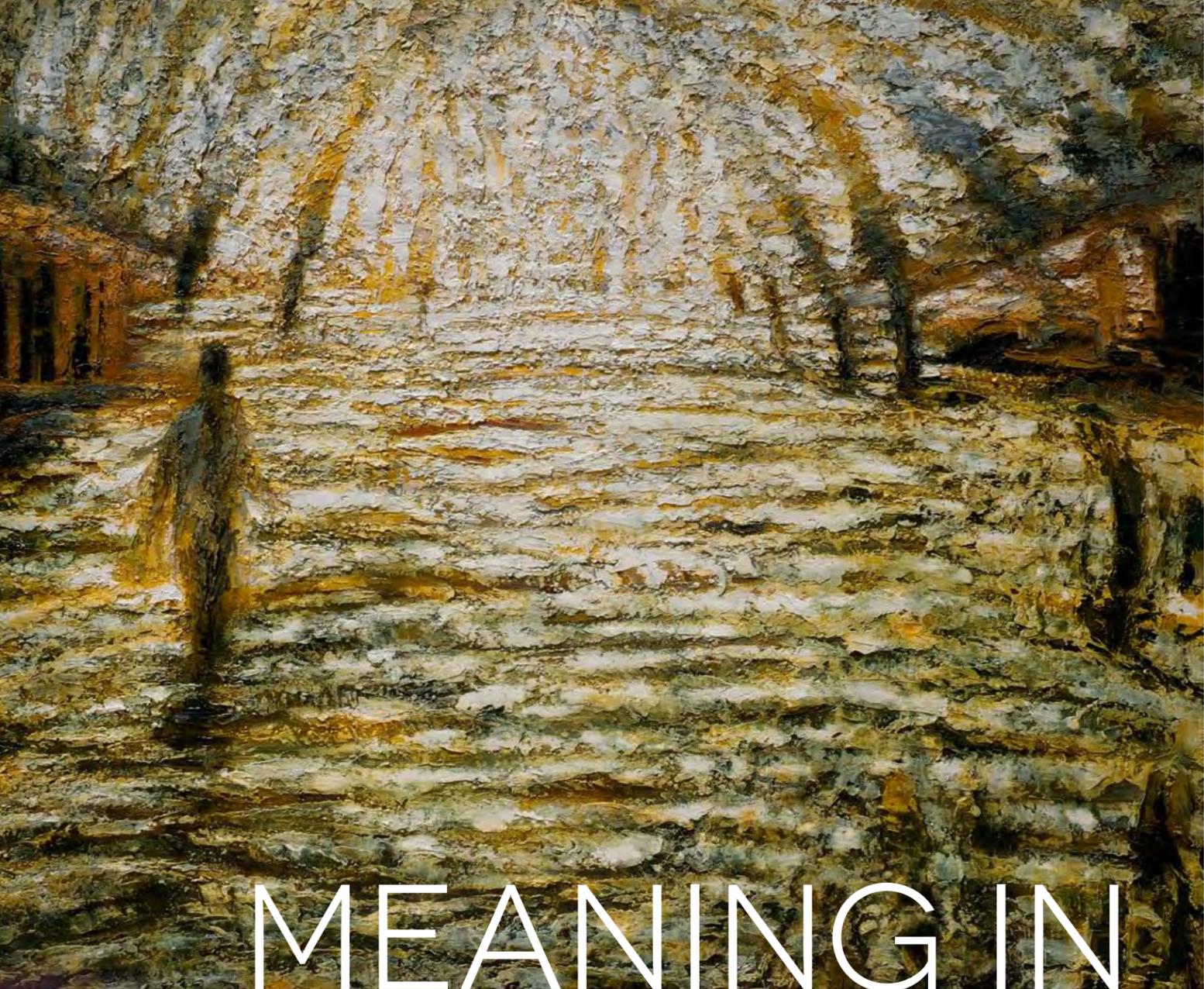
I’m most excited about the Certificate of Christian Studies we are developing in conjunction with Logos Bible Software.

**“we create an environment where atheists, agnostics, seekers, and believers alike feel safe to ask questions”**

[SEE MORE @ CHRISTIANTHINKERS.COM](http://CHRISTIANTHINKERS.COM)

I have a heart for all of the airline pilots, schoolteachers, stay-at-home moms, and retirees who have read their Bibles through and want to go deeper, but don’t have the time or resources for a traditional seminary education. HBU and CTS are partnering to fill this void by providing self-paced, internet-based biblical training that will teach ordinary believers how to answer the top 50 questions used to argue against the Christian faith. HBU professors will help develop a strong curriculum that includes theology, history, Bible study, apologetics, and Christian ethics through interactive, online learning.

There will be two tracks, one for laypeople and one for leaders such as junior high pastors or even senior pastors. Those who successfully complete the course will be invited to come to the HBU campus to take part in a commencement ceremony to honor their completion of advanced biblical studies. The certificate can also be used towards degree course credit at HBU, though we are still working out the details.



# MEANING IN MYSTERY

BY DR. J. MATTHEW BOYLESTON  
DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS



THE ROTHKO CHAPEL AT THE MENIL MAY BE HOUSTON'S BEST KNOWN AND MOST REPRESENTATIVE ARTWORK. THERE IS A GOOD REASON FOR THIS. ITS VAST BLACK CANVASES ARE AS BIG AS TEXAS AND AS BLACK AS CRUDE OIL. BUT I CONSIDER THE WORK OF ANOTHER ARTIST MORE FITTING TO WHAT HOUSTON BOTH IS AND CAN BE: THE WORK OF HBU ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE AND CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS, **MICHAEL ROQUE COLLINS**.



**HIS LIFETIME OF ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT** was recently recognized in *Beyond Earth's Rhythms*, Collins's 50th career solo exhibition at the prestigious LewAllen Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Kenneth R. Marvel, gallerist at LewAllen Gallery describes the project of Collins's paintings this way: "Collins elucidates a firm resolve that prospects for transformation—regrowth for the earth, well-being for man—lie just beyond the fields of ravage." The message of Collins's art is one of redemption and salvation.

"For Collins, there is always meaning in mystery," says Marvel.

Collins's work reflects the vibrant colors and tropical palate of the Gulf Coast and explores the open spaces of the Texas countryside. His early drawings and watercolors revolved around the observations of people, places, and things, and showed a strong classical and representative foundation.

Over his career, Collins has evolved into a post-symbolist painter where abstraction and figuration fuse together to heighten a sense of mystery.

In his latest work, nature and time slowly erode the classical ruins of a civilization long fallen. This work warns against the hubris of a world whose sole focus is our im-

mediate gratification in the here-and-now and ignores God's rhythms and his ultimate plan.

Collins's work is grounded in God's spiritual purpose. In his introduction to the book *From Ruins to Resurrection: Sacred Landscapes of Michael Roque Collins*, HBU artist and curator-in-residence Jim Edwards identifies the light in Collins's paintings as "God's light that shines down upon a charred and parched landscape."

Building upon success, Collins has had a recent acquisition of his painting *The Gathering* (1989-1998) added to the permanent collection of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, Louisiana.

This spring the Detroit Holocaust Memorial Center and Museum are featuring the exhibit *Never Let it Rest—Sojourns in the Shadowlands* by Collins and fellow HBU professor Hans Molzberger.

The works in this two-person exhibition again connect with the notion that light is a healing catalyst in nature.



Collins describes this latest exhibit as "a culmination of a lifetime's exploration of illumination ascending from darkness. It is God's light in nature that is the sentinel and inner power that leads us to salvation and renewal."

