

# THE PILLARS

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY / MARCH 2016



## The Digital Vision

## 3000 Attend Symphony Concert Series

For the third year, the Houston Symphony performed to a full house in the Morris Cultural Arts Center's Dunham Theater making a total of nearly 3,000 attending the Symphony Series so far this year.

More than 1,500 high school students came for two concerts recently where they were able to interact during a Q&A time with the conductor and various musicians. The free community concert featured works from Tchaikovsky and Copland and an original piece by Teddy Abrams, conductor. Two ticketed concerts were held in February with conductor Mei-Ann Chen and Black History Month was celebrated with a special concert with the CityWide Grassroots Chorus, HBU's Schola Cantorum and University Singers and members of the Brentwood Baptist Church Chorale.

For more information on upcoming concerts, go to their website at [www.houstonsymphony.org/Concerts-Tickets](http://www.houstonsymphony.org/Concerts-Tickets)







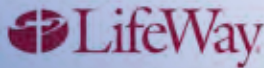


## President Sloan To Teach Comprehensive Online Bible Study

Houston Baptist University is partnering with LifeWay Christian Resources and WORDsearch Bible with B&H Academic to bring you The HBU Certificate of Study, The Story of the Bible. This is a comprehensive study of the Bible, beginning, middle, and ending taught by HBU President Robert B. Sloan, Jr., and also features Dr. Jeremiah J. Johnston, founder and president of Christian Thinkers Society.

The Story of the Bible is a great course for a bi-vocational pastor or some wanting to gain more knowledge of the Word of God. If you have a busy schedule but want to expand your knowledge of the scripture then The HBU Certificate of Study is the online study for you. HBU and LifeWay give you the opportunity to learn from a scholar, Dr. Robert B. Sloan, from your phone.

**Register today [www.wordsearchbible.com/hbu](http://www.wordsearchbible.com/hbu)**



## Sharon Saunders Recognized by Houston Women's Magazine



Sharon Saunders, Vice President for University Relations and Chief of Staff to the President at Houston Baptist University, has been named one of "Houston's 50 Most Influential Women of 2015" by *Houston Woman Magazine*. The recipients of this award, chosen for their leadership, influence, and dedication to the Houston community, were honored at La Columbe d'or Mansion in front of an audience of 260 guests at an afternoon tea on January 24.

Saunders was recognized for her work as HBU as well as her work in other organizations and community endeavors. She serves as executive director of The Guild, a group of civic-minded, dedicated Christian women of many denominations whose mission is to serve the President, Dr. Robert Sloan, Jr., and the University. Under her leadership, The Guild has contributed more than \$1.7 million to HBU for graduate scholarships in education, special projects, and The Guild Institute for Family Studies. Saunders was named honoree of The Guild's 2015 Silver Tea in recognition of her leadership to The Guild and the University and her passion for Christian higher education. The Guild also recognized her efforts with the naming of the Sharon Saunders Endowed Scholarship in Graduate Education.

Saunders has also served on a number of professional boards, including leadership positions as president of the Texas Baptist Public Relations Association and president of the Association of Communicators in Baptist Education. She has also served as a member of the board of directors of Fort Bend Christian Academy, and she was a member of the Education Foundation for Fort Bend Independent School District. She has also served as a member on the board of the Women's Fund, where she is a lifetime member.



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**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."

*- Unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees, February 24, 2009.*

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# Doing God's Risk

## Dear Friends,

Living life involves risk. Adam and Eve were not told to stay in the Garden of Eden. Instead, they were told that, as human creatures bearing the image of God, they were supposed to rule and subdue the entire earth. That kind of “ruling” does not mean enslavement; it means to be stewards over and to care for. And, it involves more than taking care of the creation, though that certainly is part of it. It means extending the kingship of God throughout the earth. This was the mandate given to Adam and Eve prior to the Fall. And even though they were not allowed back into the Garden, it is clear that the mandate even for fallen human beings is that we extend the frontiers of the kingship of God into all the world, which includes all peoples, all institutions, and all social structures. Constructing the Tower of Babel did not become an evil incident because it involved a large city and huge populations of people. That project was sinful and broken because the people aspired to build their families, towns, and cities apart from the living God. The Scriptures conclude in the book of Revelation by telling us the story of the recovery of the nations, when the “kings of the earth” will bring their glory into the great city of God and there will be healing of the nations, the resurrection of the dead, and the joy and celebration of life properly lived under the kingship of God (Revelation 21:22-22:5).

