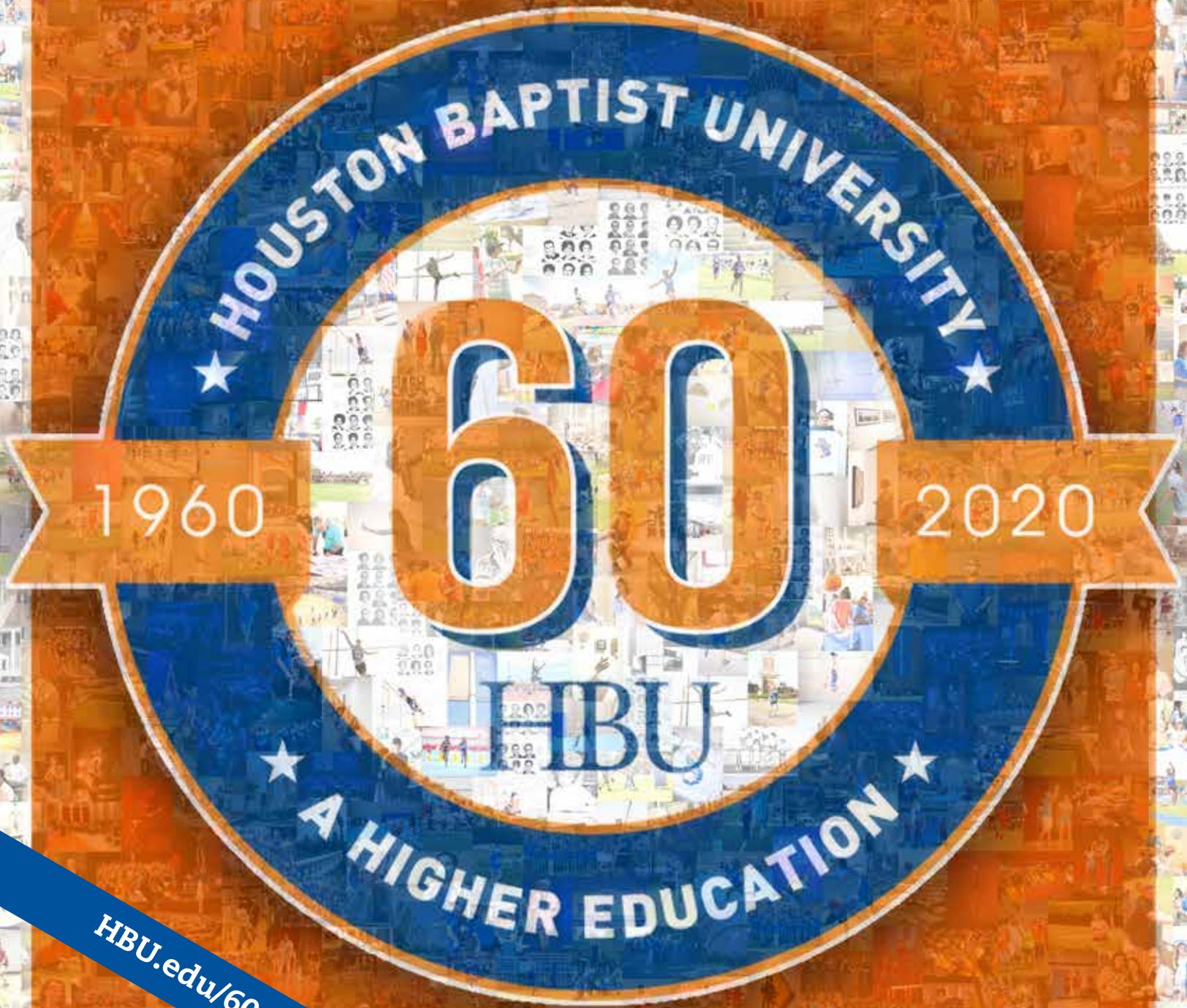


THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

THE PILLARS



1960

2020

HBU.edu/60th

The Collector's Edition



President's Message

There are key moments in life that call for reflection—thinking about the past and considering the milestones and turning points that have enabled us to get where we are today. Such reflection can especially help us learn from our successes and failures, plan for the future, and gain the energy we need to seize opportunities for growth in the days ahead. Birthdays, anniversaries, and the beginning of a new year are all examples of these opportune moments. At HBU, the celebration in 2020 of the 60th anniversary of our founding gives us a significant opportunity to reflect on the past as we look to the future.

This issue of The Pillars points to some of the important milestones that have energized positive change at the University. There's much to be thankful for as we can see the hand of the Lord upon us and celebrate the work of so many people over the years—faculty, staff, deans, donors, vice presidents, presidents, alumni, trustees, coaches, and students. And as we reflect on their contributions, we can identify certain key factors of leadership and commitment that have made HBU the vibrant Christian university it is today. I've been asked to reflect upon the topic of leadership in general but especially to point to some of my favorite moments—important instances of change—in my 14-plus years as a member of the HBU family.

A leader new to an institution must learn about and appreciate its history and tradition before trying to effect change. When I arrived at HBU in the fall of 2006,

the most valuable experience I had was listening to faculty and staff as they shared what they loved most about the University and also talked about the pressure points, the day-to-day things that they thought needed to be changed to improve the HBU experience for our students.

I learned a lot from those sessions, which turned out to be foundational for what we've been able to do in the following years, especially the creation of our vision document, the Ten Pillars, which has shaped so much of our work to this day.

After the listening sessions, we began a study to move from a quarter academic calendar to a traditional, two-semester calendar. This change proved to be very significant, since we implemented it in the fall semester of 2008, just in time to allow us to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Ike and avoid the financial ruin that would have resulted from being on a quarter system. As it was, we were able to fulfill the class attendance requirements for the semester, and thus, did not lose the fall term.

We immediately began also, based on those listening sessions, to plan for our Honors College, which opened in 2008 and continues to draw exceptional students to HBU.

We also recognized the need to improve facilities for our School of Fine Arts, which led to the significant decision to build the University Academic Center. The spacious UAC opened in the fall of 2008, as did the new Lake House dormitory, now known as the Hodo Residence College. Designed

to encourage upperclassmen to live on campus, this state-of-the-art facility represented a significant step toward creating a more residential culture at HBU.

Those early listening sessions led to other important changes, including revisions to our student recruiting and advising processes. These improvements allowed us to enroll and retain larger freshman classes—a critical factor in fulfilling our mission and maintaining our financial health. Over time, we also greatly expanded our Graduate School programs, which led to the fulfillment of another major milestone for HBU—becoming a comprehensive University. This means that we offer not only undergraduate and master's-level degrees, but also doctoral programs, which continue to excel as they attract outstanding students.

These kinds of changes grew out of HBU's rich traditions. The University historically has had outstanding leaders, from its founders and earliest Board members to its current trustees, and has always had an adaptive personality—a willingness to change—and an entrepreneurial spirit. These characteristics have allowed the University not only to adjust to the highly dynamic marketplace that is a rich part of the Houston community, but also to grow in the worldwide marketplace of higher education. I have learned a lot about HBU's tradition of flexibility since my earliest days at the University.

Amid all these developments, we have simultaneously and strategically built a great leadership team involving faculty,

deans, staff, and other dedicated leaders at multiple levels throughout the institution. Nothing significant ever happens because of a single leader. Positive change results from teamwork, and it is gratifying to say that the Executive Council members I'm privileged to serve with are the most outstanding of my career in higher education.

The same could be said for the faculty and staff of the University. The changes we've experienced over the years are usually not the kinds of things that occur at a certain moment or on a single date. Instead, they've flourished over time. The historic and always growing commitment of faculty and staff to the mission of HBU—through teaching, research, mentoring students, and community service—is a significant part of our rich history, and I continue to be amazed at the unity of heart and purpose I see here. That has become especially evident in recent days as our faculty and staff have been forced to adapt rapidly to different ways of delivering

a record attendance at HBU. And the same is true of retention. Those numbers continue to improve almost every year, thanks in large part to the Student Success staff, the Looper Learning Commons, our remarkable faculty, and our Student Life staff.

We've seen major successes in other areas as well. **For example, because of the hard work of our outstanding Advancement team, not only have we now reached the 98% level with respect to our capital campaign (the goal is \$136.5 million), but we have received over the last seven or eight years three of the most significant gifts in the history of the University.** Dr. Stewart Morris and his family have always been major contributors to HBU, and they continue that tradition to this very day. They've been joined by Archie and Linda Dunham, Jim and Sherry Smith, and many others. Having these kinds of major gifts has increased our public visibility, energized significant growth in our donor base of individuals

program generously supported by Pinky Pampell. We now have more than 1,300 students in our online division, and this year we could well pass the 2,000 student mark. Starting this initiative years ago allowed us to adapt quickly when the pandemic hit last spring and we were forced to offer classes remotely. Which reminds me of another significant change in HBU over recent years—our vastly improved use of digital technology all across the University, in every sphere of our operations and activities.

There is so much else to note—and I really cannot do justice to it here. However, I must mention the constantly growing strength and influence of our Alumni Association, the quality (spiritually, academically, and competitively) of our NCAA athletic programs, the outstanding services on behalf of students led by the Office of Career and Calling, the many life-changing discipleship programs that fall under the umbrella of Kaleo, and the numerous outreach programs for Houston and the world led by different people and

Amid all these developments, we have simultaneously and strategically built a great leadership team involving faculty, deans, staff, and other dedicated leaders at multiple levels throughout the institution.

education and fulfilling the University's work during the pandemic.

As I reflect on my years at HBU, I recall many other developments that have made a huge difference. **For example, we were able—through the leadership of our Board of Trustees—to re-enter the NCAA at the Division I level and then add football to our athletic programming a few years later.** These changes have made a powerful impact on the involvement of our alumni and the visibility of the University nationwide.

We've also experienced days of financial challenge, but each of these times of challenge—whether because of Hurricane Ike, the Harvey flooding, or the ups and downs of the economy—has pushed us to adapt. We now have a stability, based upon some debt restructuring and other factors generated by the leadership of HBU's Financial Operations team and Board of Trustees, that has positioned the University to have significant financial strength.

I've already mentioned the changes in our student enrollment practices, and now for the eighth year in a row, we have

and foundations, and led to major steps forward in financial stability for HBU, allowing us to offer our students improved facilities and expanded programming. And though I haven't space here to mention other names, we have been generously supported by a great host of contributors who have given sacrificially according to and even beyond their means.

In the fall of 2018, we added the College of Engineering, which has now merged into the College of Science and Engineering. **The amazing \$20 million pledge by Jim and Sherry Smith toward a STEM building, representing the largest single gift in the history of HBU, is enabling us to move forward boldly with a facility that will support our historically excellent programs in pre-professional healthcare—pre-med and nursing—as well as our new and dynamic engineering programs.** We now need the help of all University friends so that we can match this generous \$20 million gift.

The University has further expanded its academic offerings—and demonstrated its ability to adapt to changing market conditions—by instituting a major online

departments all across the University.

Finally, I must reflect with thanksgiving on the core convictions of HBU. With all of our adaptation and growth, we remain faithful to being a university where character, integrity, excellence, honorable citizenship, liberty and justice for all, virtuous behavior, and religious freedom—all generated by our deep roots of faith in Christ—continue to matter. So many universities have lost their moorings and have become little more than institutions that homogeneously reflect the prevailing culture. At HBU, on the other hand, we not only have adapted and pushed forward with academic excellence and creative ways of delivering a cutting-edge educational experience, but have done so without losing our soul.

Please continue to pray for us and support us in your circles of influence. HBU makes a huge difference for students and for us all.



Dr. Robert Sloan
HBU President



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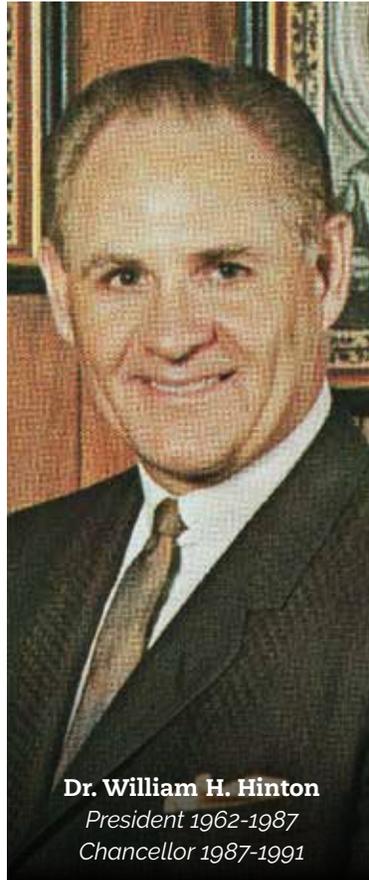
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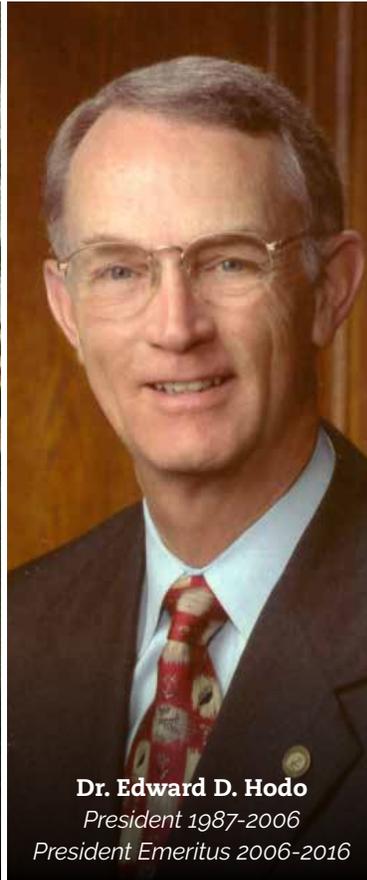
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University Presidents and Their Accomplishments



Dr. William H. Hinton
*President 1962-1987
Chancellor 1987-1991*



Dr. Edward D. Hodo
*President 1987-2006
President Emeritus 2006-2016*



Dr. Robert B. Sloan
*University President
2006-Present*

Across six decades of history, Houston Baptist University has had only had three presidents, Dr. William H. Hinton, Dr. Edward D. Hodo, and Dr. Robert B. Sloan. Each of them have brought distinct leadership styles and have guided the University through times of change, growth and advancement.

