

Ponderings of the President

A few weeks ago as I watched the sun set over the Pacific Ocean, I observed a spectacular display of God's handiwork. Ever so gradually the evening sky erupted into a kaleidoscope of colors, and just when I was sure that it could not possibly become any more magnificent, another vibrant hue would paint the canvas above and almost take my breath away. As I contemplated the beauty of this evolving and expanding scene, I became profoundly aware of God's blessings in my life – blessings that continue to evolve and expand my recognition of His gracious goodness.



One of my favorite verses in the Bible speaks to the reality of such goodness, **"From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another"** (John 1:16). As we enter into a season of giving thanks, it is my hope that we will all open our eyes and hearts to the abundant evidence of God's marvelous blessings upon us.

In counting my own blessings, I am so very grateful for the **health** the Lord has graciously extended to me. As His children, God has promised that one day we will all experience perfect health in His presence. My heart is also full of thanksgiving for **home** and family – for my earthly abode, and for the privilege of a spiritual home, as well. I am continually overwhelmed that God wanted me to be one of His children!

Topping my list of blessings is the **hope** and assurance of my salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. While the Lord's blessings have come in abundance and in different shapes, sizes, times, and stages, He has showered them upon me, even though I am utterly undeserving of His grace.

When we truly take inventory of each and every blessing received, our lists will grow and grow like the ever-enlarging beauty of a breathtaking sunset. In this season of thanksgiving, may we all ponder in our hearts, not only the many ways in which God has enriched our lives, but the privilege we have of being a blessing to others!

In His service,
Kandy Brittain

Silver Tea 2010

Thursday, March 11th

Home of Rod and Sue Nan Cutsinger
2109 River Oaks Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77019

Psalm 103:20 Bless the Lord, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His Word, Obeying the voice of His Word! (NASB)

Mark your calendars for this beautiful afternoon event!

The Silver Tea celebrates our efforts in underwriting the graduate education scholarship program at HBU. This year we are asking you to be the Lord's angels in supporting our Christian classroom teachers as they make a difference in the lives of our students. We invite you to support The Guild in its mission of funding scholarships for dedicated classroom teachers so they may pursue their graduate education at HBU.

This year we are honoring

Grace Gandy

Founding President of The Silver Tea

Grace, president of The Guild when The Tea originated, was instrumental in its beginnings, and she continues to guide The Guild in many endeavors.

Thank you to all who have
volunteered to help with this event.

Event Co-Chairs: Jane Caldwell and Anne Roper

New Member Orientation

The first event on The Guild's calendar is the New Member Orientation, which was held this year on September 15 in the home of HBU President and Mrs. Robert Sloan. In attendance were our newest members, who had an opportunity to meet The Guild's Executive Board and to learn more about the purpose and mission of our organization.

Peg Harman, Membership Chairman, and her Committee members, Ruth Alford, Georgia Byrnes, Marinell Grimes, Jan Rule and Katie Thompson, provided a fun and informative meeting. In addition to receiving an overview of Guild events, our honored attendees were warmly welcomed by Sue and Robert Sloan.

Please take an opportunity to greet our newest additions to The Guild:

LANA ALBE
 ANGIE ANGEL
 MARGO CANNOM
 VERONICA CANTU
 HELEN DEGEURIN
 BARBIE DEXTER
 CAROLYN DURRETT
 LOUISE ERWIN
 REDA EUBANK
 MARYBETH FEHR
 JULIE FLETCHER
 LU FRAZIER
 PEGGYE JANE GIBSON
 RENEE HEATHCOTT
 KRISTY HOLIDY
 KATHY HOOPER
 DR. JACKIE HORN

TANA JEFFERSON
 HODA KARDOUSH
 MALBIE KELLY
 CINDY LANGE
 SANDRA LOYD
 KATHY MAGEE
 SUE MANNING
 CATHERINE MARSHALL
 JANET MCGUIRE
 SHERRA MILLER
 GRAHAM NEUHAUS
 ANN PEREZ
 PATTI OWENS
 JESS ROGERS
 LUCY SMITH
 KATHY THOMPSON



Catherine Marshall and Cyndi Jacobson



Katie Thompson and Peg Harman



Barbie Dexter and Patti Owens



Cindy Lange, Sandra Loyd and Margaret Noecker



Sue Sloan (third from right) welcomed new members to The Guild.



December 3, 2009

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the many accomplishments of The Guild, we acknowledge our commitment to support the mission of Houston Baptist University. With this in mind, I am thrilled to share with you an exciting new opportunity for The Guild.

As stewards of the funds entrusted to us, members of The Guild Executive Board voted unanimously at their November meeting to provide the initial funding to establish The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies. As HBU approaches its 50th anniversary in 2010, this is a fitting tribute to the Christian commitment of the University. This is an endeavor that will significantly impact the campus, our community, and, potentially, our nation.

In addition to our Guild Scholarship Program, this new initiative will allow HBU to continue moving forward with the implementation of The Ten Pillars, a twelve-year vision designed to transform the institution into one of the nation's most comprehensive Christian universities.

I am including information on plans for The Guild Institute so that you can share in the excitement.

In His service,



Kandy Brittain
President

THE GUILD INSTITUTE IN CHRISTIAN FAMILY STUDIES

The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies will serve to strengthen the Christian family through projects involving teaching, research, publications, and outreach. Just as Billy Graham's ministry has long focused on the principle that the family is the most important institution in the world, The Guild Institute will emphasize the value of Christian family education.

Through the Institute, scholars, ministers, students, parents, and other policy making and community leaders will come together to support Christian understanding regarding the traditional family. Under the direction of The Guild Professor in Christian Family Studies, instruction will be provided across the campus, to our community, and the world. Whether through a traditional classroom or virtual instruction, interdisciplinary research and educational programs will be developed by Christian scholars to be presented in seminars, training sessions, and lectures to address Christian world view issues related to strengthening the family.