To do God's work in the world always involves risk taking. God himself took the risk of giving Adam and

Eve the freedom to rebel. Human creatures are made with that capacity for obedience and rebellion.

And the world, it seems, has perfected the art of rebellion against the ways of God. Kindness, love, the celebration of family life, the sharing of our goods with those in need, and the building of families, businesses, cities, and nations that submit to the will of God and dispense justice evenhandedly have given way to selfishness, greed, corruption, violence, and the lust for power.

But the decisive moment has come in the history of the world. The coming of the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus, is not only the high point thus far of Jewish history, but also a decisive turning point for the entire world. The apostle Paul calls Jesus “the second Adam” (Romans 5:12-19) and also “the last Adam” (I Corinthians 15:21-22, 45-49). That means that God has begun to restore humanity and the world through Jesus. Wherever and whenever people submit to the kingship of God through Jesus Christ, the possibilities for new creation have begun. We are still called to be His agents in the world, to extend the frontiers of God's kingship in our families, towns, and cities. And that involves risk taking.

There are many examples of risk taking in the New Testament. A simple one is the story in Luke 19:11-28 of the great nobleman who went away to receive a kingdom and, while he was gone, gave his servants (stewards) various portions of his estate to manage. They were given different amounts, and they had different results, but the two he commended when he



# Work Involves Taking



returned after receiving his kingship were the two who invested wisely what they were given. They were risk takers, daring to build their master's estate. The servant who received harsh and severe criticism and faced great judgment was the one who took no risk whatsoever and hid what his master had given him under a rock. He was more afraid of losing it than seeing it grow.

While politicians, commentators, and all of us no doubt disagree as to the causes and sources of our world's problems, surely no one can disagree that the world is in a terrible mess. There are places throughout the earth – in Asia, Africa, the Americas, the Middle East, and Europe – where violence can break out at any moment. Terrorists are emerging suddenly and without mercy and can strike in any place at any time.

Wherever we look, there is the need for Christian people to be salt and light in the world, to be agents of constructive family building and world building. We are the agents of God through Christ in the world, and we need to live His message of forgiveness, mercy, and community building. The church, indeed, ought to be the one place where all peoples may come together in simple faith under the one true and living God, who has revealed himself through Jesus Christ.

At HBU, we are willing to be risk takers. The traditional patterns of higher education have changed dramatically in the last several years. And while we are going to keep all those historic traditions of teaching, research, and a residential university – as well as our

foundational curriculum involving history, languages, literature, the sciences, business, the arts, music, and all the helping professions like nursing, ministry, and education – we are also going to expand our ability to deliver all these branches of learning. We have been offering online courses for a number of years, but we believe it is time for us – while keeping a strong emphasis upon our residential university – to expand our online division. You will read more about the growth of HBU online in the coming days. We see this as an important step forward, an important risk of faith when it comes to maintaining and strengthening all the core values that we have as a Christian university.

And, HBU will continue to speak to the issues of the day. Although we have found our own religious freedom attacked and our traditional commitments to life, family, and Christian marriage criticized, we will continue to stand for a scriptural faith and a scriptural view of the world. We intend to speak out when necessary, not only to protect ourselves, but to share God's truth with the world so that we may be responsible, faithful risk takers in a world that desperately needs God's stewards and agents to extend the frontiers of His kingship into all nations. Thank you for all that you do to support HBU.

Blessings,

Dr. Robert B. Sloan, Jr.