When Dr. William Harwood Hinton was appointed as the president of then-Houston Baptist College in 1962, John F. Kennedy was the president of the United States, and what is now a bustling Highway 59 adjacent to the campus was only a future plan. As founding president, Dr. Hinton had the unique task of overseeing the establishment of academic programs and traditions that would form the institution for years to come.

With a dedicated board, faculty and staff, Dr. Hinton envisioned what the 200 empty acres could be. During the following 25 years, HBC morphed into HBU, a distinguished university in an international city with about 2,600 students.

Dr. Edward D. "Doug" Hodo, the second president of HBU, served as a University leader for almost 20 years. During his tenure, the school's physical plant was expanded with the important additions of the Hinton Center, the Baugh Residential

Restaurant, the Husky Village Apartments and the Glasscock Center. Additionally, construction began on the Morris Cultural Arts Center.

HBU's influential presence in the city of Houston, and its emphasis on faith, continued to be hallmarks of the institution.

Dr. Hodo emphasized a strong financial standing, seeing the school's endowment increase under his leadership.

Dr. Robert Bryan Sloan assumed leadership of HBU in September 2006. Since that time, University enrollment has grown by nearly 2,000 students. Dr. Sloan is known for his role in facilitating The Ten Pillars Vision, a guide that has served to grow the institution academically and in strategic areas for the last dozen years. During his presidency, the University has improved physical building assets and added important new ones including the Morris Cultural Arts Center, the Hodo Residence College and Belin Tower.

HBU returned to Division I athletic competition and expanded athletic programs. The school became a comprehensive university with the addition of three doctoral degree offerings. The University launched the Pampell Online Division in 2017, enabling more learners to benefit from HBU's unparalleled education.

The Nature of the Institution

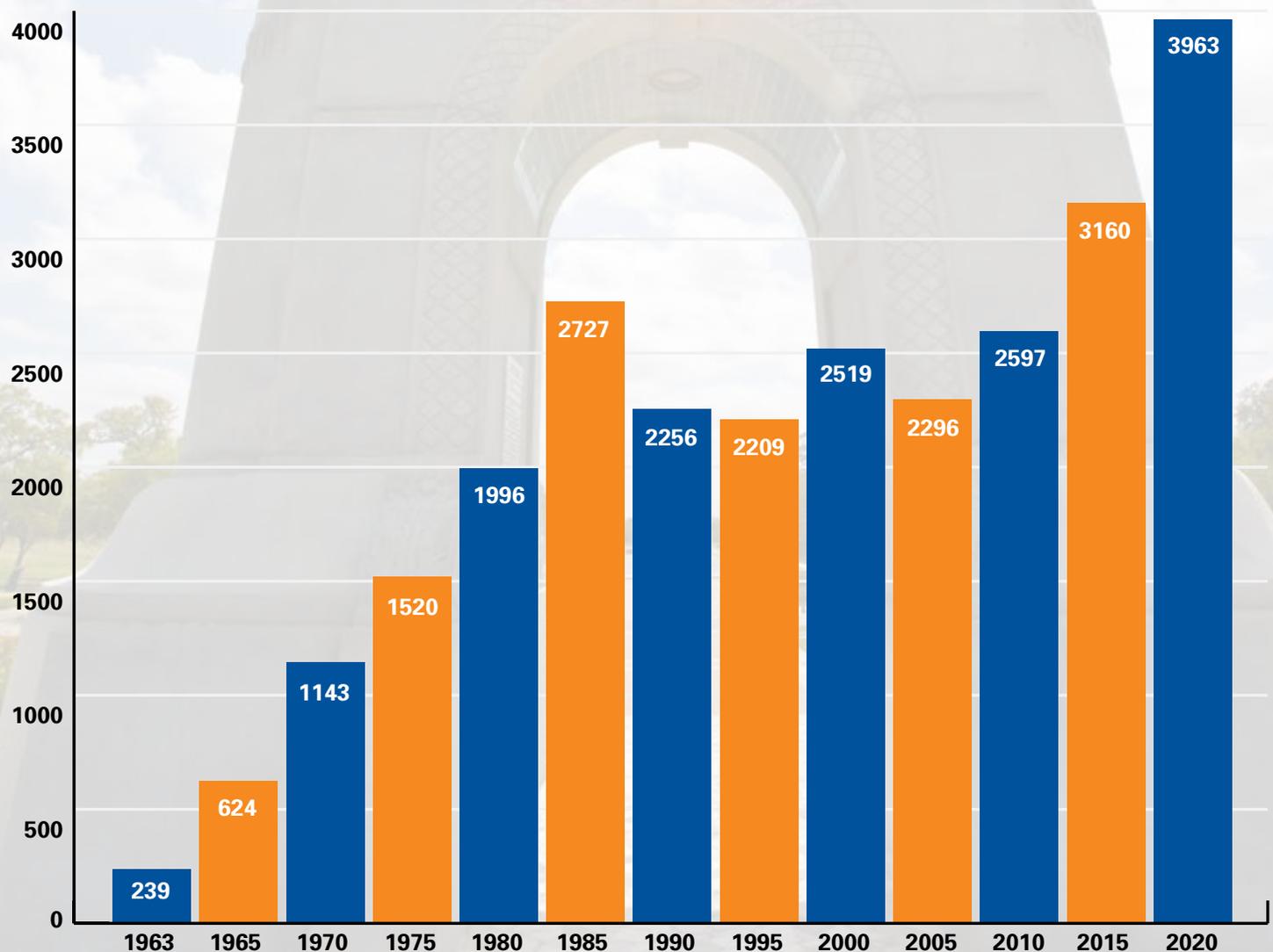
The Houston Baptist University is a Christian liberal arts university dedicated to the development of moral character, the enrichment of spiritual lives, and the perpetuation of growth in Christian ideals. Founded under the providence of God and with the conviction that there is a need for a university in this community that will train the minds, develop the moral character and enrich the spiritual lives of all people who may come within the ambit of its influence, HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY shall stand as a witness for Jesus Christ expressed directly through its administration, faculty and students. To assure the perpetuation of these basic concepts of its founders, it is resolved that all those who become associated with Houston Baptist University as a trustee, officer, member of the faculty or of the staff, and perform work connected with the educational activities of the University, must believe in the divine inspiration of the Bible, both the Old Testament and New Testament, that man was directly created by God, the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the Son of God, that He died for the sins of all men and thereafter arose from the grave, that by repentance and acceptance of and belief in Him, by the grace of God, the individual is saved from eternal damnation and receives eternal life in the presence of God; and it is further resolved that the ultimate teachings in this University shall never be inconsistent with the above principles.

-Preamble to the Bylaws of HBU, Amended by the Board of Trustees February 22, 1974

Houston's Population Growth

Houston's growth has been consistent for the past century. The city has grown from just over 44,000 people in 1900 to the more than 2 million it is today. The greater Houston area comprises more than 7 million residents!

HBU's Record Growth In America's Fourth-Largest City



HBU Graduates as of December 2020: 23,101 Alumni

HBU Turns 60

A Conversation with Dr. Don Looser



Few people have a richer history with Houston Baptist University than Dr. Don Looser. His involvement and attachment with the University began at the institution's inception and carried on throughout the years. He authored the comprehensive book, "An Act of Providence: A History of Houston Baptist University," published in 2010. A treasure of knowledge and a champion of the University, Dr. Looser well remembers the decades that formed the school.

A native of Lufkin, Texas, Looser ventured as a college student to Rice and Baylor universities, and then on to Northwestern University in Chicago for his master's degree in music. While there, he learned of a new Baptist institution being planned. "My dad sent me an article out of the Baptist

Standard that a Baptist college was opening in Houston," he said.

While still a graduate student in 1962, he interviewed for a faculty position at the newly formed Houston Baptist College, which would not accept its first students until 1963. In the fall of 1964, he joined HBC as an assistant professor of music. At that time, there were only freshman and sophomore classes in the new school. He initially taught piano and organ and accompanied the College Singers.

"We didn't have any athletic programs yet, so the Singers were used to raise the visibility of the new college in the community. The first year, we performed 105 concerts all across the city. Because many were for noon meetings of service clubs, the students unfortunately were out of class a lot," Looser said.



1957

Houston developer Frank Sharp offers to sell 390 acres of land near the Southwest Freeway to the Union Baptist Association College Committee



1960

Following several years of work by HBU's founding fathers, and pledges of support, Houston Baptist College is chartered



The initial group of HBC students were particularly invested in the school, Looser remembers. They had taken a risk in trying a completely new higher education institution. As a result, they are among the most supportive alumni. "It's intriguing why students elected to come because there was nothing for them to see when they were being recruited. At first, there was no campus, no curriculum, no faculty, and no student organizations; it was just bare dirt. They were really pioneers," he said. "The same is true for the faculty that first came – they were operating on faith." Most had come from positions of leadership at their previous colleges.

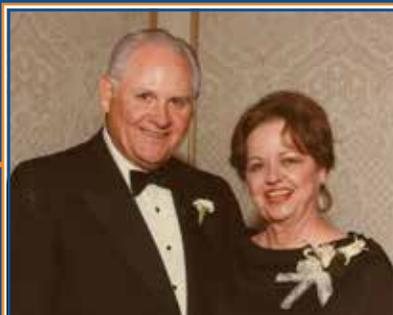
Like their students, faculty members also shared a special bond. Looser describes their offices as virtual closets lining a

hallway in the administration building. "We worked closely with one another to ensure students would have the best curriculum and academic experience. The College required a double major and three years of interdisciplinary courses taught by teams of faculty. The degree program, capped off by two senior seminars, was innovative. Those first students credited these interdisciplinary courses as some of the most valuable aspects of their education," he said. Faculty members worked together to write curriculum and sequence four years of degree programs. "Everything was new; you inherited nothing," Dr. Looser said. "There were no forms, no word processing, and nothing like email or cell phones – it was telephone and typed notes. When you're a pioneer, you have a sense of

ownership from your own creative brand on it."

The critical-thinking skills required in the curriculum helped develop students who were especially capable. Graduates were impressive, earning high acceptance rates in graduate school and medical school. "The students were extremely literate in every sense of the word. They were broadly versed and competitive." Hard work and the dynamic relationships with coworkers and students stand out from that time.

In 1965, Looser became engaged to Elsa Jean Albritton, a member of the College English faculty. "I was thrown in the quadrangle fountains just like the rest of the young guys who got engaged," Dr. Looser said. "We were the first faculty couple to marry." (In recent years, the beautiful,



1962

Dr. William Harwood Hinton is named the first president of Houston Baptist College; construction begins on the Brown Administrative Complex



1963

Houston Baptist College accepts its first class and welcomes the Rev. Billy Graham for the inaugural convocation; the Reuben Philips College for Men and the Rebecca Bates Philips College for Women open



commemorative Looser Fountains were built in the Bettis Quadrangle honoring his many years of service.)

In 1967, the Loosers both took a year's leave for Don to begin his doctoral study. He earned his doctorate at Florida State University while Elsa Jean was a member of the English faculty there. He returned to HBU as assistant to the president for Academic Affairs, charged with laying the groundwork for curricula and developing long-range plans for campus facilities. In one of his most lasting contributions to the University, Dr. Looser composed the music of the alma mater to a text by Dr. Hinton. Throughout the course of his tenure at HBU, Looser filled several roles supporting the University. He served as the founding dean of the College of General Studies, then vice president for Administrative Affairs, and finally, vice president for Academic Affairs from 1983 until 2007.

Around the time that former president, Dr. Doug Hodo, prepared to retire in 2006, Dr. Looser was also near retirement. Now

a grandfather, he felt fulfilled when he reviewed the decades of his life and service. However, there was one project that he couldn't get off his mind. He wanted to record the history of the University. Looser states in the epilogue to his book, "I felt we needed a written history. It had been such an intensive 50 years. It was a timely opportunity – integral people were still around to be interviewed, and the mantle came to me because I was virtually the last man standing. Dr. Hodo and I both felt the history needed to be written. He was a strong advocate for that, and then Dr. Sloan made the research and publication possible."

At his retirement as academic vice president, Dr. Looser was named vice president emeritus of the University by the Board of Trustees. He stayed on at the University with Dr. Sloan for three years to thoroughly research and write the history of the University. He conducted interviews, combed through yearbooks, student newspapers, and committee minutes to

gather both a historical and engaging account of the school's history. He kept his extensive research notes in Excel format to facilitate access by future staff and researchers.

Dr. Looser wrote "An Act of Providence" in chronological order with the color of many stories infused. "The book is detailed and encyclopedic because we wanted it to be a reference to be used," he said. "I tried to support everything in the book by crediting sources of origin. Moreover, I wanted to make it a reflection of recorded history rather than my own personal perspective."

True to history, there were moments in the University's timeline that were challenging – financial shortfalls, disappointments, personnel issues, ideas that didn't pan out – and moments that gave voice to multiple perspectives including those of alumni, faculty and board members. "There were negative things that happened, but the ultimate purpose was to relate them in a way that one can see the positive outcome later on," he said. "We've occupied a



1964

The Frank and Lucille Sharp Gymnasium and the Atwood I building are dedicated



1967

President Hinton awards the first 59 diplomas to the graduating class of Houston Baptist College



HBU SPIRIT of *Excellence* GALA

DON'T MISS THIS BELOVED HBU TRADITION!

2021 HBU Spirit of Excellence Gala
Celebrating HBU's 60th Anniversary
Thursday, November 11, 2021
On HBU's Campus

Benefitting both the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty and the HBU Fund, the Spirit of Excellence Gala will honor pillars of the HBU community – University friends and benefactors. Tim Tebow will be our keynote speaker. He is not only a world-class athlete but an effective Christian spokesman.

SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Esther Wong

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Colonel Newton Cole

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

HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY LEGACY AWARD

The Joella & Stewart Morris Family Foundation

Sponsorship information is online at HBU.edu/spiritofexcellence.
For additional information, email Spiritofexcellence@HBU.edu,
or call 281.649.3049.

unique place in the city. I think the people who have been a part of the campus have a very special kind of relationship and joint commitment."

The finished book, published in 2010, is exceptional. Providing an enjoyable read and an important account, Dr. Looser captures the spirit of the University that continues to carry its mission today. "I think the title describes the creation and history of the school. It was providential. We've had very specific spiritual direction and a statement of mission from the outset of the institution based on the clarity of the original founders about what they wanted to build," he said. "I do think fondly about our earliest trustees and our first faculty and staff. I have such respect for them because they committed to an idea and came here to invest themselves. I really entertain that thought frequently. I don't think they would be surprised at all to see how the University has grown and developed enormously from its beginnings. And still, it is a family."