# FACULTY FOCUS

The HBU News editorial team sifts through dozens of faculty announcements. We are proud to pass on only a sampling of what our scholars are up to beyond the campus gates

**DR. ERIC VAN CAEMELBECKE**, professor of chemistry, co-authored a peer-reviewed paper about his collaborative research with University of Houston chemists. The “Effect of Axial Ligands on the Spectroscopic and Electrochemical Properties of Diruthenium Compounds” appeared in the journal *Inorganic Chemistry* 53, 2014.

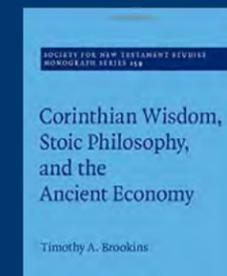
**DR. STEPHANIE ELLIS**, chair of the Department of Leadership and Counseling, and Dr. **CYNTHIA SIMPSON**, dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, along with two colleagues, recently published a chapter in the second edition of the *Handbook of Group Counseling and Psychotherapy* titled “Group Counseling Services for Persons with Disabilities.”



**DR. RHONDA FURR**, professor of music, had four organ compositions published by Fred Bock Music Company. The majestic work for organs based on “Holy, Holy, Holy” will be released in solo sheet music. This composition was dedicated to Dr. Robert Sloan and premiered when the Smith Organ was installed. Three additional works for organ are combined in a single volume and are based on the following hymn tunes: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past,” “Be Thou My Vision,” and “Rejoice the Lord is King.”

**DR. GARY HARTENBURG**, director of the Honors College and assistant professor of philosophy, was one of six scholars chosen to attend a weeklong master class on selected texts by Plato and Aristotle at Yale University. The class was sponsored by the *Journal of the History of Philosophy* and taught by Yale professor Dr. Verity Harte.

**DR. TIMOTHY BROOKINS**, assistant professor of classics and biblical languages, published *Corinthian Wisdom, Stoic Philosophy, and the Ancient Economy*, in the Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series, published by Cambridge University Press.



**Professor Mary Jo Sharp**, assistant professor of apologetics, had a summer packed with speaking engagements, including four appearances at the Summit Worldview Camp in Colorado for high school through college-age students and a week-long training event at the Ravi Zacharias Summer School in Vancouver, British Columbia. Sharp was recently featured in a blog series by the newly appointed Southern Baptist Convention President, Ronnie Floyd, who quoted from her 2014 Bible Studies for Life contribution *Resilient Faith*.



**DR. LEVON HAYRAPETYAN**, professor in business, and **DR. MOHAN KURUVILLA**, dean of the School of Business, co-wrote a paper entitled “Interactive Spreadsheets for Abstract Statistical Concepts,” which was presented in April at the International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines Conference held in Dallas.

**PATRICK MOORE**, director of bands, had two new music pieces published by Alfred Publishing Company: “25 or 6 to 4” by Chicago for steel band, and “Locked Out of Heaven” by Bruno Mars for percussion ensemble. These pieces, along with “Dreaming With a Broken Heart” by John Mayer arranged for steel band, will be cataloged at Yale University Music School Library and listed on the school programmable repertoire list.



**JOSHUA SIKORA**, director of HBU’s Cinema & New Media Arts program, released a new short film as part of *The Seventh Spectrum* anthology, an online series he created and produces for Hulu and WebSeries.com. “Nova” was produced over the last year and poetically chronicles one man’s efforts to preserve his life’s work in the final hours before our sun goes supernova. Sikora’s independent, low-budget films and series have proven to be quite competitive on the site, often outperforming many popular network TV shows.

**DR. YURI YATSENKO**, professor of business, presented the plenary talk “Environmental Games with Adaptation and Mitigation” at the Fifth Workshop on Game Theory in Energy, Resources, and Environment at the University of Montréal in May. The talk reflected his research results as published in the journals *Environmental and Resource Economics*, *Ecological Economics*, and *Climate Change Economics* in 2012-13.

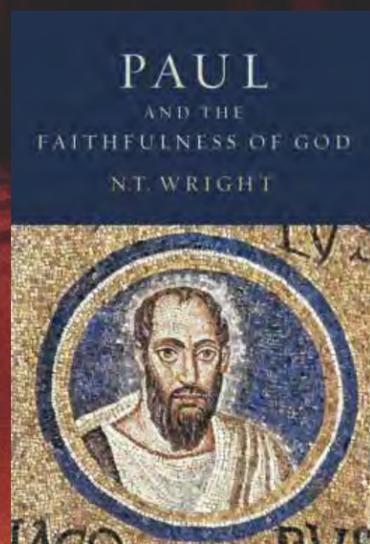
**NANCY PEARCEY**, professor of apologetics and scholar-in-residence, delivered two presentations in March at the annual “Reasons” apologetics conference. Her talks addressed “Stealth Secularism in the Classroom: Evolution in the Arts and Humanities,” and “Darwinism and Ethics: Arguing for Sexual Truth in a Secular Age.” Pearcey also appeared in the movie *Irreplaceable*, produced by Focus on the Family as part of its Family Project.



N. T. Wright  
Former Anglican Bishop of Durham

## HBU Hosts Celebrated New Testament Scholar

He related the findings of his two-volume work, *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*, which is the culmination of more than three decades of research into the apostle and his writings. At the heart of Wright’s study is the conclusion that Paul’s entire theological perspective was shaped by a Jewish mindset. Thus, rather than viewing Christianity as a breaking away from Judaism, Paul saw it as a fulfillment of God’s long-awaited promises to restore Israel and the world through the Messiah.



Other keynote speakers included Beverly Roberts Gaventa of Baylor University and Ross Wagner of Duke Divinity School. In addition to these esteemed presenters, a number of scholars and graduate students presented papers related to the apostle Paul’s theology and practice within his Jewish context.

HBU’S DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY hosted one of the foremost New Testament scholars in the world at its annual conference in March. N. T. Wright, author of more than 60 books and professor of New Testament and early Christianity at the University of St Andrews, gave the opening and closing talks.

# MODERN DAY

# ABOLITIONISTS



Adam Cheney, Mobilization Director

**"THE COMBINATION OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND RICH COMMUNITY LIFE AT HBU HAS EQUIPPED ME TO BE A MORE EFFECTIVE MODERN DAY ABOLITIONIST IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING."**

# ABOLITIONISTS

her family. She had always thought the Cozy Health Spa didn't look very cozy, but she had no idea what really went on there. "It was a big awakening for me," said Lily. "These places are so hidden and yet out in the open." Now that she knows, Lily is compelled to do something to help women and girls trapped in trafficking. A psychology major, her deep desire is to help women escape prostitution and provide counseling to help them heal and transition to a new life. She currently volunteers with a ministry called **ELIJAH RISING**, and is just one of numerous HBU students and alumni working with them to combat sex trafficking in Houston.

Quiet-spoken **JUSTIN WALL '12** also got involved in fighting the commercial sex trade while he was a student at HBU. An accountant by day, Justin volunteers with Elijah Rising evenings and weekends to

WE'VE PRAYED WITH MEN WHO WERE ABOUT TO GO INTO A BROTHEL, BUT INSTEAD GAVE THEIR LIVES TO CHRIST IN THE PARKING LOT

reach out to exploited victims, the men who buy sex, and even pimps. After seeing God do extraordinary things through outreach teams, he is hooked. "We often pray for three hours before going out, and the Lord gives us so much favor," said Justin. "We've prayed with men who were about to go into a brothel, but instead gave their lives to Christ in the parking lot and left filled with joy. We've stopped drunken men to talk with them, and they became sober and listened to us. It's amazing!"