# HBU'S DIGITAL VISION

**The world is experiencing a digital revolution!** Irrefutably, digital media consumption is growing, while television, radio, print, and other audiences are in decline. One Nielson report indicates that traditional TV viewing trends among 18-24-year-olds has dropped from 26 to 16 hours per week since 2011. Young people subscribe to their own media via the Internet with choices like YouTube, Netflix, and a host of others. **Digital media consumption is growing every year, especially via mobile devices.** Millennials check their smartphones every 10 minutes, according to Kana Software. Zogby Analytics reveal nearly 90 percent of Millennials keep their smartphone within arm's reach 24-hour-a-day.

**O**ur society is experiencing meteoric changes due to digital marketing. In 2015, for the first time in history, there were more sales conducted online than in retail stores on "black Friday," and the exponential impact is forcing change from anyone wanting to survive in the digital tomorrow. Walmart recently closed over 100 stores.

Ofcom, based in England, reports that nearly 90 percent of people aged 16-24 use a smartphone and go online with a computer, laptop, netbook, or tablet, with less than 20 percent of that same demographic watching television. Further, Americans aged 25-54 access the same digital tools by nearly 80 percent. Smartphones are used daily to make calls, check email, surf the web, shop, and take photos. This tool has become so ubiquitous and essential that we can't imagine leaving home without it. The smartphone has revolutionized our lives. Now imagine the revolution that a smartphone, tablet or laptop instigates in education — a world of knowledge at our fingertips, accessible on our schedule, at our convenience. In summation, the digital revolution equips HBU to go national, and even international, with its online training without sacrificing academic excellence.

Realizing the zenith of digital opportunity, HBU's entrepreneurial President, Robert Sloan, assembled a task force to study and significantly expand the opportunity for students to be trained in undergraduate and graduate degree programs online. HBU had moved into online education four years ago. The vision of the task force is a notable expansion and uniqueness in the digital frontier. HBU's plans are to provide the highest quality of education by distinguished academic leaders, unique academic courses and degrees, and

to make it accessible to students via computer, laptop, tablet, and someday even a mobile device.

The founders of Houston Baptist University, like our President, have always been characterized by vision and entrepreneurship. Soon Houston will be the third largest city in the United States of America with a population approaching seven million in its metro. Our digital educational initiative will allow us to dramatically expand our student population and provide accredited academic degrees that help men and women gain employment, professional development and job promotion. Over the last year we have carefully studied and listened to the most effective leaders of online education and digital marketing. Unanimously, online experts and knowledgeable digital pioneers have stated that HBU has the opportunity to become an educational titan given its strategic geographic location, with 12,000,000 people located within a 200-mile radius, and multiplied by thousands of men and women aged 35-55 that desire the employment enhancement provided only by online education. Further, military veterans are an additional strategic demographic seeking online education. Truly, HBU will provide A Higher Education to deserving individuals throughout the United States. And yet our ultimate vision is not limited to America. In future days you will learn of our vision to see HBU go global.

By the grace of God, and with the strategic financial support of visionary friends, HBU will step forward to expand online education because we believe in the power of technology and respect a student's need for convenience. Online education allows us to deliver our high quality, Christ-centered education to a student body that is seeking it in ways that work within their



lives—working mothers, busy fathers, military veterans, and students all over the globe. HBU's aim is to deliver educational options to those who are unable to move to Houston or those who are established in the working world and want to continue their education.

A decade ago, online higher education was nascent and experimental. Today, it is standard practice. Most universities, including HBU, have online degree programs and, at minimum, offer individual courses online. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, more than one quarter of undergraduates (27%) attending a four-year institution in the fall 2013 semester were enrolled in at least one distance education course.

HBU's online programs are in their fourth year, and they demonstrate the commitment to harness the digital revolution and dynamically grow the University. HBU now offers a number of different online options at the undergraduate level. The RN-to-BSN program gives eligible registered nurses the opportunity to complete a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing through a competency-based approach. HBU also offers many of the University's core curriculum courses, so undergraduate students have flexibility to schedule around other obligations like work and families. At the graduate level, we offer two Master of Education degrees online: Educational Administration and Curriculum and Instruction. These two-degree programs enable educators, to improve their knowledge and skills and advance their careers with the flexibility offered through online coursework. We also offer a Master of Arts in Apologetics, which has developed a global presence with faculty and students learning together across three continents.