1968

The Moody Library opens



1969

Dr. Stewart Morris Sr., founding father, and Joella Morris give 10 granite pillars to the University; the statuesque pillars were salvaged from the historic Galveston County Courthouse that survived the hurricane of 1900; Mingo becomes the University mascot

Distinguished Professors of HBU

From the earliest days of HBU history, the University has drawn professors who are not only academically distinguished and accomplished in their fields, but are known for their care for students. HBU professors are professionals, scholars, authors and artists in their own right who share their expertise to educate and mentor HBU students. Their dedication to the Christian faith is just as important as their subject-area expertise.

Rita Tauer, Associate Provost for Academic Operations, said it is particularly notable how HBU professors incorporate faith in learning. "We have a broad spectrum of Christian faith traditions represented. Our professors have managed to integrate faith into their classrooms across disciplines," she said. "They have to have a love for students too; they get to know our students and it makes a big difference."

The University goes through a thorough process to select professors who are the best fit for HBU. "When we're interviewing faculty, we ask them the hard questions up front," Tauer said. "We want somebody who is prepared to be accountable."

HBU Director of Assessment and Compliance, Lisa Covington, said, "We aren't just trying to send students

out who love Jesus and we aren't just trying to send out students into the world who are excellent in their field. We have to have faculty who are capable of being that themselves. They are excellent in their field and love the Lord."

Adjunct professors play an important role as well, Covington said. "Not many private institutions are located in a large metropolitan area. We're able to bring in professionally qualified adjuncts who bring such depth of experience," she said.

Dr. Craig Evans is known beyond academia for his work as a New Testament scholar. He teaches in the Master of Divinity Program offered through HBU's Houston Theological Seminary program. Dr. Evans has written hundreds of articles, and published more than 80 books. He's appeared in and contributed to about 100 documentaries and news programs, which have reached millions of viewers. One of the most well-known television projects in which he participated is "The Bible" miniseries.

"I make available to our students the opportunity to study in Israel, participate in archaeological excavations, and view and study ancient manuscripts," Evans said. "HBU faculty are accomplished scholars and

contributors to their respective fields of study; many are internationally recognized."

Dr. Rhonda Furr, Professor of Music and University Organist, is known for her love for students and her broad musical expertise. "One of HBU's greatest qualities is a faculty that cares about each individual student," she said. "Teaching is relational! I have devoted my life to learning how to effectively engage students in their journey of growth, learning, and creating. In the final analysis, I ask myself if I have helped each student to make the most of their God-given talents and opportunities. My highest honor is their success."

Small class sizes allow professors to better reach and connect with students, Dr. Taiya Fabre, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies in the College of Science and Engineering, said. "The family atmosphere of HBU is one of its biggest assets. The faculty not only mentor students but other faculty as well, which enhances the HBU experience," she said. "I look for professors who are excited about the mission and vision of HBU and who will serve as role models to students. This allows students to obtain, not only a great education, but a reaffirmation of – and sometimes first-time exposure to – the Christian faith."



1971

Memorial Hospital (Hermann) announces the purchase of a tract of land on the southwest side of campus



1973

The institution's name is officially changed to Houston Baptist University; five academic colleges are formed

Dr. Greggory Keiffer '96 MBA '97, returned to HBU to teach after two decades in the corporate world. He is the Interim Dean for the Archie W. Dunham College of Business. He and many other professors bring business acumen to the classroom.

"That experience enables me to present our academic business concepts in multiple lenses with tangible connections to the 'real world,'" he said.

Biology Professor, Dr. Jackie Peltier Horn, said professors' professional connections benefit their students. "I was trained in the Texas Medical Center and was a predoctoral fellow at MD Anderson Cancer Center; I continue to nurture these relationships. I have served as president of the MD Anderson UT Health Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Alumni group," she said. "I serve on career panels, speaking to the graduate students about teaching as a profession. This also gives me an opportunity to discuss our students with the graduate school dean and work to find opportunities for them. It also reminds the graduate school that we are a place to find good students. Our students have the opportunity to know the faculty as people who care about them and their life goals. We pray for them, celebrate their accomplishments, and encourage them to use their gifts from God."

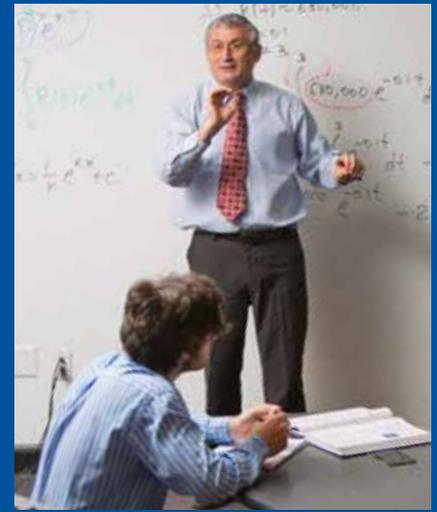
A leader, author and ministry founder in the field of Christian apologetics, Assistant Professor Mary Jo Sharp brings unique insights to students. Learning at HBU has benefits that last long after a student graduates, she says.

"We greatly value collegiality and community in our programs, alongside the excellence of the

learning content," Sharp said. "Students don't just graduate with a degree, but are invited into a lifelong community of learning together with their professors and fellow classmates. As a result, we've seen collaborative projects in the public marketplace of ideas come out of this unique HBU community."

Dr. Jeff Green, HBU Graduate School Dean, said Christian principles and broad opportunities for study are part of HBU's winning formula. "An HBU education is special because we robustly integrate faith in our curriculum," he said. "Additionally, our curriculum is comprehensive. For example, in the Graduate School, we have programs in nursing, fine arts, business, ministry, philosophy, education, counseling and many others."

While many aspects of HBU draw students, it's often the professors who make the difference, said Dr. Kristie Cerling, Associate Dean for the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. "Professors sacrifice personal time to follow up and to work with students. As I walk across campus, I see professors meeting one-on-one with students – sometimes they are discussing academics, sometimes a new game that came out, and sometimes a spiritual matter," she said. "A student recently shared that a professor offered prayer and problem-solving help during a difficult time in the student's life. The student told me she transferred to HBU for the excellent academics and the personal care that professors display. Professors are committed to the growth of learners, and I know students are given every opportunity to succeed at HBU."



The Piper Professor Program honors outstanding Texas faculty members who are known for their teaching abilities, their subject-matter expertise, service, and their scholarship. There are 10 awardees in the state of Texas annually. HBU professors have been among the top 10 educators in the state seven times!

2020

Levon Hayrapetyan

2008

Linda Brupbacher

1991

Doris Warren

1982

Marion Webb

1976

Marilyn Sibley

1972

Joyce Fan

1970

Calvin Huckabay



1975

A \$1 million grant from the Cullen Foundation paves the way for the Cullen Science Center



1976

The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation provides a grant to construct The Mabee Teaching Theater

HBU Academic Programs



UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES AND MAJORS

Accounting (BBA)
 Allied Health (BS)
 Biblical Languages (BA)
 Biblical Studies (BA)
 Biochemistry-Molecular Biology (BS)
 Biology (BS)
 Chemistry (BS)
 Christianity (BA)
 Christianity/Divinity (BA-MDiv)
 Cinematic Arts (BFA)
 Classics (BA)
 Computer Science (BS)
 Criminal Justice (BA)
 Cyber Engineering (BS)
 EC-12 Art with Teacher Certification (BS)
 Electrical Engineering (BS)
 Elementary Education (EC-6)
 • With All-Level Special Education Certification and ESL (BS)
 • With Bilingual Certification (BS)
 • With ESL (BS)
 English (BA)
 English, Language Arts & Reading (4-8) with Teacher Certification and ESL (BS)
 English, Language Arts & Reading (7-12) with Teacher Certification and ESL (BS)

Family Studies (BA)
 Finance (BBA)
 Graphic Design (BFA)
 Great Texts (BA)
 History (BA)
 History (7-12) with Teacher Certification and ESL (BS)
 Interactive Media and Digital Design (BFA)
 Interdisciplinary Studies
 • Business (BA)
 • Humanities (BA)
 • Math & Science (BA)
 International Business (BBA)
 Keyboard Performance (BM)
 Kinesiology Specialization in Sport Management (BA)
 Kinesiology Wellness Management (BS)
 Kinesiology with EC-12 Physical Education Teacher Certification (BS)
 Latin (BA)
 Life Science (7-12) with Teacher Certification and ESL (BS)
 Management (BBA)
 Managerial Studies
 • International Business (BA)
 • Marketing (BA)
 • Management (BA)
 Marketing (BBA)
 Mass Media Arts (BA)

Mathematics (BS)
 Mathematics (4-8) with Teacher Certification and ESL (BS)
 Mathematics (7-12) with Teacher Certification and ESL (BS)
 Medical Humanities (BA)
 Music (BA)
 Music Education
 • Instrumental (BME)
 • Vocal/Keyboard (BME)
 Music Theatre (BM)
 Nursing (BSN)
 Organ Performance (BM)
 Philosophy (BA)
 Physical Science (7-12) with Teacher Certification and ESL (BS)
 Physics (BS)
 Piano Performance (BM)
 Political Science (BA)
 Practical Theology (BA)
 Pre-Law/Legal Studies (BA)
 Pre-Professional Art Therapy (BA)
 Psychology (BA)
 Psychology
 • Christian Counseling Tracks (BA)
 • Marriage and Family Track (BA)
 RN to BSN (BSN)
 Science (4-8) with Teacher Certification and ESL (BS)
 Science (7-12) with Teacher Certification (BS)

Social Studies (4-8) with Teacher Certification (BS)
 Social Studies (7-12) with Teacher Certification and ESL (BS)
 Spanish (BA)
 Spanish (EC- 12) with Teacher Certification (BS)
 Studio Art (BA or BFA)
 Theological Studies (BA)
 Vocal Performance (BM)
 Writing (BA)

GRADUATE DEGREES

Master of Arts in Apologetics
 • Philosophical Apologetics Emphasis (MA)
 • Cultural Apologetics Emphasis (MA)
 Master of Arts in Biblical Languages (MA)
 Master of Arts in Christian Counseling (MA)
 Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (MA)
 Master of Arts in Christian Psychology (MA)
 Master of Arts in Classics and Early Christianity (MA)
 Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MA)
 Master of Arts in History (MA)
 Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling



1977

The Master of Business Administration program, the University's first graduate offering, begins



1978

Marilyn McAdams Sibley, former professor and department chair, publishes an early history of HBU: "To Benefit a University: The Union Baptist Association College Property Committee, 1958-1975"

Student Success Department Helps Students During College and Beyond

HBU.edu/StudentSuccess



Academic Success Center

Tutoring, Coaching, Study Facilities

Academic Advising

Advisors for Degree Requirements, Campus Resources and Vocational Interests

Summer Launch

Prepares Learners for the Rigors of College



Success Coaching

Individual Coaching for Student Learning Outcomes

TRIO Student Support Services

Program for First-Generation, Low-Income or Disabled Students

Office of Career & Calling

Helps Connect HBU Students & Alumni with Employers



Your Startup Starts Here!

The McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise at Houston Baptist University

was founded in 2016 by The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation. The Center's mission is to educate capable people in the foundations of entrepreneurial leadership and free enterprise – including teaching and modeling the principles of individual responsibility, limited government, and principled entrepreneurship.

Offering a Master of Science in Management and Entrepreneurship (MSME) and providing key local business mentorship to budding entrepreneurs are key components of the McNair Center.

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

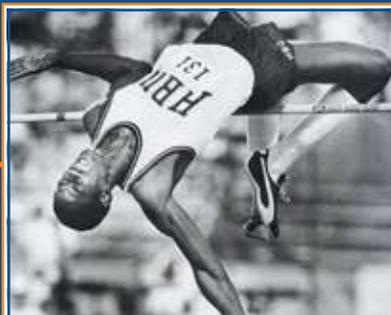
- Addiction & Recovery (MA)
- Crisis Response and Trauma Care (MA)
- Human Sexuality (MA)
- Marriage and Family Track (MA)
- Military and Veteran Care (MA)
- Professional Life Coaching (MA)
- Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies (MA)
- Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MA)
- Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling
- Addiction & Recovery (MA)
- Crisis Response and Trauma Care (MA)
- Human Sexuality (MA)
- Marriage and Family Track (MA)
- Military and Veteran Care (MA)
- Professional Life Coaching (MA)
- Master of Arts in Philosophy (MA)
- Master of Arts in Psychology (MA)
- Master of Arts in Psychology
- Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (MA)
- Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (Re-specialization) (MA)
- Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MA)
- Master of Business Administration
- Accounting (MBA)
- Entrepreneurship (MBA)
- General Management (MBA)
- International Business (MBA)
- Marketing (MBA)
- Organizational Development and Change (MBA)
- Master of Divinity

- Biblical Language (MDiv)
- English Language (MDiv)
- Master of Education
- Bilingual Education (MEd)
- Curriculum and Instruction (MEd)
- Curriculum and Instruction with 7-12 Certification (MEd)
- Curriculum and Instruction with Certification in All-Level Art, Spanish, Music or Physical Education (MEd)
- Curriculum and Instruction with Certification in EC-6 and Special Education (EC-12) (MEd)
- Curriculum and Instruction with Certification in Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies (4-8) (MEd)
- Curriculum and Instruction with EC-6 Bilingual Certification (MEd)
- Curriculum and Instruction with EC-6 Certification (MEd)
- Curriculum and Instruction with English Language Arts and Reading Certification (4-8) (MEd)
- Curriculum and Instruction with Specialization in Instructional Technology (MEd)
- Educational Administration (MEd)
- Educational Diagnostician (MEd)
- Higher Education – Business Management (MEd)
- Higher Education – Christian Studies (MEd)
- Higher Education – Counseling Specialization (MEd)
- Higher Education – Educational Technology (MEd)
- Professional School Counseling (MEd)
- Reading with Reading Specialist Certification (MEd)
- Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (MFA)

- Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting (MFA)
- Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art (MFA)
- Master of Liberal Arts - General (MLA)
- Master of Liberal Arts - Accelerated (MLA)
- Master of Liberal Arts with Specialization
- Education (4-8 or 7-12) (MLA)
- Education (EC-12 Art, Music, Physical Education, or Spanish) (MLA)
- Education (EC-6 Core) (MLA)
- Master of Science in Human Resources Management (MS)
- Master of Science in Kinesiology Specialization in Sport Management (MS)
- Master of Science in Management and Entrepreneurship (MS)
- Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN)
- Master of Science in Nursing – Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (MSN)
- Doctor of Education in Executive Educational Leadership (EdD)
- Doctor of Education in Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services (EdD)
- Doctor of Education in Special Education Leadership (EdD)

**This list is as of December 2, 2020*

HBU.edu/Majors • HBU.edu/Admissions
Admissions@HBU.edu • 281.649.3211



1983

The Atwood II building opens; HBU junior Rickie Thompson becomes the first NCAA National Champion in University history by winning in the high jump competition



1984

Construction begins on the Cullen Science II building to accommodate growth

HBU Online Poised to Reach Even More Learners



Houston Baptist University has been identified as one of the best online Christian graduate schools in Online Christian Colleges' recent ranking.