Justin has also worked with Elijah Rising to do surveillance work and gather evi-

dence proving many massage parlors are fronts for prostitution rings. One such business, an Asian brothel called Angela's Day Spa, was just off the Southwest Freeway, not far from campus. Armed with the boldness of the Holy Spirit, the mild-mannered 24-year-old helped gather evidence that persuaded the landlord to evict his tenants and lease the building to Elijah Rising for a fraction of the rent. Once a hotbed of violence, sexual exploitation, and untold degradation, the building is now a house of prayer and a training center for combating trafficking.

Such victories are heartening, but **SAMANTHA SMITH HERNANDEZ '12** was frustrated when she thought about how many trapped women and young girls weren't being reached. Though she and others were faithfully reaching out to women trapped in brothels, there were far too many for staffers and volunteers to minister to on a regular basis. That's when she realized "you can never do enough on your own. It has to be the Lord." Shortly thereafter, God gave her an idea that became the Houston 300 Challenge, which encourages churches to adopt one of the more than 300 brothels Elijah Rising has identified within city limits.

Participating churches begin with fasting and prayer, and then get training to do various levels of outreach, including praying on-site, talking to and praying with the women, and ultimately offering a way out of captive prostitution. By God's grace, the first church that partnered with Elijah Rising shut down two brothels in just five months. Currently, ten churches have joined the 300 Challenge, and Samantha is working to recruit more.

Thanks to a booming economy that has defied the national trend for years, Houston lands at or near the top of many desirable rankings. In fact, the Houston Visitors Bureau website lists more than 50 third-party awards and rankings bestowed on Houston since 2011. For example, *Business Insider* named Houston the Best City in America; *The New York Times* ranked Houston 7th on its list of 46 Places to Go; and *Food & Wine* named Houston the "newest capital of great food," all in 2013. But there is another ranking the Visitors Bureau doesn't tout: according to the U.S. Justice Department, Houston is one of the country's largest hubs for sex trafficking.

A large international population, the country's second-busiest port, proximity to the Mexican border, and permissive city-

wide zoning all contribute to a landscape of sexually-oriented businesses that is unique from, and exceeds that of, comparably-sized cities. The hot economy also leaves many with extra cash to spend on pleasure and vice. As a result, thousands of women and young girls are forced or coerced into meeting the demand of a thriving underground sex industry.

This dark side of Houston remains unknown to most citizens, even those who have lived here all of their lives. HBU alumna **LILY LOPEZ '12** first learned about the city's human trafficking epidemic when she viewed a documentary at a campus event. After the screening was over, an outreach organization flashed pictures of local brothels on the screen. Lily was shocked to see a building she passed every Sunday on the way to church with

CONTINUED ▶



Samantha Smith Hernandez  
Project Manager

“MY TIME AT **HBU HELPED ME DEVELOP A FOUNDATION OF DISCIPLINE AND WISDOM.** RUBBING ELBOWS WITH SO MANY HUMBLE AND LOVING PROFESSORS GAVE ME THE GUIDANCE I NEEDED TO BLOSSOM AS A WISE WARRIOR FOR THE LORD.”

CAT FRENCH, who took classes at HBU in the 80s, and ADAM CHANEY '14, a current theology student, began the ministry with a monthly prayer meeting that focused intercession on the injustice of Houston's commercial sex industry in February 2010. As they gained momentum and attracted more “justice warriors,” they added intervention and raising awareness to their work.

In 2011, the group began offering free van tours of Latin American cantinas and Southeast Asian brothels to drive the problem of sex trafficking into Houstonians' consciousness. So far, more than 5,000 people have boarded the 13-passenger van with tinted windows to see the brothels firsthand, learn relevant statistics, and hear personal stories from the ministry's knowledgeable staff. Tours end with suggested next steps,

including an opportunity to write a letter to the mayor of Houston.

Though the ministry just obtained official nonprofit status in 2013, their prayer and intervention efforts have already shut down ten brothels and rescued around twenty women from the sex industry. They are also attracting local and even national media atten-

PRAYER AND INTERVENTION EFFORTS  
HAVE ALREADY SHUT DOWN TEN BROTHELS  
AND RESCUED AROUND TWENTY WOMEN  
FROM THE SEX INDUSTRY

tion; the Houston NPR affiliate ran a radio segment about their van tours and MSNBC aired an hour-long reality show about their work earlier this year.



Lily Lopez, Volunteer

“STUDYING PSYCHOLOGY AT **HBU BUILT IN ME A RESERVOIR OF KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM** TO HELP THE MOST HURTING AND OPPRESSED IN OUR SOCIETY. THE COMMUNITY I FOUND THERE HELPED ME REACH INTO THAT RESERVOIR AND IMPACT THE WORLD.”



Justin Wall, Volunteer

“HBU WAS PIVOTAL IN MY LIFE, BECAUSE I BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AND SURRENDER TO HIS PLAN. **KNOWING HIS LOVE EMPOWERS ME TO LOVE OTHERS,** ESPECIALLY THOSE TRAPPED IN THE DARKEST PLACES.”



Cat French, Founder and Director

“DURING MY TIME AT HBU I CAME TO GRIPS WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT **GOD HAD A CALLING ON MY LIFE,** THAT HE WANTED TO USE ME, AND THAT MY QUALIFICATIONS WERE NOT BASED ON ANYTHING I COULD ACHIEVE THROUGH HUMAN EFFORT.”

In addition to offering multiple van tours each week, Elijah Rising hosts Abolitionist U classes, documentary screenings, and weekly musician-led intercession. Future plans include renovating their headquarters to house a crisis care center. They are also creating a Slavery Museum that will display artifacts from the Houston area and beyond. The ministry continues to attract HBU students who are moved by God to join the front lines of this modern day abolitionist movement. For more information, visit [WWW.ELIJAHISING.ORG](http://WWW.ELIJAHISING.ORG).



Formerly a brothel, Elijah Rising's headquarters is now a house of prayer and a training center for combating human trafficking.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL CELEBRATES 50TH SEASON

THE 1983-84 NCAA TOURNAMENT TEAM was inducted into the HBU Sports Hall of Honor at the Homecoming football game on Oct. 25 against Nicholls. Throughout the season, HBU will honor its All-Decade basketball teams at Saturday Southland Conference home games. In addition to the 1983-84 tournament appearance, the program has much history to celebrate, with 24 All-America honors, ten NAIA National Tournament appearances, a number one national ranking in 2002-03, and 34 players who have played or are currently playing professionally.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCORES HIGH MARKS

The 2013-14 women's basketball team was honored by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association for its outstanding performance in the classroom this past year. The team finished with an overall GPA of 3.5, with all 13 members achieving 3.0s or better. **MAISIE ELSTON, HEIDI SIHVOLA, SHANICE STEENHOLDT, and ANNA STRICKLAND** each earned a perfect 4.0. The team's academic performance was the 12th best academic standing in all of Division 1.



## WOMEN'S SAND VOLLEYBALL COMING TO HBU

HBU and New Orleans are the first programs in the Southland Conference, while Texas Christian University is the only other program in Texas. Competition will begin Spring 2016.



## OUTSTANDING SENIORS

**S**enior **PRESTON STANLEY** looks to put a cap on an already outstanding golf career in 2014-15. This past season, he earned Southland All-Conference First Team and All-Academic First-Team honors and also qualified individually for the NCAA Championships. Stanley ended last season with a 72.85 stroke average and eight top-20 finishes, including five top-tens, three top-fives, and a victory at the Mark Simpson Colorado Invitational.