Faculty use videoconferencing, video, multimedia, interactive discussion forums, and collaborative tools with the online programs to instruct students across the world. Students have accessed HBU's "Higher Education" from their homes in the Rio Grande Valley and Dallas, Texas; from Atlanta, Georgia, and New York City; and even from England and Japan. The HBU task force has designed a plan to digitally market our University, which will grow our online programs and indirectly build our residential student body.

Our vision is to potentially expand to 100 courses per year, for the next 10 years equaling the residential academic menu of HBU. The vision to grow our residential student body to 10,000 students remains the same, however, **we must serve thousands of students simultaneously through our expanded, unique online education.** With these online programs, we are positioned to grow HBU at a scale that realizes the Ten Pillars vision. As we begin to increase online degree offerings, it is imperative that our alumni, prospective students, and current students understand why HBU is embracing new modes of instructional delivery and how the expansion will benefit the University.

Many people ask the same question about online education, **"Is it effective?"** According to a recent synthesis of research released by the U.S. Department of Education, online learning outcomes are comparable, and in some cases stronger than, traditional, face-to-face, on-campus courses. In fact, online learning is often enhanced because students can spend more time on task—engaged with the content they are learning. There are several options of instructional delivery to meet the diverse learning needs of students, e.g., reading, lecture, interactive multimedia, collaboration and interaction, videoconference, etc. Therefore, students not only choose when and where they learn, but how they learn.

Another common question is: **"How will expanding online programs affect our current residential programs?"** Experience shows that a robust online division actually enhances the traditional residential and "on the ground" dimensions of the university. Universities that have offered online education have actually added to their on-campus populations and have been able to use the additional revenues to expand the campus. Thus, we are not choosing online over residential: We are choosing both. Each enhances the other.

Another concern is: "Will the distinctive quality and Christian worldview of an HBU education be lost?" One key component of our online programs is that academic quality is not compromised. HBU professors create rigorous online courses, while maintaining a focus on a Christian worldview. In addition, our online faculty endeavor to connect interpersonally with their students through devotions, prayers, and encouragement. They also use strategies for connecting students with one another in the online world. Thus, we do not lose our distinctive worldview or our message. Faith and relationship, the value-added dimensions for which HBU is known, remain.

Traditional students who graduate from high school and go directly into a bachelor's program are diminishing rapidly. But, the hunger and need for education are growing. With these expanded online programs, we can bring HBU to groups of non-traditional prospective students: those who would like to return to college and finish a bachelor's degree, those who desire new expertise through master's programs, or those who would prefer a short-term graduate certificate rather than an entire degree.

Online education is a tremendous opportunity for outreach. Through online delivery, we can expand our Christian witness and present the HBU content and experience to broader audiences around the nation and the world. We can bring HBU to people everywhere, people near and far, people of all ages and backgrounds, people who would not otherwise have the opportunity for Christian higher education. With a presence in online education, we can be *"witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8).



## HBU Announces Move to the Next Level with New Doctoral Program

*“The addition of doctoral programs will allow us to accomplish our Ten Pillars vision to become a fully national, comprehensive university.” With each new step forward, the Ten Pillars vision is becoming a reality for the University.”*

-HBU President Robert B. Sloan, Jr.

**D**uring its annual meeting in Houston, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) announced that HBU has been approved to launch a Doctor of Education (EdD) in Executive Educational Leadership program. This application to Move to the Next Level was approved by the SACSCOC board of trustees and will allow the University to become a fully national, comprehensive university.

The opportunity to become a fully national, comprehensive university and offer doctoral programs is a major step for HBU. With a start date in the fall of 2016, the EdD in Executive Educational Leadership will prepare doctoral candidates to perform in a variety of executive leadership positions.

Graduates of the program will receive preparation to serve in positions, such as human resource directors of private companies and non-profit organizations;

superintendents and principals of public, private, and charter schools; university and community college faculty; and community college administrators. An overlap of courses leading to superintendent certification in the executive educational leadership core exists. In the current degree plan, candidates will be able to complete the program (course work and dissertation) in three years.