The proliferation of online education has meant an even greater opportunity for HBU to reach learners eager to obtain their degrees. Even before anyone had ever heard of online education, HBU demonstrated a willingness to reach students outside of its regular reach.

In the early 1970s, HBU partnered with area school districts to offer a concurrent program in which high school seniors could enroll at HBU and complete their senior year of high school and their freshman year of college at the same time.

Dynamic partnerships continued to shape HBU. Local media professionals helped develop a mass media degree

program in the '70s, and HBU partnered with Memorial Hospital (now Memorial Hermann Hospital) for its nursing program training. The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary of Fort Worth established a branch on HBU's campus around the same time.

In the early 1980s, HBU offered selected graduate classes through East Texas Baptist College, the University of Mary Hardin Baylor, Howard Payne University, Wayland Baptist College, Bergstrom Air Force Base and Reese Air Force Base.

In the same decade, HBU began telecasting graduate courses through the Texas Region IV Educational Service Center Network. And an innovative partnership with

area businesses allowed the University's highly regarded graduate business program to reach local professionals with courses at the places of their employment. Professors taught from the HBU studio, and students in satellite locations responded in real time. A courier van driver delivered books and papers to participating students and picked up completed assignments.

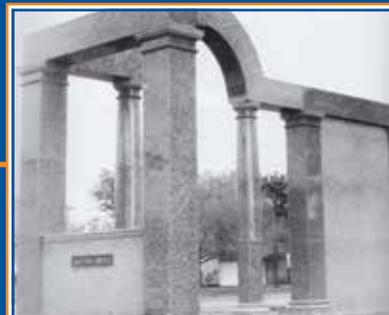
A partnership with North Harris Montgomery Community College in the '90s, served students in the north Houston area with an HBU education. In that period, the University produced television programming for the Trinity Broadcasting Network.

Today, the University maintains partnerships with school districts in which local



1985

The Glasscock Gymnasium is dedicated



1986

A new campus entrance is constructed on Fondren Road using stately columns and architectural elements formed from the same Texas granite as the 10 columns given by the Morris family

educators may earn graduate degrees at their district site with the help of a visiting HBU professor. Students in The Academy at HBU earn college credit during high school. And theology students may learn from Second Baptist Church campuses, to name a few programs.

These examples of innovative approaches and community partnerships have been HBU's characteristic approach for decades. In recent years, it was clear to HBU leadership that an online format was needed to continue to serve students near and far. HBU President Robert Sloan's vision was to carry on HBU's distinctive approach to educational excellence in a far-reaching way.

By 2016, HBU had dabbled in the online format, and Dr. Sloan assembled a task force to study opportunities to reach learners through a major digital education initiative. The same year, Houston philanthropist Pinky Pampell gave \$5 million for the planned expansion of HBU's online academic platforms.

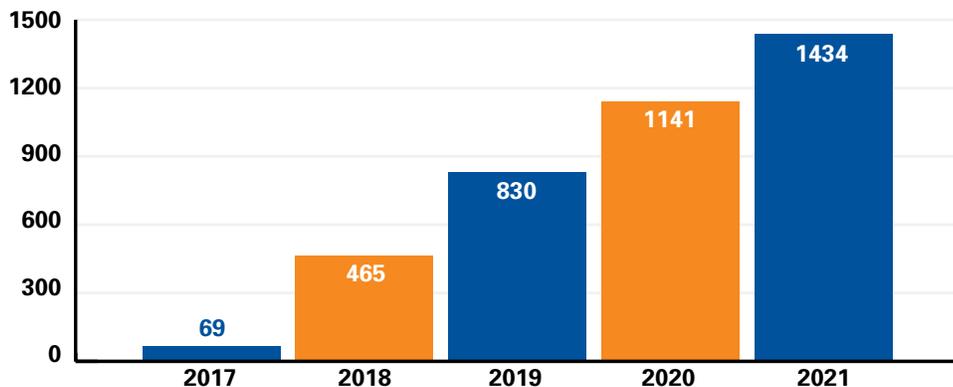
In February 2017, Dr. Steve Peterson and Dr. Jay Spencer joined the University as VP and Associate VP, respectively, for Online/Digital Learning. The two had a combined nearly 50 years in higher education, and success operating and expanding online programs at Liberty University.

"At the time, HBU had a few programs online and less than 60 online students," Peterson remembers. "The Pampell Online Division established an organized online and digital learning department that could manage marketing, enrollment and online course development at HBU. In its inaugural year, HBU Online enrolled over 300 students and established almost 16 programs of study. From the beginning of HBU's online initiative, the goal was to provide the same quality faith-based education that occurs on campus in an online format. The Pampell Online Division partnered with deans and faculty members to create high-quality, rigorous, eight-week online courses. The goal was to serve a student population that needed flexible class schedules to earn their degree."

The Pampell Online Division continued to grow and serve students in Texas, the United States, and even around the world. The

University knowledge in online education proved especially useful when the COVID-19 pandemic forced HBU to move nearly 800 residential classes to remote delivery in one week. The time emphasized the need for digital programs for career professionals and traditional students alike.

HBU Online Student Enrollment



"The last year has presented challenges for everyone that have only reinforced the need for flexibility and convenience for students as they pursue their education," Peterson said. "With our online degree opportunities, many students have been able to continue uninterrupted work toward their degree or begin working on a new degree, despite these challenges."

The Online Division makes learning and degree completion easier for learners like Marisa Mullens of Tomball. She is earning a degree in psychology.

"My biggest reason for going back to college was a pull from God. When looking for a college, I wanted a school that believed in me and what I stand for, and that I could believe in as well. HBU's mission statement and focus on Jesus Christ as Lord is what ultimately helped me decide where I wanted to earn my degree," she said. "The online format works the best for me. I work 40-plus hours per week and need the flexibility online gives me."

Dalton Houser of Katy is completing a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management degree to help further his career.

"I was very nervous about returning to school after a 15-year hiatus, but I was set up for success with a great program and

amazing instructors," he said. "The online program works wonderfully for me. It is set up in a way that anyone can use it. I have definitely made the right choice in schools, not only because of the great instruction, but also because of the way the school has been able to help me grow my faith even in

the short time I have been attending HBU."

Kirbi Kidder of Stephenville searched for a criminal justice program and saw an ad for HBU. "I requested more information on the school, and from my very first phone call, I knew this is where I belong," she said. "Everyone was so great and genuinely helpful through the whole admissions process."

Kidder plans to become a police officer and investigator. "I am a busy single mom of three small children, and I work full-time. Online education gives me the flexibility to complete my classes at night or on weekends," she said.

HBU Online now offers 26 programs of study, including two doctoral degrees. Peterson said, "The launch of the Pampell Online Division and expansion of our program offerings would not have been possible without the generous donation of Mrs. Pinky Pampell in 2016. HBU intends to continue our work in developing and expanding our online program to honor her vision for the University through continued academic excellence and the preservation of our Christian values that set HBU apart from other institutions."

HBUonline.com
OnlineAdmissions@HBU.edu
1-855-428-1960



1987

Dr. Edward Doug Hodo is named the second president of HBU



1989

The former men's gymnastics team becomes #1 in the nation in NCAA competition

University Reaches C Ten Pillars V

When Dr. Robert Sloan became the HBU president in 2006, he brought his visionary leadership. The University was nearing its 50th anniversary, and several years into the new century, Dr. Sloan and others felt it was time to set a fresh course for HBU's continued success and growth. Creating a University vision was proposed – one which would chart a path to 2020. It was a year that seemed a distance away, but one that would be a significant point in history.

Dr. Hunter Baker remembers that time well. He joined HBU as a Director of Strategic Planning, Special Assistant to the President, and an Assistant Professor of Political Science, in 2007. The season followed a time of paring down in University history. Practical needs had been the focus for a time, Baker said. Dreaming big again took a shift.

Baker, now Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for Union University, remembers, "Dr. Sloan had this vision that HBU could really determine what it means to be a Christian University in a major US city. Another big thing was to make the University sort of a cultural center for Christians in the city for

people to associate HBU with the arts, with culture, as a place of debate and intellectual undertakings."

Dr. Sloan hosted forums in which faculty, staff, alumni and supporters shared their ideas. "Anybody connected to the University had the opportunity to come to those meetings and people did. There was a great deal of interest," Baker said. "Dr. Sloan and I would madly take notes."

From the conversations, Baker boiled the key topics to nine to 10 main themes. "Then I started thinking about the campus and there's the 10 columns, the 10 pillars on campus," he said. "And I thought maybe these themes that have come out of the meetings are the 'Ten Pillars.'"

With a back-and-forth exchange of ideas with Dr. Sloan, the points were completed. They included addressing academics, the arts, the surrounding community, the centrality of Christian faith, recruitment, the Houston community and more. The final version was adopted by the HBU Board of Trustees in February 2008.

"I looked at it as an adventure," Baker said. "It was a tremendously exciting time to take some of the first steps toward the future and to think in terms of the

Kingdom of Christ and what part we could play in our calling as a University."

Charles Bacarisse, Vice President of Major Gifts for HBU, was drawn to the University in 2008 precisely because of the vision outlined in the Ten Pillars. "Hunter handed me a copy of the Ten Pillars Vision and he said, 'Read this. If you can't get excited about coming to HBU after you've read this, you don't need to be here.' That was a Friday. I took that document home and read it over the weekend and was so enthralled," Bacarisse said. "I followed my wife around the house reading parts of it. I could not get over the fact that an academic institution would create such a strong declaration of principles and a guidepost for where we want to go as a Christian institution. I could so appreciate what this vision was calling the University to accomplish."

Like for Bacarisse, the Vision served to inspire potential faculty and staff members, students and supporters. The tenets provided the outline of what success would look like, and how the University would reach further than it ever had. It gave an outlet for the giftings and interests of employees, students, alumni and friends.



1990

The former women's gymnastics team earns a national championship



1995

Groundbreaking ceremonies are held for the Hinton Academic Center, a new centerpiece of the campus

Conclusion of Vision Period

CHALLENGES, SUCCESSES AND LOOKING AHEAD

No one foresaw how necessary a guiding vision would be to light the way forward for the University like a beacon in a storm. A few months after the Ten Pillars Vision was made official, Hurricane Ike tore into the Houston area and damaged the HBU campus. For a time, the iconic Brown Administration Building was no longer a central gem of campus, but an uninhabited eyesore surrounded by a chain link fence. Other areas of campus had to be repaired.

Bacarisse remembers, "It really impacted our recruitment of students and really challenged the HBU community. We were first hammered by Ike, and then the world economic crisis hit. We had these amazingly challenging headwinds, but we never lost sight of the vision in the storm. I give tremendous credit to Dr. Sloan and the University leadership."

Some of the results of The Ten Pillars implementation included the establishment of the Honors College, the realization of the University Academic Center to house fine arts, the recruitment of world-class faculty members, the implementation of doctorate programs, the reentry of athletics into Division I status, the start of a football and beach volleyball

program, and the development of The Pillars retail area adjacent to campus. The results of the vision are quantifiable in some areas, but immeasurable in others, as HBU has grown in influence in the Houston community and beyond.

The Ten Pillars Vision proved to be much more than a collection of ideals. "A lot of times people put together a university vision and you go through the exercise and you make a big hullabaloo and it's over," Baker said. "But this one has been used as a guide and a direction to strive toward. I think the University has made progress on every single one of the points.

The vision is the spirit of the place: 'This is what we want to be, this is what we're striving toward. If you also want that, then come and join us.' I think several people were drawn by the vision and still are."

In October 2019, the University compiled the results of the accomplishments toward the Ten Pillars Vision in the last dozen years. The results were telling; major strides were made in every area.

With so much to celebrate, University leadership again visited the idea of a new vision for 2020 and beyond. In the fall of 2019, Dr. Sloan again held listening sessions to determine what the future of HBU will look like. Plans moving forward

are being formulated.

Bacarisse said of the Ten Pillars Vision: "It was an aspirational vision when we adopted it and it remains aspirational today. It doesn't really expire. It calls us to big things. We are amazed at what God has done as work has begun on the next vision."

Ritamarie Tauer, HBU Associate Provost for Academic Operations, said, "Our current 10 Pillars Vision has done a beautiful job of guiding the University over the past 12 years. I am eager to see the results of the research done to prepare the new University vision going forward."

While no one can perfectly imagine the future, leaders are creating a plan that bolsters the success of HBU, students and alumni, and continues the success of a University 60 years in the making.

"Houston is a special place to run a Christian university," Baker said. "There's a lot of big cities in America where the city would not necessarily be that supportive of a school like HBU, but I think that Houston really has been ever since the beginning. I think HBU is much more well-known now than it was before the Ten Pillars Vision was enacted. I think the University has made progress on every single one of the Vision fronts."