**M**IKE CHAMBERLAIN earned one of six Southland Conference F.L. McDonald Post-Graduate Scholarships as a result of his 4.0 GPA and outstanding performance on the baseball field. The senior first baseman recorded five extra-base hits and scored 12 runs last season, reaching base safely in nine straight games.



A man in a dark suit and light-colored trousers stands on a football field at night, holding a football. He is positioned in front of a yellow goalpost. The background shows stadium seating and bright lights. The text 'A DREAM BECOMES REALITY' is overlaid on the image in large, white, outlined letters.

# A DREAM BECOMES REALITY



**FOR MORE  
THAN 50  
YEARS,**

HBU students and alumni have enjoyed a variety of athletics on campus. But no sport has ever galvanized the campus like football. Now in its first year as a full member of the Southland Conference, the fledgling football program is already having a dramatic impact on the University.

## ALUMNI RE-ENGAGEMENT

More than 4,000 fans packed the new stadium to watch the first on-campus game on September 6, by far the largest crowd on campus in the University's 54-year history. Alumni—including many who hadn't stepped foot on campus in 20 or 30 years—came out in force for the game and tailgating. Among those was **JUDGE PEDRO RUIZ '86**, who dreamt of the day HBU would take to the gridiron for decades before it became a reality.

"I used to create HBU football on the ESPN football video game in my younger years," reminisced Ruiz. "Now football has brought me back to campus." Fellow ATO brother **DALE CAMPERI '91** agreed, saying, "I've been waiting 25 years for this. It's fun to come back now." Ruiz, Camperi, and other fraternity brothers, including **Howie Hill '89** and **Jeremy Gutierrez '00**, set a high standard for gourmet tailgating with a roasted whole pig, seasoned chicken, and tender racks of ribs. Their group also brought a satellite TV, a table for playing dominos, and their famous pair of plastic goats, all of which added to the festive atmosphere.

Other alums staked out spots under the Alumni Association tent, with the Business School, or other affinity groups. President Sloan visited with many of them, and remarked later that he'd seen



Husky fans cheer on the team after the first touchdown against Abilene Christian. **NEAR BELOW:** Coin toss by Lt. Governor **David Dewhurst**. **FAR BELOW:** Alumni enjoying the pre-game tailgate.

more alumni over the past few weeks than during his entire eight-year tenure at HBU. More than one alum expressed to him that their college experience feels more complete now that HBU has football. "I knew football would be good for alumni," he said, "but the emotional response from some of them has been amazing. I've seen their eyes fill with tears and heard them say things like, 'I've always loved my university, but I'm so proud now.'"

**JIM SKAGGS '74**, one of University's first basketball players, is another alumnus who has re-engaged with HBU after many years. Unlike many of his peers, however, he wasn't initially sold on football. When Athletics Director Steve Moniaci first told him about plans to add the sport, he said, "Are y'all crazy? We can't fund the sports we have." But his confidence in Dr. Sloan and Steve Moniaci persuaded him to give the idea a chance. "It didn't take me long to

see they were headed in the right direction when I saw all of the excitement and talk among alumni." Now Skaggs is a strong supporter, even footing the bill to relocate many of the new football coaching staff recruited for the program. He continues to support the University by transporting necessary equipment to away games and back.

Though University trustee **DIANE WILLIAMS '93** says she has been a football supporter from the beginning, at least one trustee had doubts. HBU founding father and advisory trustee Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr. wondered, "How will we make ends meet? All I ever heard before was how much football could cost a university." He too, however, had great confidence in President Sloan and gave his consent when Dr. Sloan requested Board approval for a football financial feasibility study in 2011.



All the data showed that football increases student enrollment, increases the male population, and improves retention rates

## RECRUITING AND RETENTION

Recalling the results of that study, Dr. Sloan said, "We found that football was not only feasible, it was very exciting. All the data showed that football increases student enrollment, increases the male population, and improves retention rates because students are more engaged. In just a short time, we are already seeing that."

Todd Cockrell, HBU's director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, confirms those assertions. Fall 2014 enrollment is at a record high, and year-to-year student retention is up across every category. There are no claims that football is the sole driver of those advancements, but it is a factor, and anything that contributes to those

metrics is welcome, especially for a tuition-dependent private school like HBU.

Football does deserve primary credit for another metric, however. Like many private universities, HBU has struggled for years to rebalance a disproportionately female student body. Since the Board approved football in the fall of 2011, the male-to-female student ratio has increased by five percent, from 34% male in 2011 to 39% male in 2014. The ratio should continue to improve as the football program matures if the results of adding football at other universities hold true for HBU.

## FUNDING FOOTBALL

Dr. Morris and others concerned about finances were also pleasantly

"I've been waiting 25 years for this. It's fun to come back now."



**PRESIDENT'S BOX:** The Sloans host Houston Texans owners Janice and Robert McNair, whose significant lead gift helped make the stadium possible.



surprised to learn that a football program can cover its own freight very early on. As a member of the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision, HBU may give the equivalent of 63 full scholarships divided up amongst 90 football players (many receive partial rather than full scholarships). Since a typical college football team roster has 90 or more players, the equivalent of at least 37 players pay full tuition—enough to cover the annual operating expenses of the program. HBU currently has 112 football players, so even more of them are paying tuition. Considering that many of those young men would never have considered going to school at HBU if it weren't for football, the program is a net financial gain. Of course there are major initial capital expenses such as the

playing field and stadium, but donors who appreciate the strategic benefits a football program delivers have stepped up to cover those costs.

Once a skeptic, Dr. Morris himself joined the Husky Stadium Founder group and donated significant funds to help build the stands; the center Morris Section is named for him. Speaking as one who has been a part of the University's history since the very beginning, Dr. Morris said, "I could not get over it on game day when I saw all of the activity and the many alumni groups on campus. The University was jumping and full of life."

Steve Moniaci also noted that HBU has the ability to schedule at least one "money

game" per season against a big school such as A&M, and will do so once the program is better established. Because of the way the conference divides up ticket sales, TV advertising and other revenue, HBU can expect to be paid between \$300,000 to \$750,000 for playing each "money game." That is yet another way football can become self-supporting.

### STUDENTS AND FACULTY

Beyond the direct and indirect financial benefits, football is greatly enhancing the atmosphere on campus. Game days have given student organizations a rallying point, along with an opportunity for them to build their fellowship and connect with their alumni members.

Of course, many students simply enjoy having a football team to root for. Sophomore **TAYLOR SHENEMAN** and several friends showed their support for the Huskies by walking through the stands with friends an hour before the first home game blowing plastic horns. Spirits were so high in the student section of the stands that their shouts of support drowned out the announcer. Sheneman summed up student response when he told a reporter for the *Houston Chronicle*, "Since football is obviously the king of all sports in Texas, everyone is super excited."

Faculty are also enthused. Dr. Sloan reports, "I've had faculty who have been here for a long time stop me and say, 'I want to thank you for bringing football. It makes such a big difference.'" Biology department chair Dr. Jackie Horn has

been teaching at HBU for 28 years and says she has noticed a new upbeat mood on campus. She and her colleagues have embraced football, purchasing season tickets and hosting students for tailgating and other football-themed events. "Football has brought so much fun to our learning community," she said.