A university is a place where ideas matter. The Institute will be a place where research and teaching will provide the foundation to help change our culture. Whether through popular culture or a lack of correct information and data, family values have been assaulted. It is the University that can respond to the need to make a difference in the world.

In the University's vision, entitled THE TEN PILLARS, the Fifth Pillar speaks to increasing our cultural impact through our faculty:

“Great professors teach, but they also never stop learning. What they learn, they can publish. Much of the research scholars do rolls out into medical work, business, law, economics, government, diplomacy, and a variety of other pursuits. At HBU, we have a tradition of outstanding faculty, and we want to enable them to spend more time making a positive impact on world culture as an extension of their teaching and research.”

We think it is good stewardship for Christian academics to focus their efforts outward into the culture at the same time they are teaching and mentoring students on the campus.

Teaching and research will reinforce strong scholarship on campus and in the community and will enable our Christian academics to be truly “salt” and “light” in the culture alongside the students they serve. The Center for Christian Family Studies will represent the future for the family at HBU, in our city, and throughout the world.

COMPONENTS:

The Guild Professor in Christian Family Studies

The Guild Lecture in Christian Family Studies (as a debut title)

Creation of HBU courses to be taught to HBU students and others

Professional enrichment programs to be presented to University faculty

Professional development series to be incorporated in human resource training for HBU staff

Instructional materials to be incorporated in private school and church curricula

Interdisciplinary research focused on family structures

Fall Coffee Celebrated

The October weather was almost perfect as we enjoyed the Fall Coffee at the home of Lisa Simon. As peacocks roamed the yard and a gentle shower briefly watered the lawn, more than 100 ladies enjoyed a lovely morning of sweet refreshments and renewed acquaintances.

Guild President Kandy Brittain began the morning by stating that the 2009-2010 membership has a dual distinction. First, we are celebrating 35 years of service and support at Houston Baptist University, and second, we have the privilege of participating in the 50th Anniversary celebration of HBU in 2010.

In addition to recognizing our 30 new members, we were also introduced to a Guild 2009 Annual Scholarship recipient. Katherine Dunn expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to pursue her Master of Education at HBU.

Dr. Sloan shared highlights of the upcoming year, including special events that will mark the 50th anniversary. First Lady Sue Sloan explained her plans to create events in the President's Home as an outreach for special University friends. Recently she hosted a Mom's Luncheon for the mothers of freshman students. Chairmen Jan Benjamin and Katie Thompson, along with their outstanding committee, are to be commended for their excellent planning of this lovely event, which was enjoyed by all!



Lisa Simon and Kandy Brittain



Sue Sloan and Judy Childress



Katie Thompson and Jan Benjamin



Gina Saour and Ann Bussey



Katherine Dunn



Anne Roper, Sharon Saunders and Dr. Robert Sloan

SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Event
Book Swap Luncheon

April 22, 2010 - 11:30 a.m.
HBU Campus

Letter from the Editor

My how time flies when you're having fun! My "Fly on the Wall" job in the life of my HBU freshman has been exciting. We have: Moved into the dorm, Met the Roomies, Lost a Roomie, Broken in another Roomie ("She's really sweet, Mom!"), Gone through Sorority Rush, Pledged a Sorority, Left the Sorority ("I don't have enough time for my studies, Mom!"), Made an A on a test, Studied for a test, Did Awful on a test ("I don't think we covered that, Mom!"), Got Money, Spent Money, Asked for More Money! ("But Chick-Fil-A Is a need, Mom!"), Caught a Cold, Felt Better, And Caught Another Cold! ("I really do wash my hands, Mom!").

Yes, this "fly" has had a busy first semester at HBU. However, the silver lining to all this freshman mom stuff is that Sue Sloan invites us all for lunch. It's great to connect with other moms whose kids are living the same struggles as mine. Thank you, Sue. This year is going so much easier knowing how much you love these kids... and their moms! Some of you moms are now new Guild members. Welcome to this fantastic organization! I must also thank you, Guild, for all that you do for HBU. I see your influence all the time, as I watch these terrific kids at HBU. Your influence goes far beyond just scholarships for educators — Join the Guild, Fall in love with HBU, Get More Involved ("I met one of your Guild friends at school today, she was so nice, Mom!").

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord. Thoughts of peace, and not evil, to give you an unexpected end."

— *Jeremiah 29:11*

Your "Fly on the Wall" Guild newsletter editor,
Cyndi Jacobson

Prayers

"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you."

— *Isaiah 26:3*

Glenn Brown

Our prayers are with Billie Brown and her family. Billie's husband, Glenn, passed away on October 23. The Browns recently established the Glenn and Billie Brown Endowed Scholarship in memory of Mrs. Brown's father, William R. Bradford, and in honor of their daughter, Lauryn Grace Brown Hansen '84. They have been longtime friends of the University.

Nell Smith

Nell Smith, a special friend to The Guild and to the University, passed away on November 23. Nell was a founding member of the President's Advisors, now known as The Guild, which she served as president in 1988-89. She was also a member of the University

Auxiliary, where she served in leadership positions, and a member of the American Museum Society and the President's Development Council.



In 1979 Nell and her husband, Mevis, were honored by their sons with the creation of the Mevis Reilly and Nell Anderson Smith Endowed Academic Scholarship. In 1999 Nell was named a recipient of the Milton Cross Outstanding Volunteer Award, and in 2005 she was recognized with the Spirit of Excellence

Award, HBU's most prestigious award. Because of her smile and that mischievous twinkle in her eyes, laughter came easy when you talked to Nell. She touched our lives in a special way. Our prayers are with her family.