1997

A groundbreaking for the Baugh Center is held; students move in the newly constructed Husky Village Apartments on campus



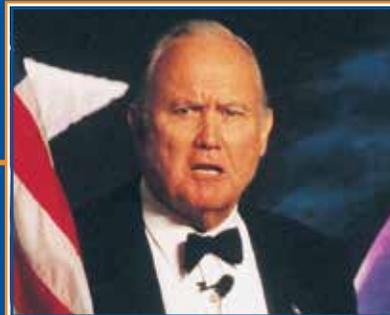
1998

The Bible in America Museum (now the Dunham Bible Museum) opens to the public



1999

The "Legacy Evening with Lady Margaret Thatcher" brings the former prime minister of Great Britain to HBU; the M. Catharine Mest Wing is added to the women's dormitories



2001

General Norman Schwarzkopf is the featured speaker for the Spirit of Excellence Dinner

The Ten Pillars Vision Attainments

1: BUILD ON THE CLASSICS

- Change of core curriculum (Smith College to Liberal Arts Core Curriculum)
- "Expanding online learning offerings for the core curriculum as well as full undergraduate and graduate degree programs"
 - Initiation of Distance Education in summer 2013
 - Pampell Online Division launched in fall 2016

2: RECRUIT FOR NATIONAL INFLUENCE

- Diverse student population
- Increase in national recruiting
- Larger endowed scholarship fund
- Honors College established
- Services for First-Generation Students

3: EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE OF CHRISTIAN GRADUATE EDUCATION

- Launched School of Engineering
 - Launched in fall 2018 with a BS in Cyber Engineering, BS in Electrical Engineering, BS in Computer Science
- Professional training in:
 - **Ministry**
 1. MA Classics and Early Christianity (spring 2019)
 2. MA Christian Leadership (fall 2016)
 3. Master of Divinity (spring 2016)
 - **Various Fine Arts**
 1. MFA Creative Writing (spring 2020)
 2. MFA Screenwriting (spring 2020)
 - **Healthcare**
 1. Master of Science in Nursing (fall 2017)
 2. RN-BSN (fall 2015)
 - **Education**
 1. MEd Higher Education (spring 2017)
 2. Doctoral Programs (see Pillar 10)
 - **Psychology**
 1. MA Christian Psychology fall 2019
 2. MA in Human Services Counseling (fall 2018)
 3. MA in Pastoral Counseling (fall 2017)
 4. MA Marriage and Family Therapy (fall 2017)

4: ESTABLISH A RESIDENTIAL SOCIETY OF LEARNING

- The Hodo Residence College
- Faculty-in-Residence
- Java City
- Wireless capabilities
- Academic Success Center established
- NCAA Division 1 Sports
- The addition of football and beach volleyball
- Bradshaw Fitness Center

5: INCREASE OUR CULTURAL IMPACT THROUGH OUR FACULTY

- Faculty publications, performances, and artistic endeavors
- Sabbaticals
- Trips to National Conferences
- Academic Centers established on campus
 1. *Center for Christianity in Business*
 2. *Center for Exploring Ministry Careers*
 3. *Institute of Christianity and Scholarship*
 4. *Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty*

6: RENEW OUR CAMPUS, RENEW OUR COMMUNITY

- Landmark: Belin Tower
- The Pillars Shopping Center
- Morris Cultural Arts Center, Hodo Residence College, and University Academic Center all completed

7: BRING ATHENS AND JERUSALEM TOGETHER

- Apologetics Growth
 1. *MA Apologetics (spring 2013)*
 2. *HBU Apologetics Conference*

8: EXPAND OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CREATIVE ARTS: VISUAL, MUSICAL, AND LITERARY

- UAC Art Studios and Galleries
- MCAC and outside groups utilizing the space
- New Academic programs include
 - **Drama**
BM Music Theater (fall 2019)
 - **Filmmaking**
BFA Cinematics Arts (fall 2015)
 - **Creative Writing**
MFA Creative Writing (fall 2019)
- New undergraduate and graduate degrees in fine arts
 1. *BFA Graphic Design (fall 2019)*
 2. *BFA Interactive Media and Digital Design (fall 2017)*
 3. *BFA Cinematic Arts (fall 2015)*
 4. *BA Mass Media Arts (fall 2015)*
- Writers Conference

9: CULTIVATE A STRONG GLOBAL FOCUS

- Veteran & International Student Center established
- China Trip
- Formation of the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise
- "Missions Major"
 - MA in *Intercultural Studies* began fall 2019
- Growth of mission trip opportunities

10: MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL AS AN INSTITUTION

- Growth
 - **Number of students**
Largest freshman class and highest enrollment in University history
 - **Increase in faculty**
 - **Number of graduate programs**
As of fall 2020, 40 graduate programs
 - **Number of lectures on campus**
- Doctoral Programs
 1. *EdD Executive Educational Leadership (fall 2016)*
Move to the Next Level with SACSCOC
 2. *EdD Special Education Leadership (fall 2018)*
 3. *EdD Mental Health and Human Services (fall 2019)*

(This list of attainments is not comprehensive)

2002

The iconic Ornogah yearbook wins first place with distinction from the Associated Collegiate Press, the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association, and the Baptist Press Association, as well as a silver medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association



2005

HBU is Ranked among "Best Universities" offering master's degrees in the Western Region by U.S. News & World Report

HBU Is Making Disciples

Since HBU's founding in 1960, the Christian mission of the University has been inseparable from the academic component. HBU Founding Father Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr. said, "I have believed in HBU throughout my life as being a Christian university where students get a great education, and are encouraged to love the Lord and their country."

From the beginning, he wanted to help ensure that HBU was, and would continue to be, a Christian institution where "Jesus Christ is Lord." He said, "Every staff and faculty member has to accept Jesus Christ and believe the Bible. I was so determined to set and keep that standard."

But more than just adherence to the Christian faith, University leadership, faculty and staff have endeavored to create disciples who would live faithfully and share

the Gospel with others.

Sammy Ramos '04 is the Founding and Lead Pastor of Cistern Church in southwest Houston. He explains what discipleship means to him: "Discipleship is the intentional process of submitting our lives to the righteous rule and reign of King Jesus. It involves everything from how we think about God to what we do in our everyday lives," he said. "Discipleship includes reading Scripture and great books, but it's so much more. Discipleship really comes to life in the context of community, with brothers and sisters in Christ fully devoted to becoming the people God created us to be."

At HBU, Ramos majored in Christianity and music, and was involved in several student organizations including the Baptist Student Ministry and the Ministry Leadership Council. He remembers staff members like Saleim Kahleh, University Associate Minister, and

Colette Cross, Director of HBU Discipleship, along with faculty, who influenced him toward faith as a college student.

"My time at HBU helped solidify a foundation of faith that I had received from my parents and home church growing up," Ramos said. "My faith was not only challenged and strengthened, I was also given numerous opportunities to put my faith into practice."

Shannon Rutherford '03, is now the Director of Baptist Student Ministries for the University of Houston. At HBU, Rutherford was a Christianity and psychology major, was involved in the BSM and other organizations, and served as a chaplain intern. The relationships she formed helped carry her through her own challenges.

"I owe so much of my foundation as a minister to my time at HBU. The education I received was of the highest quality.



2005

(Continued) US Representative J.C. Watts speaks at the Spirit of Excellence Gala



2006

Dr. Robert Bryan Sloan is named the third president of HBU

Professors poured their knowledge and wisdom into my life, and they shaped the way I thought about the world and about God," she said. "Even more than the educational gain, I learned how to be a minister through their constant care and outpouring into my life. During my sophomore year I was diagnosed with cancer. The Lord surrounded me with an amazing community who prayed for me and walked with me through it."

Now Rutherford inspires others. "I have the opportunity to work with an amazing staff and student-led team who are seeking to share the Gospel with and make disciples of the 47,000 students who attend UH. We do that through outreach, Bible studies, worship, discipleship groups, activities and mission trips," she said. "Each day is unique in what we do and who God calls us to meet or invest in. UH is the second-most diverse university in the US, so we get to minister to the world by walking across the street or hosting students at our building. The best part of ministry is seeing college students come to know Jesus and grow in their faith. What was 'entrusted to me' at HBU, I now get to 'entrust to others.'"

For Mark Edworthy '83, the biblical calling to make disciples took him across the world. During his time at HBU, Edworthy was a track athlete, soccer player, cheerleader, and served in several Christian organizations and at church.

"Being at HBU helped me with scriptural foundations, challenged me, and it was a stage in life transition. I learned a lot about leadership," he remembers.

Edworthy and his wife, Susie, went on to earn degrees at Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. After serving in a church, they joined the International Mission Board and they and their three young children moved to Poland in 1991. They served in Europe, learning Polish and Czech, planting churches and supporting missionaries.

In 2020, the Edworthys returned to Texas. Mark is working with CityRise as a Network Director and teaches at HBU.

"A disciple is one who patterns his life after his master; you know you are a disciple when you are making disciples," Edworthy said. "Discipleship is not knowledge-based, it is obedience-based.

For Tiffany Charles, HBU Assistant Director of Campus Visits and Events for Undergraduate Recruitment, being a disciple means being a servant. She teaches a women's Bible study at HBU.

"It's not my words or my opinions that impact the lives of others. It's me knowing the Word of God, coupled with my personal experiences in God, that has changed the course of the lives I've encountered in discipleship. It has challenged my prayer life, study life, as well as brought me to another level of accountability," she said. "I love what I do, and I have seen lives changed for the glory of the Lord."

Lesli Fridge, Assistant Professor of Education, said, "In an informal manner, I feel like I disciple all my students through prayer and devotion in each class. I include Christian worldview assignments in the syllabus and I openly talk about my relationship with God and share personal testimony as appropriate. I like to encourage others to become involved in discipleship opportunities at HBU. Take advantage of the freedom you have to share Christ with others!"



Kaleo Discipleship Q&A with Colette Cross HBU Director of Discipleship

What is the history and mission of Kaleo Discipleship at HBU?

In 2015, HBU began a cross-campus initiative to further integrate the University's mission statement that "Jesus Christ is Lord" into every aspect of campus activity, culture, and process. Through a generous three-year grant given by Terry and Doris Looper, HBU began to focus a large portion of student programming and engagement on personal relationships meant to further enhance student development through a continued focus on helping students understand the purpose of Christ in education and everyday life. This initiative had three elements: a) an updating of the first floor of the Moody Library into a learning commons space designed for student community and spiritual formation; b) providing resources that focused on spiritual formation and vocational spiritual integration for students, faculty and staff; and c) an intentional focus on student spiritual growth as well as leadership development.

What are the programs and activities associated with Kaleo?

An annual Student Life Leadership/Discipleship Retreat; intentional discipleship with students, faculty and staff; access to Biblical-based study resources; mission opportunities; individual/group Bible studies; Covenant Fellows, a scholarship program for students in Christian-related majors; and much, much more!

How can people support Kaleo Discipleship?

As we celebrate the joys of God's work through Kaleo, we are grateful for the generosity of the Loopers and the Looper Foundation. College is a time when students make decisions that affect their future and eternity. If you are able to share in this celebration of God's work through discipleship on our campus, please go to Give to Kaleo: HBU.edu/GiveKaleo
Please know that we are grateful for you.



2007

The Joella & Stewart Morris Cultural Arts Center, with the Dunham Theater and Belin Chapel, is dedicated; the Honors College begins



2008

Dr. Sloan and the HBU Board of Trustees adopt "The Ten Pillars," a 12-Year vision for the future of the University; the University Academic Center and Hodo Residence College (formerly the Lake House) open

History of HBU Athletics

By Russ Reneau



HBU fielded its first program when it suited up a men's basketball team for NAIA at-large competition for the 1963-64 season. Since then, the Huskies have added programs, lost programs, reclassified – four times – and changed conferences on more than a few occasions. Today, HBU fields 17 NCAA Division I sports programs, competing in the Southland Conference full-time since 2014, as well as the Western Athletic Conference in men's soccer since 2013.

The history is certainly interesting and definitely worth celebrating as the University turns 60. Much of the credit goes to the leadership that understood the importance of athletics in building school spirit and camaraderie.

"HBU Athletics has been fortunate to have three presidents (Dr. William Hinton, Dr. Doug Hodo and Dr. Robert Sloan), all of whom were tremendously supportive of athletics and what it could mean to the University," Ron Cottrell, Associate Athletic Director and James Sears Bryant Head Men's Basketball Coach, said. "We've had administration that, from the very beginning, were unbelievably supportive and allowed for athletics to be what it is today. It's grown, molded, changed and

found different ways, but it's never been less important with any of our steps along the way."

"Dr. Sloan, having come from Baylor, where they were in the midst of big-time college athletics, certainly understands the value of having an athletic department that is representative of your university and can get the name of your university out there on a wider basis – getting publicity that you couldn't possibly buy," Director of Athletics Steve Moniaci said. "Of all the presidents I've worked with over the years, obviously, he's far and away the most supportive of athletics and understands Division I athletics, more than anybody I've ever come across in a president's role. If he wanted to be a Division I athletic director, he would be an absolutely great one, and there would be no learning curve. You can't say that about most college presidents."

THE EARLY YEARS

Men's basketball was the only varsity program at first, with others competing at the club level. Dr. Ed Billings was the athletic director at HBU from 1966-90, providing stability as times continued to change. The Huskies reclassified from NAIA to NCAA Division II for the 1967-68

season under Gerald Myers, who would go on to have success as both a head coach and athletic director at Texas Tech. Then, HBU made the jump to NCAA Division I for the 1973-74 campaign.

HBU had some exciting players during the early days, including Eddie Brown, who remains the school's all-time leading scorer. Brown was inducted into the Hall of Honor and has since been joined by teammates Jim Skaggs, brothers E.C. and Mack Coleman, and Robert Paige, who would go on to be drafted to the NBA by the Golden State Warriors and enjoy a long career as a Harlem Globetrotter.

The program had not experienced much team success until a young Gene Iba came to town. The son of longtime Tulsa head coach Clarence Iba and nephew of legendary Oklahoma State and US Olympic head coach Henry Iba made his own mark when he led the Huskies to the 1980-81 Trans America Athletic Conference (TAAC) regular-season title.

Three years later, HBU would be put on the national map by winning its second TAAC regular-season title, then finishing the job it had started by also claiming the conference tournament championship and advancing to the school's first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance. The 1983-84 Huskies squad was led by HBU Sports Hall of Honor inductees Anicet Lavodrama, Boone Almanza, Terry Hairston, Matt England and Fred Goporo, then the entire team was inducted in 2014.

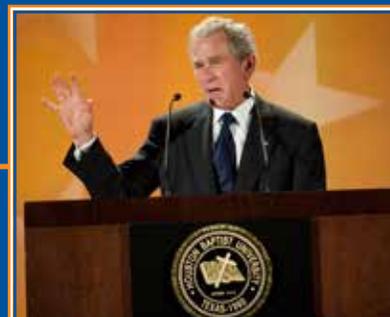
Around that same time, a lad from Scotland named Colin Montgomerie found his way to the HBU men's golf team. He would lead the Huskies to three-straight TAAC Championships and the first three of five-straight NCAA Championship berths. Montgomerie would go on to become one of the most decorated European professional golfers in history and PGA Hall of Famer, who is still competitive on the PGA Champions Tour today.