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

Increased coverage by the *Houston Chronicle* and other media outlets is another boon football has brought to HBU. The

local ABC and CBS television affiliates, Fox Sports SW, and even the *Houston Business Journal* have run stories about the football startup, including some human interest pieces. The additional exposure is already raising the profile of the University in the community and should ultimately bring greater attention to its academic offerings as well. "You can't buy that kind of coverage," remarked Dr. Sloan. "It's been a real plus."

Though many small Christian schools have also started football programs

for similar reasons, HBU is unique in its category for deciding to play at the highest level, NCAA Division I. That was a strategic decision that will certainly pay off, said Steve Moniaci. "Athletics is really the front porch of the University because it's generally what people see first. For us to get the kind of recognition we want for HBU, we had to be a Division I institution. Because unfortunately, Division II and III schools simply don't get much recognition, even if they have very good programs."

CONTINUED ▶

**The additional media exposure is already raising the profile of the University in the community and should ultimately bring greater attention to its academic offerings as well.**





## ADVANCING THE TEN PILLARS VISION

Not everyone enjoys football or tailgating, but for those who take an honest look, there is no denying that adding the sport helps to further many of the University's nonathletic goals, specifically those outlined in the *Ten Pillars* vision, adopted in 2008.

### PILLAR II - RECRUIT FOR NATIONAL INFLUENCE.

Students want to go to a school that plays football. Football raises the University's profile, becomes part of its brand, and aids in recruiting top quality students, both male and female, athletes and non-athletes.

### PILLAR IV - ESTABLISH A RESIDENTIAL SOCIETY OF LEARNING.

Football creates more opportunities for students interested in activities such as marching band and dance squad.

Games also give students a reason to stay on campus on weekends, and will help overcome the perception that HBU is a commuter school.

### PILLAR VI - RENEW OUR CAMPUS. RENEW OUR COMMUNITY.

Football is already creating a more vibrant on-campus community and bringing alumni back to campus. The local community also benefits from having a thriving university in its midst.



**For us to get the kind of recognition we want for HBU, we had to be a Division I institution.**



### PILLAR X - MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL AS AN INSTITUTION.

If HBU is to grow from a smaller regional university into a comprehensive national university, it has to become much more visible in the public consciousness. There is no better way to enhance the profile of the entire University than to add a NCAA Division I football program.

### THE BEST IS YET TO COME

As head football coach Vic Shealy noted at the beginning of the season, "This year is important to our players and coaches as we gain insight and understanding of the conference programs, as well as the challenge of playing on the road in this league." Going up against firmly established teams with more experienced players has proved challenging for the young Husky football team, but that is to be expected for a brand new program. The lack of consistent wins doesn't seem to have dampened the enthusiasm of Husky fans thus far; they are still

basking in the wonder of having football after more than 50 years.

Staff and administrators are watching all of the promised benefits of adding football begin to materialize, with the expectation that they are seeing just the first fruits. "I think we've only just begun to see the impact of football," said Dr. Sloan. "We're just seeing the tip of the iceberg."

Steve Moniaci took a moment to reflect on just how quickly it all happened after the Board approved starting up a football program at their September 2011 meeting. They agreed to proceed as soon as the University could secure the money to hire a coach; Vic Shealy was hired in April 2012. "It is truly remarkable how far we've come in less than 2 1/2 years," said Moniaci. "We didn't even have a football on campus; now we have a team, a field, locker rooms, training facilities, and a 5,000-seat stadium."

# HBU Hosts First Fulbright Scholar

## Spain, Soccer, and a Scholar's Quest to Overcome a Language Barrier

CANARY ISLANDS NATIVE ADRIAN GARCIA is one of only nine people selected in all of Spain to participate in the prestigious Fulbright Program during the 2014-2015 academic year. The young scholar chose to use his grant to pursue a master's degree in bilingual education at HBU, making him the first Fulbright student the University has ever hosted. Program administrators selected Adrian for his strong academic background, leadership potential, and his ability to successfully pursue his project proposal.

Adrian hopes to use his Fulbright fellowship to help reverse high unemployment levels in his hometown of Galdar, Grand Canary Island, and eventually throughout the rest of Spain.

Because English-speaking tourists fuel a major part of the economy of the seven Canary Islands, native citizens are often passed over for jobs in favor of foreign nationals who speak English. Many non-tourism-related jobs across Spain also require English proficiency, making the problem even more acute.



*Working as a camp counselor also allowed Adrian to combine two of his favorite pastimes: teaching children and playing soccer.*

Part of Adrian's plan is to increase the number of bilingual camp programs across Spain. He has made a point to work at different camps, including one in New York, to see what works best. He is convinced language camps are important because he knows firsthand how effective language immersion for even just a week or two can be for kids ages 3-12.

"They are so much more comfortable with the language and are no longer afraid to try for fear of making mistakes," he said.

Working as a camp counselor also allowed Adrian to combine two of his favorite pastimes: teaching children and playing soccer. Having played with a professional soccer league in Spain for a time, he is a natural to teach campers the fundamentals of the game.

The primary strategy of Adrian's plan, however, is to use the knowledge he gains from his graduate studies to equip Spanish primary school teachers to teach English. The 25-year-old is no stranger to the classroom; he worked as a teacher's assistant in England, teaching Spanish and Spanish culture to kids in grades 1-6.

In due time Adrian will assist many, many more teachers in his home land of Spain, by creating curricula and training them to use effective teaching strategies for teaching English.



*The primary strategy of Adrian's plan is...to equip Spanish primary school teachers to teach English.*

Helping prepare the next generation of Spanish children to succeed in a global economy—that's a win even more fulfilling than shooting his most impressive soccer goal.



Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the purpose of the Fulbright Program is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

The program operates in more than 155 countries worldwide and awards approximately 8,000 competitive, merit-based grants annually.





Completed in 2008, the newly named six-story **Hodo Residence College** is home to more than 300 men and women. The crescent-shaped building cradles a small lake adorned with a fountain feature and a nearby gazebo. Residents also enjoy a rooftop patio, study rooms, Hatton Chapel, and public spaces for informal gatherings.

## A Dedication of Service

"LAKE HOUSE" RENAMED IN HONOR OF FORMER PRESIDENT DOUG AND SADIE HODO

The University honored HBU President Emeritus Doug Hodo and his wife Sadie on April 28, with a special ceremony to name the Sadie and Doug Hodo Residence College, formerly known as the Lake House. Dr. Hodo served as the second president of the University from 1987 to 2006.

"Naming the Sadie and Doug Hodo Residence College is a fitting tribute to Sadie and Doug Hodo," said President Sloan. "It will serve to recognize their commitment to Christian higher education, their dedication to HBU, and their love for students."

Board Chairman and HBU alumnus **DR. MARK DENISON '82** remarked, "Through the 19 years of Dr. Hodo's service to the University I was privileged to serve in leadership positions on the Alumni Association and Board of Trustees, affording me a unique perspective as he led us to unprecedented growth and stability. Sadie served with grace and distinction."

**"They keep Christ at the center of their lives, and they kept Christ at the center of HBU."**



## FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Two alumni families—the Wheeler family and the Swift family—were honored as the 2014 Families of the Year on September 27. The award recognizes families for their support of HBU's mission, their legacy of family involvement with the University, and their exemplification of Christian family values.