To further support HBU's new program initiatives, The Guild, a dedicated group of Christian women who raise money for special projects and graduate scholarships in theology and education, created scholarships for qualified individuals in the EdD program. More information on the EdD in Executive Educational Leadership can be found on the HBU website, [www.hbu.edu/EdD](http://www.hbu.edu/EdD), or contact Dr. Dianne Reed, director of the EdD Program in Executive Educational Leadership, at [EdD@hbu.edu](mailto:EdD@hbu.edu).





## HBU Launches Exciting New Degree Programs in 2016

**T**he world has changed. Technology, multi-platform communication, and the growth of the Internet have created a world of fast-paced innovation, constant change, and ubiquitous competition. Organizations can no longer maintain a policy of stasis. Either they continually improve and adapt or they slowly fall behind and slide into a state of irrelevancy. This is as true of universities as it is of businesses and corporations. At HBU we embrace the opportunities this new world provides without turning our backs on the time-honored truths that have always been part of a Christian liberal arts education. In 2016, we seek to launch an exciting collection of new degree programs that directly address the needs of this changing world. These degrees are built upon our strong liberal arts core curriculum and forward our confessional mission that, in all things, Jesus Christ is Lord. Through these new degrees we wish to send graduates out into the world with the skills needed to succeed and the worldview to witness the love of Christ to all people. Our students will be equipped to teach, to heal, and to build the future economy.

In December the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) approved HBU's application to move to the next level and offer our first Doctoral program, a Doctorate in Education (EdD) in Executive Educational Leadership. Doctoral programs represent the highest degrees universities may award and are the pinnacle of achievement in university curriculum. This degree fulfills *The Ten Pillars'* vision to *Embrace the Challenge of Christian Graduate Education*. It is also a first step in the process of creating more doctoral degrees in a variety of fields. In many ways, our move to the next level is the most exciting and significant development since HBU rejoined the NCAA and launched a Division I football program. Christ-centered doctoral degrees are critical in our mission to influence the culture for Christ because of how they train our future leaders. The launch of our EdD is the culmination of a campus-wide effort and speaks volumes about the possibilities for the future of HBU.

### ONLINE PROGRAMS

Another significant development in the expansion of our curriculum is the focus on the delivery of online for credit degree programs and non-credit certificate programs. The online delivery of courses and academic content has seen massive improvement and growth in the last decade. Because of the advance of technology and the codification of best practices over time, online programs now regularly equal and some exceed the academic effectiveness of traditional in-person programs. In many subject areas, online delivery is actually a more appropriate method because it effectively mirrors the reality of the work environment. HBU embraced a gradual process of online development by starting with offering a few courses and growing course offerings over a number of years. HBU currently offers over 60 online courses and five fully online degree programs. We learned the best ways to deliver online content and also how to integrate faith and learning and a sense of community in an online environment.

*continued on page 12* ►





# *The expansion of our degree programs and our directly answer the*

We are fully prepared as a campus to expand our online offerings while maintaining the high quality face-to-face delivery of current degree programs.

We propose to expand both graduate and undergraduate online program offerings. Graduate programs in particular are an area of great growth in our current economy. But these programs are more than merely a response to the needs of the current job market. We believe they provide an opportunity to expand the HBU mission to a much larger audience than could be reached in a traditional in-person environment. Our current BBA in Management and MS in Human Resource Management and our proposed MS in Sports Management will be launched online and allow HBU to reach a much wider market of students who wish to be leaders in creating the new economy. All of our proposed online programs are Christ-centered and challenge our students to teach, to heal, and to build the future of Houston, the United States, and ultimately, the world at large.

We especially emphasize programs directed to the greater healthcare industry. Again, this is a missional project of HBU to graduate students with the skills to follow Christ and heal the sick in body, mind, and spirit. Furthermore, the healthcare industry is one of today's fastest growing industries and is projected to continue to grow in the foreseeable future. HBU's tier one quality nursing programs allows us to build on HBU's successful reputation for providing top quality healthcare education. In May 2015, The School of Nursing and Allied Health received approval from SACSCOC to offer the Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with three specific tracks: Wellness Management, Athletic Training, and Physical Education. This four-year Bachelor of Arts degree in Kinesiology-Sport Management will prepare the graduate for a career in management of fitness centers or with intramural sports leagues. The degree we be offered in an online and traditional format and will afford students an internship opportunity based on their career goals. The School of Nursing and Allied Health is proposing a BA and MS in Healthcare Administration and three new BA programs in Kinesiology directed at the growing market.