"Back in the 80s, from my seat at Rice, we thought of HBU as, in many cases,



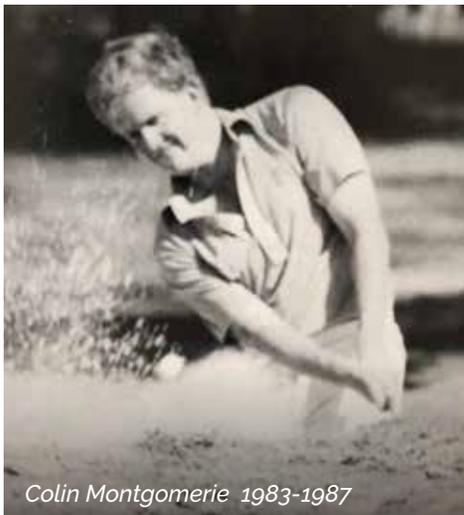
2009

Construction is completed on the \$1.5 million Sherry and Jim Smith Letourneau Organ in Belin Chapel



2010

Former President George W. Bush speaks at the Spirit of Excellence Gala; Dr. Don Looser, Vice President Emeritus, publishes "An Act of Providence: A History of Houston Baptist University, 1960-2010"



Colin Montgomerie 1983-1987

to-back TAAC championships in 1984 and 1985 by All-Americans Carlos Gil and Jorge Cruz. HBU had very successful men's and women's gymnastics programs that began competing in 1977, the men's tennis program competed from 1977 to 1989 and the women's tennis program competed from 1979 to 1986.

The Huskies' track program provided one of the school's all-time memorable performances as Ricky Thompson won the high jump at the 1983 NCAA Championships, becoming HBU's first national champion.

The men's gymnastics team had several All-Americans, including Paul O'Neill, who won the national championship in the rings in 1987. HBU was one of the top programs in the country, achieving a No. 1 ranking in 1988, but NCAA rules violations eventually led to the dissolution of the program. The women were also very successful, with the 1990 team claiming a Division II national championship and the entire team being inducted with the inaugural Hall of Honor

better athletically than we were, with the exception of not having football (at the time)," Moniaci, who previously spent 26 years as Senior Associate Athletic Director at Rice University, said. "There were many years HBU's basketball team was better than Rice's, the track team was on par and the tennis team was competitive. The baseball team always gave Rice a good game every time they played. From the gymnastics standpoint, HBU was national caliber and the golf team was much better than Rice's. In a number of areas, they were much more competitive than we were there, and when you thought of HBU, you thought of its athletic department. Living in Houston, I didn't know much about HBU other than their athletic prowess and success in several sports."

The men's golf program was the second sport on the scene, as it began competition in 1966, followed by the women's golf program in 1973. In the early days, Bob Seligman earned two berths to the NCAA Championship (1971 and 1974), then Ken Kelley earned a berth and finished sixth at the 1982 NCAA Championship. Sherry Donovan, Stephanie Farwig and Debbie Skelly were the core leaders of six-straight AIWA National Championship appearances from 1976-81 on the women's side. Caroline Pierce became the first female to qualify for an NCAA Championship in 1984, turning in an 18th-place showing.

During the 1980s, HBU sponsored 10 varsity sports. Men's soccer began competing in 1979 and was led to back-



Caroline Pierce 1982-1986

class in 1997.

Following the NCAA rules violations, the athletic department took a year hiatus from varsity competition, then rebooted and returned as an NAIA program in 1991. When the Huskies returned to play, they fielded four programs – men's basketball, baseball, softball and volleyball.

THE NAIA DAYS

Cottrell began the rebuild of the men's basketball program with the 1991-92 season, then would also serve as athletic director from 1994-2009. He is now the fifth-longest tenured among active head coaches in NCAA Division I basketball as he embarks on his 30th season this winter, and is HBU's all-time winningest basketball coach with 491 career victories.

"I was grateful to have the opportunity to be part of the program – I was young and excited to be a head coach and to be back to what I considered to be my home growing up," Cottrell said. "To be at a faith-based school that really agreed that what we could do off the court mattered as much as what we could do on the court was big for me. To see us kind of restructure the department and bring sports back slowly and establish our name at the NAIA and become national powers at that level in all the sports that we had was tremendous.

"We were a small department at the time, but we slowly grew it; the support we had to be able to be successful at that level was great. Our coaching staffs were all very, very close. We were all young, working together and making a way for our sports, so that was a lot of fun. I'm very happy to see where we were able to take it from when I first came to when we made the step to Division I."

After the first two campaigns, Cottrell guided HBU to 14-straight winning seasons, 11 20-win seasons, two 30-win seasons, and coached 15 All-Americans. The Huskies won the first of nine-straight Red River Athletic Conference (RRAC) championships in 1998 and advanced to the NAIA National Tournament. HBU had its best season in 2002-03, as Cottrell was named the national coach of the year. Led by national player of the year Rod Nealy, who averaged 28.9 points per game, the Huskies went 31-3 and were ranked No. 1 in the country, before being upset at the NAIA National Tournament.

Volleyball also had a tremendous run in the RRAC, winning nine-straight titles, including eight undefeated conference seasons, and garnered eight individual All-America honors. In 2002, the Huskies went 47-3 overall and advanced to the NAIA National Championship match, finishing



2011

HBU is fully admitted back into NCAA Division I Athletics membership and announces acceptance into the Southland Conference



2012

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, Dr. Charles Krauthammer, speaks at the Spirit of Excellence Gala

the campaign ranked second in the nation. Husky alumna and Hall of Honor inductee Kaddie Mahoney Platt was the head coach from 1995-2011 and posted 499 career wins.

Softball has been led by head coach Mary-Ellen Hall since 1992. She enters her 30th season in the spring and is HBU's all-time winningest coach, in any sport, with 817 career victories. She led the Huskies to nine-straight RRAC titles from 1999-2007. Laura Hess was named the national pitcher of the year in 2004 and was one of 18 All-Americans during that era.



Rod Nealy 2002-2003

Baseball won nine RRAC championships between 1998 and 2007 and had 25 All-America selections. Former HBU catcher and Hall of Honor inductee Jared Moon has been at the helm of the program since 2006, heading into his 16th season this spring, and is HBU's all-time winningest

baseball coach with 387 victories. Moon led the Huskies to an appearance at the 2007 NAIA World Series, just prior to the move to NCAA Division I.

Women's basketball was added for the 1999-2000 season and experienced immediate success with a 25-9 record and the first of seven-straight RRAC titles. The Huskies had eight players earn all-America honors during the NAIA era. Additionally, two-sport standout in women's basketball and volleyball, Elinor Smith, and men's basketball's Charles Fordjour were inducted into the inaugural RRAC Hall of Fame in 2020.

"When I got here, they were tremendously successful at the NAIA level and I think that helped with the transition," Moniaci said. "There was an expectation of winning and all of our sports were fully scholarshiped. It wasn't like we were going from Division III, we had people who dealt with scholarships and knew how to give scholarships – all of that was in place.

"The biggest initial hurdle was starting the necessary number of sports and, unfortunately, bringing a lawsuit against the NCAA to get them to uphold what it had written in its handbook. Once we got over the hurdle of meeting the minimum number of sports to meet NCAA standards for Division I, then it became a matter of putting in the correct processes that you have to be a Division I athletic department and follow all of the rules. As I told Dr. Sloan when we first visited about this, is the two areas that can get you in trouble are either in your medical area or rules compliance, and so we agreed we would have to be well-staffed in those two areas. One of the main reasons we do what we do is to create a positive image for the University, so you don't want to take any risks in generating negative publicity."

RETURN TO THE NCAA

With HBU moving back to NCAA Division I competition, came the return of the men's and women's soccer programs in 2006, followed by the men's and women's golf programs and the men's and women's cross country and track and field programs in 2007. The Huskies competed in the Great West Conference from 2007-2013.

"I thought it was great for us to be in the Great West, because it gave us the ability to play for a championship, even when we were going through the transition and also helped get our name out nationally – we were playing in New Jersey, we were playing in Utah, we were playing in Chicago, we were playing all over the country, so the HBU name was being taken into homes in places where we had not been otherwise," Cottrell said. "I think that helped all of our recruiting. All of us benefitted from that and the name got out there quicker than it would have if we had just jumped right into the Southland right off the bat. Then, I think the right move was made to get us into a regional conference, where we could develop rivalries with the schools that are in Texas and Louisiana, so I think that's been important for us as well."

While in the Great West, the men's golf team won the first team championship in 2009. The women's golf team then won four-straight championships from 2010 to 2013, with Gaia Olcese claiming the individual title in 2010 and Kelsey Lou-Hing winning in both 2011 and 2013. Women's soccer claimed a conference title in 2010, with softball following with a championship in the spring of 2011. Volleyball won a share of the GWC regular-season title in current head coach Trent Herman's first year at the helm of the program in 2012. The men's golf program moved to the America Sky Conference and won the league's championship in 2013 to advance to the NCAA Championship, the first postseason appearance by an HBU program since 1988. Baseball won the last-ever championship the Great West held in 2013, before the league dissolved.

Steve Moniaci became the athletic director in 2009, continuing HBU's transition back to NCAA Division I, but would soon lead the Huskies into a new era.

"Entering the Southland, from the beginning, was probably our goal being right in the middle of the footprint of the conference," Moniaci said. "Having the ability to get in was huge and it was just as significant that they told us they would not take us without adding football.

"As I've said all along, if you are a university in Texas, in Houston, and you



2014

Legendary coach Lou Holtz speaks at the Spirit of Excellence Gala



2014

(Continued) The first-ever home football game is played in Husky Stadium on Dunham Field; the McNair Plaza is constructed

are not playing football at some level, people want to know why. If you're not playing football, you're not going to be in much of the 'water cooler' conversations in the office on Monday morning and that's important for the visibility of the University. While it's taken us a while to get to the level of competitiveness that we would have liked to see on day one, I think we're there now, and I think every one of our sports is competitive within our conference and has a chance of winning a conference championship."

When HBU joined the Southland Conference in 2013, football was added and officially began competing in the league in 2014. Men's soccer also moved to the Western Athletic Conference in 2013. Beach volleyball, now HBU's 17th program, began competing in 2016 and the Southland Conference added the sport to its championship lineup in 2020, although its first championship was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Women's Soccer 2016

Women's soccer knocked off top-seeded Stephen F. Austin, behind the goalkeeping of Tournament MVP Patty Walrath, to claim HBU's first-ever Southland Conference team championship and advance to the NCAA Tournament in 2014. The Huskies then added a second title in 2016, with Allison Abendschein scoring the lone goal in a 1-0 victory, again over SFA, in the championship match to earn MVP honors.

Baseball set an NCAA record with four complete games by its starting pitchers at a conference tournament to win the 2015 Southland Conference Tournament championship. The Huskies shut out Sam Houston, 6-0, behind the pitching performance of tourney MVP Curtis Jones. HBU came out of the loser's bracket to advance to the conference tournament's



Kaitlin Smith 2017-present

championship Saturday in back-to-back seasons in 2017 and 2018. Tyler Depreta-Johnson won the ABCA/Rawlings Gold Glove Award as the nation's best defensive shortstop in 2018.

Women's golf captured back-to-back Southland Conference Championships in 2017 and 2018. Lexi Brooks won the individual title in 2017 and Kaity Cummings won in 2018. With the 2018 title, head coach David Shuster, who has led both the men's and women's programs, won his eighth conference championship since HBU returned to Division I.

In 2019, Denim Rogers finished seventh in the decathlon at the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships to claim All-America honors. In 2020, Kaitlin Smith won the gold medal in the pentathlon at the Southland Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships and Chris Welch entered the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships ranked sixth in the nation in the triple jump, before the event was canceled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In its short history, the football program has produced three all-Americans, with the late Garrett Dolan earning back-to-back honors in 2016 and 2017 and national sacks leader Andre Walker and Gamar Girdy Brito in 2019. Preseason All-America quarterback Bailey Zappe has set every passing record at HBU and in

the shortened, four-game 2020 season, he threw for 1,833 yards, 15 touchdowns, only one interception, and nearly led the Huskies to an upset of Texas Tech. His 458.3 passing yards per game were on pace to set the FCS record.

For all of its success on the field, HBU has also prided itself in standing out academically. HBU won the Southland Conference Academic Award four-straight times from 2016 to 2019. The Huskies have also had 15 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, the highest academic honor in the nation, with 10 of those since HBU joined the Southland.

"I've been so pleased to be a part of seeing what's happened at HBU through the years," Cottrell said. "It's tremendous to have seen it as long as I've seen it and see it become what it is today, but knowing all the steps along the way we've been very successful at every level and everywhere and had tremendous student-athletes that have represented our University in a great way."



Baseball 2015

The history of HBU Athletics continues to be written every day. After enduring an unprecedented shutdown and several of this year's sports moving to the spring, 2020 and 2021 are sure to have their own interesting chapters to add to the Huskies' story.



2015

HBU dedicates the Belin Tower, named for Dr. & Mrs. J. Bruce Belin, Jr.; HBU announces the Archie W. Dunham College of Business, named following a \$15 million gift from Christian business leader Archie Dunham and his wife, Linda



2016

Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan speaks at the Spirit of Excellence Gala



HBU Sled Team an Important HBU Tradition

In the spring of 1969, the University welcomed its first mascot, Mingo, a fluffy Samoyed. Later, in 1999, HBU was gifted with its first-ever Husky, a dog named Wakiza "Kiza." At her passing in 2010, HBU welcomed Kiza II, and at Kiza II's retirement, the school brought in Kiza III in late 2017.