**FROM LEFT:** Dr. Thomas Wheeler, Becky Wheeler, Lori Wheeler, Dr. Bob Wheeler



**BACK FROM LEFT:** Adam Wulf, Christi Wulf, Sheila Swift, Terry Swift, Sheila Kahé, Chris Kahé  
**FRONT FROM LEFT:** Cailyn Wulf, Marley Hurst, Dylan Hurst



NOVEMBER 11, 2014

S P E A K E R



**LOU HOLTZ**

Twenty-six seasons as a collegiate head coach earned Lou Holtz an outstanding reputation for turning pretenders into contenders by taking football programs and elevating them into the top 20. Holtz is the only coach in the history of college football to take six different teams to a bowl game, win five bowl games with different teams, and to have four different college teams ranked in the final top 20 poll. Currently, Holtz serves as a college football studio analyst on ESPN. He is also the author of three *New York Times* best-selling books: *The Fighting Spirit*, *Winning Everyday: A Game Plan For Success*, and *Wins, Losses and Lessons*, an autobiography.

Proceeds benefit student scholarships.  
Individual tickets now available at  
[WWW.HBU.EDU/SPIRITOFEXCELLENCE](http://WWW.HBU.EDU/SPIRITOFEXCELLENCE)

# The Guild

## SILVER TEA

During its annual Silver Tea, hosted at the home of Jana and Scott Arnoldy, The Guild honored Judy Graham for her Christian leadership and dedication to the organization and to HBU. Through the generosity of 64 underwriters and other donors, the 2014 Silver Tea, co-chaired by Donna Goeser and Cheryl Kaminski, raised more than \$70,000 to support five endowed and 17 annual graduate scholarships in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences and the School of Christian Thought. Since 1995, The Guild has contributed more than \$1.6 million to fund 33 endowed and 194 annual graduate scholarships, and to support The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies and other special projects.



Donna Goeser, Debra Perich, Judy Graham, Cheryl Kaminski

## Come on Over and See Us Sometime!

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND ADVANCEMENT RELOCATE TO HINTON HOUSE

The Alumni Association and the Office of Advancement invite you to visit them in their new (and former) home. Hinton House is located on the northeast side of campus, to the left of the main entrance off Fondren Road. Built in 1963 as a residence for HBU's first president, the house was converted to staff offices in the late 80s. Advancement staff were headquartered in the home for a number of years, though Graduate Admissions and Communications personnel were its most recent occupants.

After they finished moving furniture and unpacking boxes, Advancement and Alumni Relations staff began freshening up the décor and preparing for guests. Friends and alumni have already begun enjoying the common areas of the historic home during tailgating before Husky football home games. Stop by and visit!

## Alumna **Nina Harrison** Joins HBU Advancement Team

The University welcomed Nina Harrison as a new Development Officer in July. Nina graduated from HBU in May 2010 with a BA in English and political science. Previously Nina worked with Meador Staffing Services, where she was responsible for client relations, business development, and recruiting. In a sense, Nina never left HBU; she stayed connected and joined the University's Alumni Board of Directors in 2012. As co-chair of the Events Committee, Nina keeps alumni posted on the great things happening on campus and plans social events where alumni can reconnect with fellow Huskies.

In her role as a Development Officer, **Nina will work closely with the College of Science and Mathematics and the School of Nursing and Allied Health** to promote continued growth of their respective academic programs. When asked why she is excited to be on staff at HBU, Nina explained, "I want to play a part in helping HBU continue to shape and mold the lives of students, much as it did mine."



# Alumagrams.

What's news with you?

## 60s & 70s

**DR. LINDA BRUPBACHER '69** received the honorary title of professor emerita from Houston Baptist University where she serves as chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and is a professor of education. Previously, she was honored in 1995 with HBU's Distinguished Alumnus Award and in 1997 with the Opal Goolsby Outstanding Teaching Award. In 2008, Dr. Brupbacher was one of 15 college and university professors in Texas honored with the Piper Professor Award.

**KAY KING PERRY '73** has retired from a long career in education. Kay has over 30 years of teaching experience, 27 years with Houston ISD and three years with a parochial school. Congratulations Kay, on many years of hard work and dedication to future generations.

**BECKY IRVIN WOOD '74** retired in 2007 as an elementary music teacher in Frisco, Aldine, and Houston ISD. Becky also served as an accompanist for Frisco's All-City Choir and Aldine's Children's Honor choir. Becky shares, "I am forever grateful for the unique education I received at Houston Baptist University. What a wonderful difference it has made in my life." She recently celebrated 37 years of marriage to her husband Paul; they have been blessed with two daughters, Allison and Ashley, two sons-in-law, Jon and James, and five beautiful grandchildren.

## 80s

**ED NECKER '81** is now chief operations officer at Fort Worth Pregnancy Center.

**JEFFREY P. NORMAN '82** has been appointed as a United States bankruptcy judge for the Western District of Louisiana at Shreveport.

**ATTORNEY RANDY SORRELS '84** of the Houston law firm of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend, has been selected by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America 2015* in the fields of medical malpractice law (plaintiffs) and personal injury litigation (plaintiffs). He has been included on *Best Lawyers'* medical malpractice law list since 2011, and was also listed as *Best Lawyers'* 2013 Houston medical malpractice law (plaintiffs) "Lawyer of the Year."



**ATTORNEY BENNY AGOSTO JR. '86** of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend, has been selected as the 2014 Texas Minority Counsel Program (TMCP) Trailblazer Outside Counsel of the Year. The State Bar of Texas' selection of Agosto is in recognition of his extraordinary support and advocacy for the advancement of minorities in the legal profession. In addition to sustaining a robust legal practice, Agosto is well known as a former president of the Hispanic National Bar Association and for founding the Mexican-American Bar Association of Texas Foundation. The foundation has raised more than \$150,000 in scholarships for Hispanic law students in Texas.

**LT. COLONEL RHONDA L. RICHTER, BSN '88** is the chief of patient safety, Air Force Medical Operations Agency, Lackland AFB, TX. She oversees the quality of nursing care and patient safety practices at 76 facilities worldwide, including aeromedical evacuation and deployed locations.

## 90s

**LISA EDWARDS BENFORD '94** was one of 11 people chosen throughout the U.S. to represent Ford Motor Company as a Model of Courage. Model of Courage is part of Ford's "Warriors in Pink" campaign to get the message out about breast cancer and breast cancer survivors. Lisa represented Ford in 2012 and 2013. During those two years, she was featured in various magazines, news spotlights, press conferences, and parades.



**CANDACE DESROSIERS '94** recently received the Mayfield Outstanding Staff Award from HBU for her hard work and dedication to the school. As an alumna who joined the staff in 1999, Candace said the award is a special honor to her because of the character of the man for whom it was named and the caliber of previous winners: "For me the Mayfield Award is defined by the person I knew in Dr. Ray Mayfield as a student. I love my alma mater, and I am energized by the work I get to do each day to see it moving forward and becoming a place that impacts more students each year," she said.



**OSCAR "JACK" KOON '94** says he is grateful for his time at HBU. He completed his Master of Arts degree while working as an engineer. As a result of his studies, he had the opportunity to work in many countries including South Korea, Sri Lanka, and Saudi Arabia.

**JAMES KINGSMILL '94, M.ED. '02** is teaching speech and debate at Galena Park High School and serving as the speech and debate team coach. Under his leadership, the team earned the prestigious honor of

charter member in the National Forensic League Speech and Debate Honor Society in March. His wife, **DEBORAH THOMPSON KINGSMILL '92, M.ED. '03**, is a science teacher at Highlands Junior in Goose Creek CISD. They reside in Baytown with their son Jacob.

**LILLIAN GRAJEDA ALVAREZ '95** is currently a school principal at Las Americas Learning Center. Her son, Victor Martinez Jr., plays football for the Husky football team.

