

What I'd Like for You to Know About Me – Fall 2024

Stan A. Napper

I moved to Houston in August 2017 to be the founding dean of the new College of Engineering at HBU. I had been on the faculty of Louisiana Tech University for 33 years. Louisiana Tech is also my Alma Mater, where I received both the BS and PhD degrees in Biomedical Engineering. During those years, I served as a professor of Biomedical Engineering, Dean of the College of Engineering and Science (2004 – 2013) and finally as Vice President for Research and Development for four years. I was active in teaching, research, administration, student organizations, and various professional organizations. I was honored to be elected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering. I retired from Louisiana Tech in 2017, with the honorary title of Professor Emeritus and also Vice President Emeritus. As I approached eligibility for retirement, I asked the Lord if He wanted me to do something different, perhaps in the way of missions or ministry. When I had prayed this before, wanting to be available and surrendered to His will for my life, He brought new opportunities to me that were in the same city, at the same university, or the same church. But in 2017, He brought a new opportunity at HBU. In 2019, HBU asked me to become dean of the College of Science and Engineering.



I love being a professor and a dean, because I enjoy the interaction with students. I enjoy seeing the transitions and the maturing that occurs in college. I like to teach, and being involved in service activities through student organizations, through administration, and through various professional organizations. I like making a difference in the lives of individuals. I like creating new and better approaches to education, such as new degree programs (e.g., Cyber Engineering), new methods, and new collaborations. I helped to create the integrated engineering curriculum at Louisiana Tech, which led to the project-based curriculum called “Living with the Lab”, which led to HBU’s SAFE Engineering and SAFE Cyber Projects courses. I have also been involved in accreditation, as an evaluator at other universities, as a dean, and through two terms as a member of the Board of Directors of ABET, the accrediting body for engineering and other programs (2009-2015).

As a Professor of Biomedical Engineering, my early research was in mathematical modeling of physiological systems but my later research was in engineering education and in applications of artificial intelligence in biomedical engineering. Projects have included expert systems for prescription of assistive devices (in augmentative communication and in adaptive driving), cognitive orthoses, and AI-based ECG arrhythmia diagnosis. To support this work, and in collaboration with others, I was able to obtain over \$5M in external funds for Louisiana Tech, and publish 44 professional articles. My primary professional goals now are to serve students through excellent education and leadership.

My wife, Vicki, is an outstanding partner, teacher, mother, and homemaker. We have been married 44 years, as of May 24, 2024. We have eight children (six sons and two daughters, all now grown, five who are married), and four grandsons and two granddaughters.





Samuel is 39, married to Beth, and father of Benjamin Hayes, Bowen Robert, and Audrey Elizabeth. Sam graduated from La Tech with a BS in Finance, and an MBA, and works for Origin Bank near Dallas. Joseph is 36, and married to Jen. Joe completed his bachelor's degree from Tech, and serves as a Youth Pastor in Ozark, AL. He is also enrolled in seminary in New Orleans. Beverly Ann is 33, and is married to Timothy Heine. Bev completed a Masters in Christian Apologetics from Southwestern Baptist Seminary which included three transfer courses from HBU (after earning a bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech).

She is mother to Malachi Stanley and Ariel Lynn and

they live in Fort Worth. Adam is also 33 (Bev's twin), married to Ashley, and father of Henry Maxwell. Adam works at Century Next Bank of Ruston, and completed a masters degree from New Orleans Baptist Seminary (after earning a bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech). Aaron married Becca in our home in Pearland on April 25, 2020 (during COVID). He is 32 and also a graduate of La Tech. Aaron works as Technical Director for a large church in Louisville, KY, after serving several years in full-time ministry with Life Action Ministries. Daniel is 28 and completed a BA in History from Louisiana Tech, and the Alternative Certification Program for educators at HCU. Mary Suzanne is 24, and served with Life Action Ministries for six years, including the time she spent completing her BA in Psychology from HCU (online). She is getting married in November 2024 to Cam. All of our children were homeschooled, one of the greatest privileges, responsibilities, and joys that you could know. Our oldest son, Benjamin, went to heaven ahead of us (in May 2002, a result of a head-on collision with an 18-wheeler). He was a wonderful friend and helper to me and to his siblings. He was 19 and a sophomore at Tech. He helped me design our family shield, shown in this photo.



I would also like for you to know that, as important as my profession is to me, and as much as I love my family, my priority and devotion is to God. The support, the hope, the source of my life is found in the Word of God (Holy Bible) and in my personal relationship with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Because I am able to personally confirm that God is real, alive, active, and true (even in the hardest of days), my view of the world is entirely Christian. My desire is to represent Him well and to demonstrate His love and all the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Although we are now members of a church in Sugar Land, my wife and I were members of Cook Baptist Church in Ruston from 1980 to 2019, where we worshiped and served for all of our married life. I was the church pianist for many of those years. My favorite hour of the week is the worship hour at church.