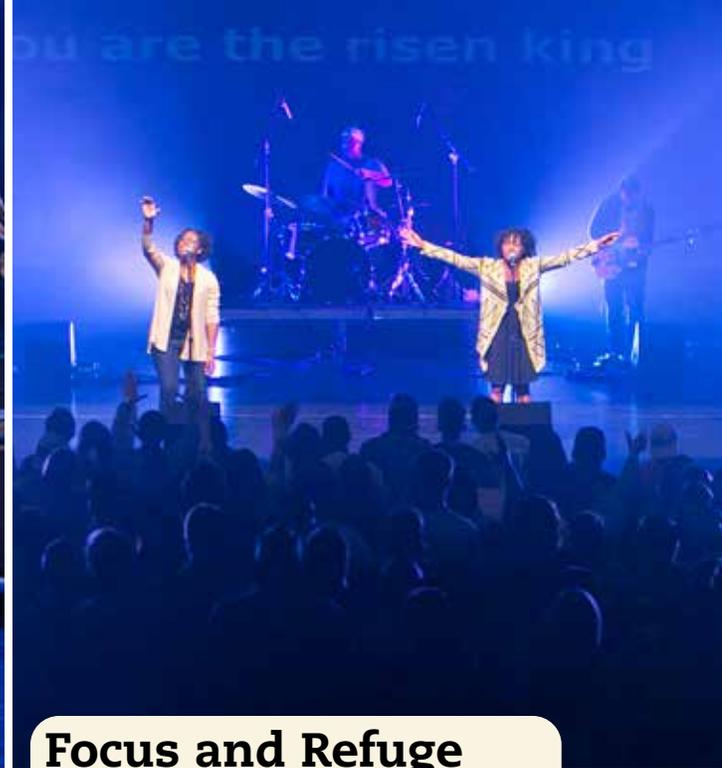
Kiza is a regular around campus, interacting with students and visitors, and appearing at sporting and recruiting events. She's captured many hearts with her warm demeanor. Integral to her care is the HBU Sled Team.

The Williams and Trozzo families established an endowment for the care of the University mascot several years ago. Jared and Payne Trozzo have continued the program to honor the memory of their mother, Dawn Trozzo, in collaboration with their father, Clay Trozzo, MBA '96, and grandparents, Dr. Diane, '93, and Stanley Williams. The scholarship program supports students who serve on the Sled Team in the mascot program.

"Back in May of 2020, I took over the role of head musher from Carissa Hadsell. Since then I have been taking care of Kiza. During the semester I am responsible for making sure Kiza goes to events, goes on walks, attends vet and grooming appointments, etc. I participate in the Sled Team because I enjoy seeing the students and faculty interact with Kiza. With how close Kiza is to myself and my family, we think of her less as the HBU mascot and more as a member of our pack. I think that Kiza's significance is twofold. On one level, I know that many of my fellow students are missing their dogs throughout the semester, and seeing Kiza reminds them of home. On another level, I think that Whit Goodwin, Associate Provost for Student Life, phrased it well when he said that Huskies are hard-workers, good-natured, and smart – meaning they accurately represent many of my fellow students at HBU."

– Nathan Ewest, Head Musher

HBU.edu/Sledteam



Focus and Refuge Bands Lead Worship

Students in HBU's Focus and Refuge bands have the important job and privilege of leading students and others into adoration and praise of God. The two campus worship bands have become an integral part of Spiritual Life and the campus community at HBU.

Refuge is the official HBU worship band that plays at convocation and other HBU functions. Focus plays for Baptist Student Ministries (BSM) on Thursday nights, and for outreach events such as church Disciple Nows. Refuge is comprised of a violinist, guitarist and rhythm guitarist, bass player, keyboard player, drummer, and vocalists. Focus includes lead and rhythm guitarists, a percussionist, a keyboard player, and vocalists.

Nathan Mahand HBU Baptist Student Ministries (BSM) Director, oversees the bands, but he emphasizes that the talented groups are student-led. "It adds an element of student identification with what's going on onstage that wouldn't be there if it was faculty or staff-led, or directed by someone from the outside," he said.

Junior Abigail Rodrigue serves as a current keyboard player and vocalist for Focus. "There is a special connection I think between the student congregation and the bands," she said. "The bands are made up of students that we see every day. They are people like you and me. Through these bands, HBU shows that it does not matter what your background, major, or appearance is, we all have a heart to pursue the Lord."



2016

(Continued) HBU offers its first doctoral program, the Doctor of Education in Executive Educational Leadership, making HBU a national, comprehensive university; the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise, named for philanthropists Janice and Robert C. McNair, is established



2017

HBU launches the Pampell Online Division, named for benefactor Pinky Pampell

International and Veteran Student Services Assist Students

Students have unique journeys to HBU. The University welcomes students of diverse regional, educational and experiential backgrounds. Among HBU's treasured students are veteran and international students, who enrich HBU.

Shannon Bedo, Director of International and Veteran Student Services, directs the office as it serves the needs of these specific student groups. "In my role, my duty is to help international and veteran students; however, many times, they actually minister to me," Bedo said. "They have life and cultural experiences that bring a unique perspective to the classroom and campus life."

The department assists students with needed paperwork including international visas, Department of Veterans Affairs Applications for Benefits, and more. The department works with students to connect them with other HBU departments and with resources to help them succeed.

Students like Antonio Aranda come to HBU via an untraditional

"The staff of the HBU Veterans Affairs Office always put your needs first. The staff has walked me through the process of transitioning to college life and has given me a home away from home. They have given me a space to grow my character and helped me through the process of class scheduling and organizing," Harrington said. "My plans are to continue to work alongside veterans and help them transition to civilian life after service and to open a business to put my community to work. I will use the skills I've learned at HBU and in the military to become a servant leader in my community."

International student Seraphine Muthoka is also earning a degree to better serve others. The Nairobi, Kenya native chose HBU because of its faith component and its Doctor of Education in Executive Educational Leadership program.

After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in Kenya, and serving in a supervisory role at a bank, Muthoka sought out a program that would further her leadership capabilities. Muthoka



Antonio Aranda



Seraphine Muthoka



Cody Harrington

route. Aranda enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1996 and served in roles including as a field artillery cannoneer, an embassy guard in Cuba and Columbia, and as a helicopter crew chief.

"While serving overseas at two different embassies, I got to see how the State Department and other agencies interacted with its host country," Aranda said. "I got interested in international relations and figured I better learn how my own government works before I try and understand another."

At HBU, Aranda studies political science. "I really enjoy the work ethic of the HBU staff and professors," he said. "Their willingness to work with me as a veteran has been a great experience thus far. They're approachable, professional, patient and appreciated."

Biblical studies major Cody Harrington chose HBU's Christian approach to education to earn a degree in biblical studies. He enlisted in the US Army in 2004 as an airborne mechanic, served in Alaska, and was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Harrington is now the chaplain of the Husky Veterans Association and is a team leader for the Navigators ministry of HBU.

decided upon HBU, and worked with the HBU International Office to help her enroll and transition. Now, she is the first international HBU EdD candidate.

"There are so many things I want to do with my doctorate," Muthoka said. "The person you are when you start a doctorate is not the same person you are when you finish. It's supposed to make you a better person; every day you're learning something. Also, it makes me a better mother to my daughter. I wanted to open up my mind to possibilities in the world and to motivate women back in my country and here in America."

Muthoka interns in the HBU International Office where she is working on graduate assistant programs that would help HBU better compete with other university programs. She's also paving the way for other international students after her.

"I think God predestines us for places, Muthoka said. "I think HBU chose me. I think God predestined me for this exactly at the right time."

HBU.edu/Veterans
HBU.edu/International



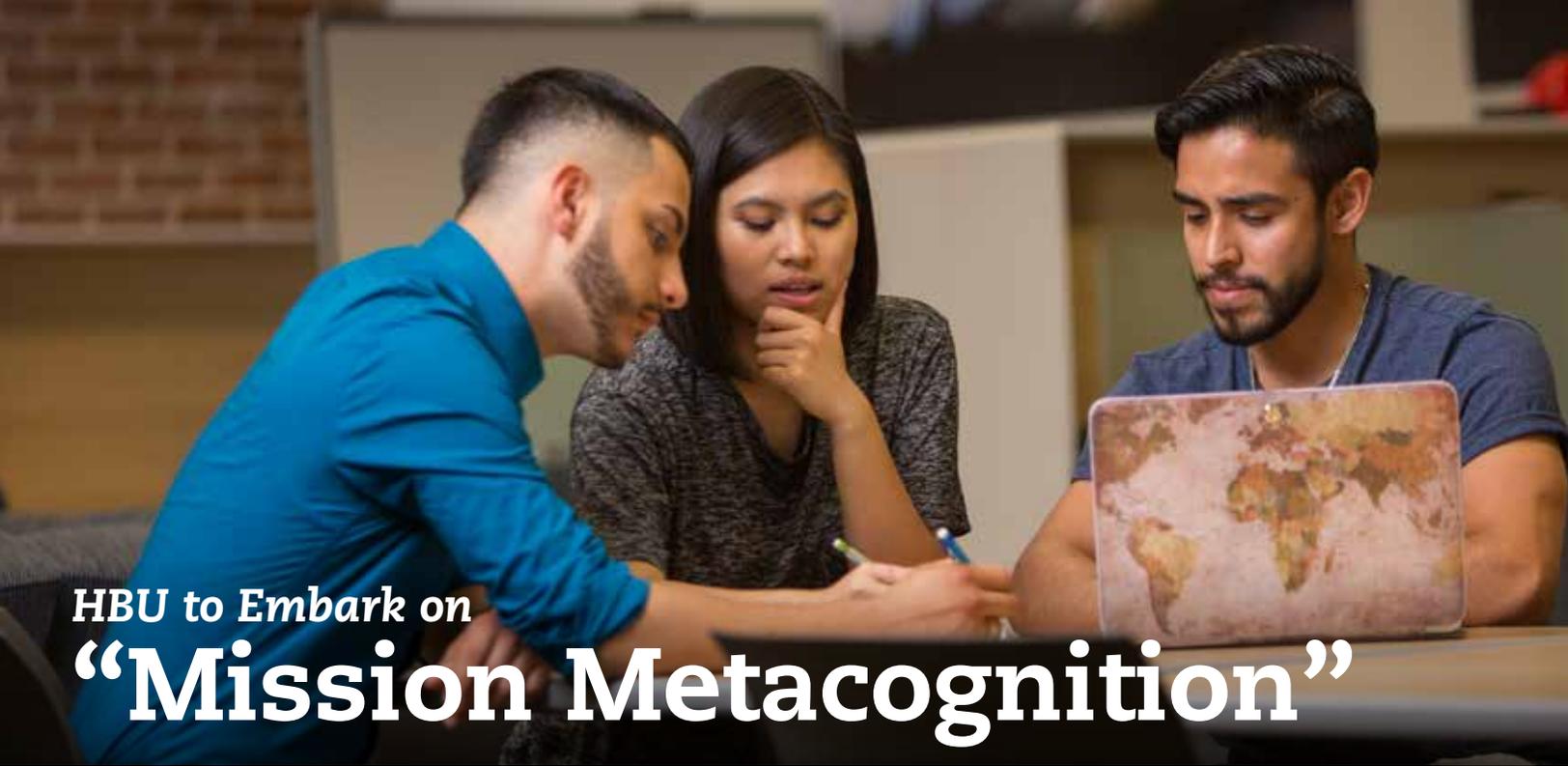
2018

"Fixer Upper" star Chip Gaines speaks at the Spirit of Excellence Gala



2018

(Continued) Sherry and Jim Smith, Sr. provide \$20 million toward the construction of classroom and laboratory facilities to be utilized by the College of Science and Engineering and the School of Nursing and Allied Health



HBU to Embark on “Mission Metacognition”

“I am very proud of the new QEP as I firmly believe that improved metacognitive learning skills will help many more of our students be successful in their courses, and that they will even help those who are doing well to get to higher levels of learning.”

*– Dr. Saul Trevino,
Associate Professor of Chemistry
Member of the QEP Implementation
Committee*

HBU endeavors to produce graduates who are knowledgeable in their fields and who are well-rounded citizens and lifelong learners. While improving the trajectory of students’ lives, University leadership is also committed to continually improving and becoming more effective at serving students. A Quality Enhancement Plan, required of institutions by SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges), HBU’s accrediting body, carries HBU’s mission even further.

Ritamarie Tauer, Associate Provost for Academic Operations, said the SACSCOC requirement for a QEP is that the topic be a result of each university’s assessment of institutional effectiveness. The QEP is centered on an area that stretches standard emphases and creatively improves the education that students receive.

“From my perspective, they’re looking to put some pressure on institutions to focus on a real issue related to student learning. That’s why they make the implementation five years – that’s a long time,” Tauer said. “The focus is on a real need as identified

by assessment to improve student learning. They want you to get down in the weeds on a particular need that will impact students directly, and it needs to be measurable. Sometimes you start with something that’s too broad, but we must do something in which quantitative measures of improvement can be seen.”

For the first QEP requirement in 2012, HBU submitted “Writing for Wisdom” to the accrediting body. The organization directed HBU to focus the program in specific classes and areas in order to better target the plan’s goals. Over the next several years, HBU implemented the program, helping grow students’ abilities in writing organization and grammar.

The difference between student writing pre-tests and post-tests was marked, Tauer said. “We had students say they couldn’t get over the improvement in their writing.” One student wrote concerning the program, “This course has helped my writing more in this single semester than all my years of high school combined.”

Lisa Covington, HBU Director of Assessment and Compliance, said the results were encouraging. The first QEP



2019

A ceremonial groundbreaking is held for the Morris Family Center for Law and Liberty thanks to a more than \$10 million gift from the Joella and Stewart Morris Foundation



2020

HBU celebrates 60 years and record-setting enrollment, along with academic program growth

helped the University understand what processes worked well.

"It's beneficial when we can clearly measure a difference between when students come in and when they leave," Covington said. "We are making sure students are getting the educational components they need."

SACSCOC accreditors were impressed with the "Writing for Wisdom" results too. They chose the program to be a QEP example in their resource room and asked Tauer to present on the program at a conference.

With a successful initial QEP experience, Tauer assembled a second QEP Development Committee in the fall of 2018 that would serve as a cross-section of the University. The Committee members were Dr. Brenda Whaley, Chair of the Committee, SACSCOC Administrative Assessment Officer, and Professor of Biology; Vicki Alger, Assistant Professor of Psychology; Allyson Cates, Director of Graduate Admissions; Chris Hartwell, Assistant Professor of Cinema, Media Arts and Writing; Page Hernandez, Director of Alumni Relations; Jean Tarrats-Rivera, Projects and Reports Analyst in the Registrar's Office; Dr. Hannah Wingate, Associate Professor of Biology and Faculty Assembly President; and students Taylor Kollmorgen, Jessica (Tran) Nguyen, Sidney Salazar and André Walker.

The committee called for submissions for the University's second QEP in the spring of 2019. Campus constituents were asked to submit ideas for a project that would improve student learning outcomes and student success, and would serve to bolster the University's next accreditation reaffirmation. RFPs (Requests for Proposals) came in from across the University, reflecting ideas ranging from speaking to finances that would address an identified need among the learning population.