**DR. JEFF DOWDY '98** is the senior pastor at FBC Swannanoa in Asheville, NC. Jeff is married to **MELODY MCCAIN '00**, and they have two children, Keaton (11) and Gentry Rose (8).

## 2000s

**MARY ELLEN ROCHA '02** is the new director at Seguin Early Childhood Center. She earned her bachelor's degree from HBU and her master's degree from the University of Houston-Victoria. Mary Ellen began her career with Lamar CISD as the attendance clerk at Lamar Junior High. She was an administrative assistant and tutor at Smith Elementary, then taught at Beasley and Ray Elementary schools. Prior to moving to Seguin, she served as the assistant principal at Pink Elementary.

**DAVID FRESCH '03** is the senior pastor of North Sea Baptist Church in Stavanger, Norway, and president of Fresch Ministries International, which endeavors to support indigenous ministries around the world. He also serves on the executive council of the International Baptist Convention.

**CHIERI SANDERS '03** has been named Mrs. Spring International 2015 by the Executive Committee of the Mrs. Texas International Pageant. The

Texas International System recognizes women for their accomplishments at home, at work, and in their communities. Chieri volunteers for Child Advocates as a guardian ad litem. She is married to Ajani Sanders, head football coach and math teacher of Scarborough High School and has three children: Caila Vu Beers, 16; Aidan Sanders, 8; and Ashton Sanders, 4.



**CRYSTAL SHAI STREETY '05** and her sister, Kristina Shanell Streety-Herrod, have released their inspirational single, "Say the Word." They perform under the name Shai Shanell.



**KIMBERLY HATTON '05** recently became a vice president at J.P. Morgan in New York. In addition, she and fellow alumni from New York University founded Global Forces, a non-profit focused on global energy poverty.

**STEPHANIE TORRENO '06** recently published her memoir, *Keeping My Balance: A Memoir of Disability and Determination*, which is available on Amazon.

Congratulations to mock trial coach **DERRICK OWENS '07** and assistant coach **SHELBY TANKERSLEY '13**. In March, the HBU Mock Trial Team represented the University at the Open Round Championship in Memphis, TN, placing 7th out of 24 teams at the competition (only six teams advanced to Nationals). HBU was only five points away from earning a bid to the National Championship in Orlando, making this the most successful Mock Trial season yet.

**RENEE MCGRUDER '08** was recently promoted to web coordinator and trainer for Lennar Corporation.

**KEITH PAGE '08** is in his sixth year as the assistant director of admissions and assistant football and baseball coach at St. Thomas High School in Houston.

**KRISTA KAUFMAN ALES '09** and Daniel Ales were married in 2010 and are celebrating the birth of their firstborn child. Krista is currently working at Stephen F. Austin University in the Controller's Office as an accounting clerk III. Daniel Ales served in the U.S. Army stationed at Ft. Bragg, NC from 2008-2012. He is currently

attending Stephen F. Austin State University completing a piano performance degree with an emphasis in piano pedagogy, and expects to graduate this year. He has started his own private piano studio, Arwe Music Studio.

**CHRIS FRESCH '09 & MA '11** is currently pursuing a PhD in Divinity at the University of Cambridge. His research is in Greek and Hebrew linguistics and the study of translation technique in the Septuagint. He is also an affiliated lecturer at the University, teaching first year Greek to undergraduate divinity students.

**LAURA FRESCH '09 & MACCT '09** lives with husband **CHRIS FRESH '09**, in Cambridge, United Kingdom where she is the finance coordinator at The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.

**KIMBERLY LOPEZ '09** graduated with a Master of Occupational Therapy from Texas Woman's University in December 2013 and has accepted a pediatric occupational therapy position at TIRR Memorial Hermann.

## 2010s

**DR. MEGAN ELYSE GRAFF '10** graduated from Texas Woman's University in May with her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. She will travel to Ghana for a month to volunteer as a physical therapist in the community before beginning her career in the United States.

**LATOYA DEESE '10** is currently an IT specialist at Bracewell & Giuliani. She received her MBA from Texas A&M University-Commerce in December 2013.

**KELSEY ROGERS '11** recently accepted a position to use her photography and graphic design skills for missions in Berlin, Germany. She left in September 2014 and will be in Berlin for two years. She is looking forward to building relationships in the artistic community of Berlin and discipling others to follow Christ.

Congratulations to **MIRANDA MARTIN FREITAG '11** on her recent marriage to Keith Freitag.

**WESLEY GANT '11** earned his Master of Arts in political science from the University of Houston in May. He is an art director and brand strategist at HBU, and is a regular contributor to ValuesAndCapitalism.com, a project of the American Enterprise Institute.

Congratulations to **NAJIYAH NAJIEB MBA '12** on her one-year wedding anniversary to Kirk Jackson.

Congratulations to **MATT PHENIX '12** on his marriage to Alexandra Whitlow this past May.

**CHASE HARRIS '12** and his band Deep Cuts released their first album, entitled *Love Grows*, on September 19. As reported in *Houstonia* magazine, the band has enjoyed a solid three-year run as one of Houston's most vibrant live acts. The band was nominated for Best Pop Act in the 2014 Houston Press Music Awards, and again for Best Indie Rock in the inaugural *Free Press Houston* Sammy awards.



Congratulations to **LAUREN BROWN MOORE RN '13** on her recent marriage to **SCOTT MOORE '13**.

**KELSEY REICHOW '13** is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Applied Finance (MSAF) at Pepperdine University. She also serves as a Graziadio student ambassador and as the director of MSAF outreach.



Moore



Johnson



Berry



Hunt



Ales

**MARY FRIEHAUF MOORE '04** and husband Ben welcomed a baby girl, Anna Elizabeth Moore, on May 14, 2014. Mary still enjoys dancing and performing classical ballet with a local Houston studio.

**BRANDON JOHNSON '06** and wife Natalie welcomed their second baby girl, Avery Kayt Johnson, on September 16, 2013. Avery joins her big sister, Payton Kaylee Johnson, who will turn four in March.

**JOEL BERRY '72** and wife Linda are delighted to welcome grandson Charles Hudson Berry as the newest addition to the family. Charlie was born on September 24, 2013 to Kristin and Jay Berry. Also welcoming Charlie into the world are his sister, Georgia, his aunt, **LARA BERRY LANDMESSER '93**, and his cousins, Luke and Jack Landmesser.

**STEPHEN '04** and **SONYA '08 HUNT** welcomed their second child, Tyler Elliot Wynne Hunt, on October 1, 2013. Mom, Dad, and proud big brother Jackson are all doing well.

**ALICIA WHITEHEAD-BREAUX '00** and husband TJ Breaux are proud to announce the birth of their son, Thomas Lynn Breaux, born October 8, 2013.

**KRISTA KAUFMAN ALES '09** and husband Daniel welcomed a baby boy, Drake Michael Ales, on March 20, 2014.

Our very own **AMY YOUNGBLOOD**, director of Alumni Relations & Advancement, along with husband Brent, welcomed David Robert Youngblood on June 30. David weighed 8 pounds 9 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches long. David and mom are doing well and appreciate all the warm wishes they have received.



Youngblood

# In Memoriam

## Faculty/Staff

**Dr. William Crittenden** passed away on September 11 at age 89. He was part of the HBU faculty from 1968 to 1980, serving as the Dean of the College of Education during the latter part of his tenure.