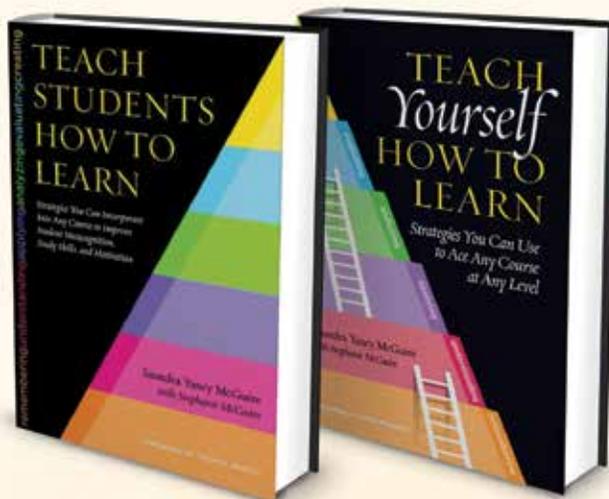
Of the seven proposals that came in, two of them especially stood out to the committee. They were based upon Sandra Yancy McGuire's books, "Teach Students How to Learn" and "Teach Yourself How to Learn." At the invitation of Dr. Saul Trevino, Associate Professor of Chemistry, a faculty learning community of 16 members had spent the academic year studying "Teach Students How to Learn" and had become champions of the concepts, Dr. Whaley said.

While each of the seven proposals had unique strengths, the committee believed the concept of learning how to learn is so foundational to students' achievement that it was a clear direction. The QEP Development Committee put together "Mission Metacognition," a QEP that would assist students in receiving, understanding, retaining and retrieving important information. Importantly, the curriculum is applicable for both in-person and remote learning. Its measures of success include increased student retention, pass rates and graduation rates.

Whaley explains, "Online modules that teach the metacognitive skills described in Bloom's Taxonomy, the learning approaches described in 'The Study Cycle' popularized by Dr. McGuire's book, and ideas of growth mindset will be used to convey the curriculum in Freshman First-Year Experience classes. This will be supplemented with in-person instruction from faculty when class size permits in high D, F, W (drop, fail, withdrawal) classes. Follow-up assignments that reinforce metacognitive skills will be assigned in courses where the 'Mission Metacognition' curriculum is taught. HBU students will receive a consistent message concerning metacognition, the study cycle, and growth mindset. Student Success coaches will also reinforce this information when meeting with students. Finally, student tutors in the Academic Success Center will be trained to utilize this information during student tutoring sessions."

A QEP Implementation Committee will help pilot the project in the fall of 2021 before its official launch in the fall of 2022. From there, "Mission Metacognition" will be applied for the following five years.

"We're thankful for everyone who has worked to formulate this plan and we look forward to its results in the years to come," Tauer said.



“Having authored part of the original QEP plan, I am very proud of ‘Mission Metacognition.’ The QEP Development and Implementation Committees have done a great job shaping the QEP into a campus-wide program.”

– Dr. Lisa Ellis,
Assistant Professor of Biology
Chair of the QEP Action Plan
Subcommittee

What is a Quality Enhancement Plan?

A QEP, or Quality Enhancement Plan, is a plan of action to improve student knowledge, skills, attitudes, values or behaviors, or to impact the student learning environment and student success.

SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges) defines the QEP as an integral component of the reaffirmation of accreditation process and is derived from an institution's ongoing comprehensive planning and evaluation processes. It reflects and affirms a commitment to enhance overall institutional quality and effectiveness by focusing on an issue the institution considers important to improving student learning outcomes and/or student success.

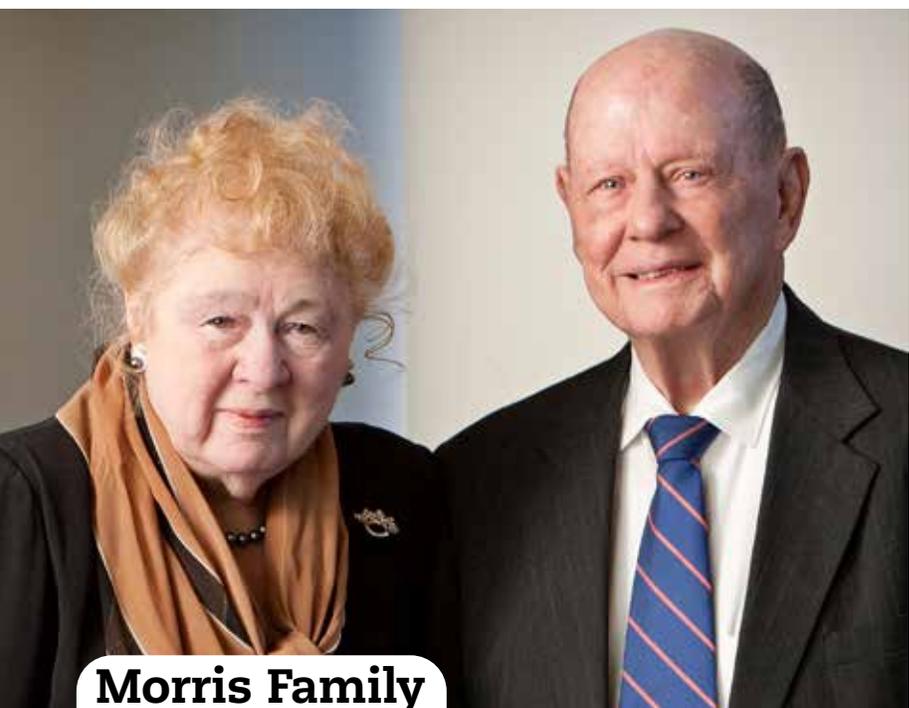
A QEP has the following characteristics:

- A topic identified through ongoing, comprehensive planning and evaluation processes
- Broad-based support of institutional constituencies
- Focuses on improving specific student learning outcomes and/or student success
- Commits resources to initiate, implement and complete the QEP
- Includes a plan to assess achievement

[Learn more at HBU.edu/QEP](https://www.hbu.edu/QEP)

Morris and Smith Families Integral to the Story of HBU

HBU's history involves myriad personalities, leaders and contributors who have made HBU the world-class institution it is today. God's sovereignty is evident in those whose influence have taken HBU far. Two family names particularly stand out in the annals of HBU: the Morris and the Smith families. Generosity defines them.



Morris Family

Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr. was key in the establishment of the University when it was still only an idea. The HBU Founding Father helped secure funding in the late 1950s to purchase land for the new institution. His shepherding of the school continued as he helped ensure its guiding principles would honor Jesus Christ as Lord, and as he worked to strengthen and grow the new college.

Dr. Morris and his late wife, Joella, championed the University tirelessly. They served in numerous capacities throughout HBU's history. Their daughters, Carlotta Morris Coffman '68 and Lisa Morris Simon '76, and son, Stewart Morris, Jr., attended HBU.

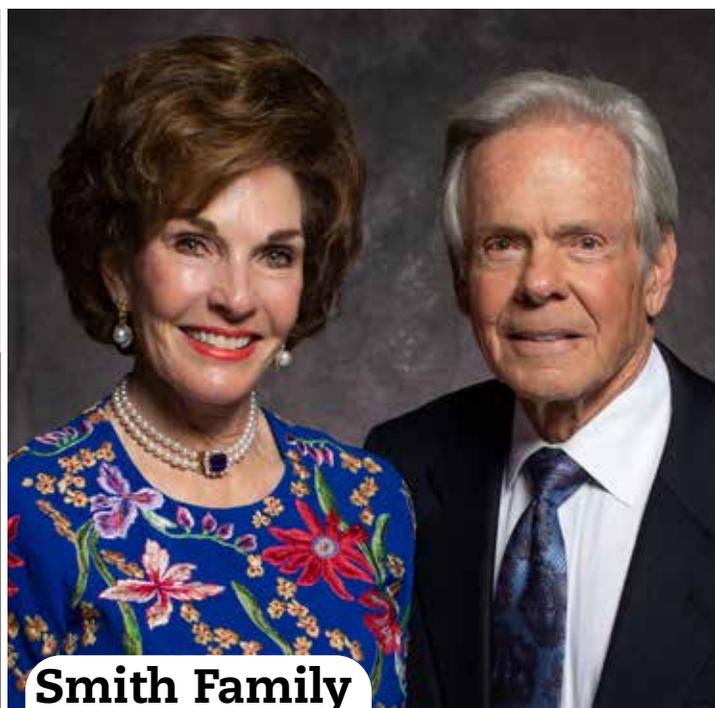
The Morris name, and the Joella and Stewart Morris Foundation, are represented on the HBU campus in the Morris Columns, the Joella and Stewart Morris Cultural Arts Center and in the Morris section of Husky Stadium.

In 2018, Dr. Morris and the Foundation established The Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty. The Center landmark will be modeled after Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The mission of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty at Houston Baptist University is to 1) educate all people about the principles that make America an exceptional nation; 2) train and equip teachers, lawyers and the business community to articulate and defend our nation's founding principles; and 3) facilitate civil discourse among diverse groups about politics, public policy and the future of the United States of America.

The Morris family members share fondness for HBU. Carlotta remembers, "I thoroughly enjoyed coming to HBU. There was a niche for somebody like me who wanted to go to a small college and not get lost in the shuffle with a big university."

Lisa said, "My father and mother's legacy has been built into the history they've created. It is hard to have a conversation with dad in which HBU does not become the main topic. He is totally committed. He loves HBU and what it stands for."

Dr. Morris recently celebrated his 101st birthday with a traditional celebration at HBU, and continues to be an ardent advocate for the University. His image lives forever on campus through a bronze statue outside of the Morris Cultural Arts Center.



Smith Family

Sherry and Jim Smith, Sr. have long been friends of the University. Orrien Smith, Jim's father, was among the 25 men who each made a personal donation to purchase land for the then-Houston Baptist College in 1958. These men are forever known as Founding Fathers of the University.

Jim and Sherry served in many capacities with HBU. Their daughter, Tracey Smith Hassett '09, earned a Master of Psychology degree from HBU, and their son, Jim Smith, Jr., has been involved with the University as well.

The couple brought the Belin Chapel to life with a one-of-a-kind Létourneau pipe organ, the Smith Organ. 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.

In 2018, the Smiths provided a lead gift toward the construction of a state-of-the-art building for the College of Science and Engineering and the School of Nursing and Allied Health. The future Jim and Sherry Smith STEM and Nursing Building includes renovating the existing Cullen Science and Nursing Centers and adding additional classrooms, laboratories, administrative offices and study spaces. The facilities are needed for degree programs with growing demand in these areas.

Investment in HBU is about passing on important principles to the next generation. Tracey said she chose HBU for her master's degree because she knew the University would honor the Christian faith in its curriculum and instruction, and would not force her to compromise her beliefs. "For my family, HBU is a generational legacy of carrying on a value system that should be innate in the educational system," she said. "It's a preservation of values that is more important now than ever."

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

Endowed Scholarship Donors Leave Legacy

October 31, 1969

Dear Stewart,

It is with a great sense of satisfaction that we acknowledge your gift, which has established the first endowed academic scholarship at Houston Baptist College. This is a significant honor and represents a significant step in our academic maturity. Moreover, it is especially fitting that the first endowed scholarship carry the name of Stewart Morris. This gift is symbolic of the leadership you have long provided for us all, and one which, in addition to many other testimonies of your dedication, will long stand to represent the indispensable role you have played in the life of this College.

Please accept our most sincere thanks for this extraordinary gift to our students.

Sincerely,
W.H. Hinton
HBC President

University Founding Father, Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr., donated the first endowed scholarship in 1969. His legacy paved the way for more than 240 HBU endowed scholarships today. The scholarships are established in honor of family, alumni, friends, churches and others. For the 2019-2020 school year, HBU awarded more than \$1.6 million to students from this distinctive program. The trajectory of lives are forever changed through the generosity of others. Financial aid is a critical component of each student's ability to attend HBU and complete their degrees.

[Learn more at HBU.edu/EndowedScholarship](https://www.hbu.edu/EndowedScholarship)

The Guild Endowed Scholarship Recipient Emely Benitez '19



I graduated in spring 2019 with a bachelor's degree in bilingual elementary education. I teach in Galena Park ISD at Woodland Acres Elementary where I'm a Spanish, two-way immersion dual language third-grade teacher.

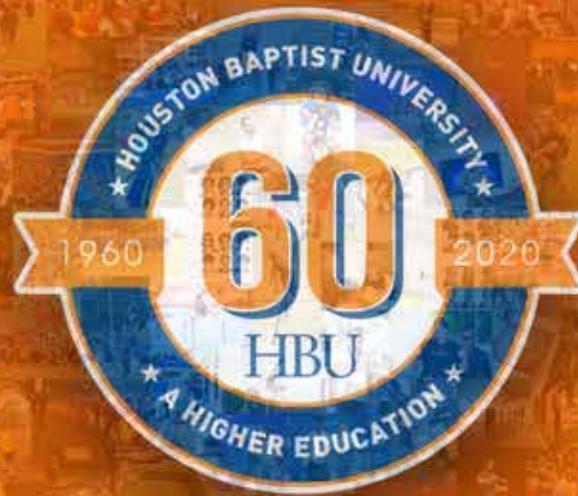
One of my own philosophies as an educator is to always give the best quality of instruction to every child I encounter. A goal of mine has always been to pursue a Master of Education degree, and I've been given the opportunity to make that dream a reality.

Because of my close relationships during my undergraduate years and the dedicated professors in the HBU College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, I was encouraged to come back to HBU for my graduate degree. I received the Dawn K. Wilson Endowed Scholarship. (Dr. Wilson passed away in 2019 following a courageous battle with cancer. The scholarship was established in her honor by The Guild. The Guild has awarded 60 endowed scholarships to

students pursuing advanced degrees in education or theology.)

It is an honor to receive a scholarship named after one of my own professors as an undergraduate. Something about Dr. Wilson that I always enjoyed was that she would start classes with a devotional. She was always so strong in her faith even in the midst of her own health issues. She encouraged us as future educators even when I'm sure there were some hard days in dealing with her health. It was inspiring for future educators and gave us an example to do our own best every day.

This scholarship has made a difference in my life. I'm currently obtaining a Master of Education in Reading with a Reading Specialist Certification. I plan to graduate in 2022. My plans after I graduate are to work in a classroom until the perfect opportunity comes to work as a bilingual reading specialist, and hopefully move forward into a doctoral program.



The mission of
Houston Baptist University
is to provide a learning experience
that instills in students a passion for
academic, spiritual, and
professional excellence
as a result of our central confession,
"Jesus Christ is Lord."

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