*"I worked for Dr. Crittenden the whole time he was dean at HBU. He cared about the students and was very pleasant to work with. He made my job easy."*

— Barbara Owens, retired secretary  
Dept. of Education and Behavioral Studies



**Maritia Leath** passed away on May 25. She was a member of the HBU staff from 1976 through 1993, most recently serving as secretary in HBU's Office of Development. One of her special roles was serving as the liaison to the President's Advisors, now known as The Guild. Following her retirement she joined the HBU

Retirees' Association. Maritia was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Paul Brooks Leath, who served as a Christianity professor at HBU for many years.

*"Maritia's radiant smile and loving Christian spirit were a joy to all of us. Through the President's Advisors she introduced women from across the city to HBU; she was the perfect goodwill ambassador!"*

— Sharon Saunders,  
vice president of university relations



**Kathleen Strom '87**, passed away on March 26. Kathleen faithfully served the University for 35 years in various departments, most recently as an administrative assistant in Moody Library. While working at HBU, Kathleen completed her BA degree at the age of 66. She was a member of the Covenant Society, and served on the Scholarship Committee of The Guild. She remained active in the HBU Retirees' Association following her retirement at the age of 80. Three of her children also graduated from HBU, and her granddaughter, Laura Fehr, is currently a student.

## Former Students

*"Kathleen invested much of her life in HBU, both as an employee and as a student. She was at home in the library and in the classroom, reminding us all to keep on learning."*

— Sharon Saunders,  
vice president of university relations



**Bruce Causey, Jr. '03** passed away on March 24. Bruce was an avid historian. He earned his Master of Liberal Arts from HBU after retiring from the travel industry.



**Bettie Lowry Crews** passed away on August 2 at the age of 89. She will be especially remembered for her loving kindness, graciousness, sense of humor, community spirit, willingness to help others, and spiritual strength.



**Cheryl Bailey Hansen '72** passed away on August 16. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from HBU. During her time at the University, Cheryl was a member of the volleyball team and the cheerleading squad. After graduation

she worked as a neonatal intensive care nurse for Texas Children's Hospital for ten years. She loved sports and very rarely missed a Husky basketball or football game.



**Brenda Holman** passed away on April 17. Brenda had a successful career in accounting and auditing, and later worked for the Houston Independent School District teaching computer courses to elementary students and employees throughout the district.

# In Memoriam

**Mary Holtsclaw Herrington '69** passed away on March 14. She was a music and voice student at Houston Baptist College and was a member of the University Singers.



**Cheri Jasper** passed away on April 9. She was involved in social justice causes, including the anti-apartheid movement. An animal lover, Cheri rescued and mothered countless dogs, including her own cherished pets, Xavier and Bones.

**Ruth Law '73** passed away on May 22. Ruth earned her BA in English and history. She was a member of Second Baptist Church, Houston, where she was actively involved with the Senior Missions Group.

**Charles Stephen Moore '79** passed away June 13 at age 57. Charles earned a double major in physics and mathematics at HBU. His occupation took him to work for aerospace giants such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Pratt & Whitney, and BAE. He spent five years working in partnership with NASA at Cape Canaveral as well as many years as a Project Manager for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program.



**Margaret Overly '81** passed away on April 13. Margaret earned her MBA from HBU while holding down a fulltime secretarial job at Gulf Oil. Later she took a position with Scientific Drilling and eventually became the VP of Finance.



**Ken Rose '88** passed away on May 20. Know as "the roofer," Ken graduated from HBU with a degree in Christianity and Business Management. After his father passed away, he took over the family business, Rose Roofing, and grew it into a thriving company. He spent the last 13 years at Encourager Church where his passion was teaching and being a father figure to high school boys.



**Esteban Rodriguez '94** passed away on October 6. He earned his BA in education from HBU and taught in the Mercedes Independent School District. He also attended a Baptist seminary and began a preaching ministry that extended over 20 years, including his most recent post at Indian Hills Baptist Mission in Mercedes, Texas. Esteban also served as a volunteer chaplain at the Knapp Medical Center in Weslaco, Texas.



**Mary Stephenson '80** passed away July 29 at the age of 58. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from HBU, which enabled her to pursue her childhood dream of healing children through pediatric care.

## University Friends



**Robert E. Lee Bradley** passed away on May 21 at age 87. He was a guest lecturer on 18th and 19th century English literature and the history of motion pictures at HBU for many years, and was an avid supporter of the Moody Library. In 2008, HBU awarded him an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

*"Robert was a born teacher, as well as a very good friend to HBU, Moody Library, and our students."*

*— Dr. Jon Suter, retired HBU librarian*



**Ruth Bailey Coulson** passed away on March 21 at the age of 92. Ruth was a founding member of Mrs. Hinton's Women's Auxiliary in 1963. She was president of The Guild in 1980-81 and served as membership chair for many years. Ruth was also a member the American Museum

Society and the Covenant Society, and served on the President's Leadership Council. She and her husband Bennett established several endowed scholarships over the years for HBU students. The Coulsons were honored with the Spirit of Excellence Award in 1993.

*"Ruth was especially proud of the many students who were recipients of the scholarships she and Bennett established. As a longtime membership chair for the Guild, she was instrumental in enabling many students to receive a Christian higher education."*

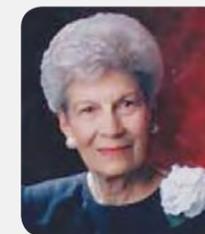
*— Sharon Saunders, vice president of university relations*

**Bernice Carol Eichelberger** passed away on August 31 at the age of 88. She cherished her Louisiana roots and carried her extraordinary Creole cooking skills to Texas when she and her husband Ike moved to Houston in 1963. She was a longtime member of The Guild.



**William Douglas Haden** passed away on June 18. He served on the Board and the President's Leadership Council at HBU. William was commissioner for the Port of Houston for over 20 years, and played an early instrumental role in establishing the port as a major international hub of commerce. His status as an international businessman and civic leader lead Norway to bestow on him the title Honorary Consul; he was ultimately knighted by the King of Norway in 1983.

**William H. Harrison** passed away on April 26. William served faithfully as a member of the President's Council at HBU.



**Helen Louise "Lee" Heinen-Seidel** passed away on August 29 at the age of 99. Lee devoted her life to her family, her church, the needs of others, and her lifelong love of music. She loved the friends and fellowship she found in The Guild and Covenant Society, and was a supporter of the Morris Cultural Arts Center.

*"Through her steadfast leadership in the University Auxiliary, Lee helped establish a tradition of support for HBU's mission programs."*

*— Sharon Saunders, vice president of university relations*



**Wallace J. "Jack" McKenzie** passed away on June 18. He and his wife Odean have supported the Museum of Southern History and the President's Development Council for many years. A retired Colonel in the U.S. Air Force, Jack had a keen appreciation for history and particularly enjoyed HBU's many lectures and museum events.

**Richard Schissler, Jr.** passed away on September 27. He and his wife Nancy are longtime supporters of The Guild and the Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts. The Schissler Miniature Furniture Collection, which consists of 23 pieces of antique miniature furniture dating back to the 1800s, provides visible evidence of their encouragement and support. Their daughter, Lynn Red, was the youngest MBA graduate in University history when she completed her degree in 1979.

*"Richard Schissler was a quiet, strong man who provided the kind of behind-the-scenes support that got things accomplished."*

*— Dr. E.D. Hodo, president emeritus*



### **Keep Them Doggies Rollin'**



Keep watch for one of our three new buses trekking across the state. To curb costs associated with rentals and airfare for traveling athletes, the University recently acquired its own vehicles, which will be available for all University departments. They are expected to pay for themselves in less than two years, after which they will continue to be rolling billboards, promoting HBU wherever they go.

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