At the core of a healthy society is a healthy family. Our proposed programs in Marriage and Family Studies and Psychology are designed to promote whole, Christ-centered individuals, marriages, and families. This is a grass roots approach to healing our society one person, one marriage and one family at a time. Both the Psychology and the Marriage and Family degrees allow for specialization in directed areas such as addiction and recovery, Christian counseling, crisis response, psychology, mediation, gerontology, sport psychology, developmental psychology, mediation and professional life coaching. Students may pursue a traditional psychology core curriculum or a marriage and family studies core curriculum and then specialize in their chosen area. At the graduate level a similar structure for degree programs in Pastoral Counseling and Human Services will be offered with additional specializations in human sexuality and military and veteran care and counseling. In addition, our current MAs in Psychology and Christian Counseling will be launched in a fully online and/or hybrid delivery.

We also will expand the number of online and traditional degrees offered in our School of Christian Thought. In addition to our current online Apologetics degree, we propose new degree programs including BAs in Christianity, Biblical Studies, Theological Studies, and Practical Theology to provide our high quality education in Christianity and Theology to church leaders around the world. Not only are these programs designed for future ministers, they are also directed



# online delivery entire Ten Pillars challenge.

at lay persons who desire a deeper engagement with scripture and theology for personal spiritual enrichment or because they want to more fully work in the mission of the church such as teaching Sunday School and other forms of Christian education. Also, the School of Christian Thought proposes additional graduate degrees: MAs in Theology, Christian Leadership and additional tracks of study in the Apologetics degree.

In addition to the programs that are for academic credit the University and the School of Christian Thought is also developing a series of certificate programs. The HBU Certificate of Study Programs are offered in partnership with LifeWay Christian Resources, B&H Academic, WORDsearch Bible Software and Christian Thinkers Society. The benefits of a certificate program include the ability to personalize the curriculum, to select unique content, complete coursework in a brief period of time, and add immediate value to an individual's life and career.

Perhaps most excitingly, we propose launching a Master of Divinity (MDiv) through a face-to-face instructional model. The MDiv is the traditional pre-professional degree for training ordained ministers. The Houston market is ripe for an MDiv that is both faithful to the truths of scripture and practical in its course of study.

Lastly, we propose to build on the success of our current online offerings in Education by expanding our current Master of Education degrees in Educational Administration, Curriculum and Instruction, Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Instructional Technology, and School Counseling to online offerings. In addition, a Master of Education in Higher Education with an emphasis in Educational Technology, Counseling (Educational Psychology) and/or Christian Studies is being developed for delivery in online and traditional formats. Few people have as deep and abiding an influence on our children as do teachers. These new educational programs will ensure that HBU's commitment to quality and a Christian vision will continue to be a force for good in Texas schools.

The expansion of our degree programs and our online delivery directly answer the entire Ten Pillars challenge. Because the quality of an HBU education is so high, it is incumbent upon us to find ways to bring the opportunities of an HBU education to the greatest number of students we can. We hope through this holistic approach to education to position HBU in the most exciting and important areas in our economy and to influence our world for Christ. A holistic approach will enable us to meet the demands of an ever-changing world — while not compromising excellence, academic integrity, or HBU's Christian distinction.

The University is diligently preparing the necessary documentation to have all programs approved by the regional accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges. Once approved, these programs should be available as early as fall 2016. Some programs are currently approved, some are currently under review by SACSCOC and documentation for others is being prepared for submission to SACSCOC.

## PROGRAMS

BBA: Management	MA: Counseling—LPC (hybrid)
BA: Biblical Studies	MA: Marriage and Family Therapy (leading to LMFT)
BA: Christianity	MA: Human Services-Addiction and Recovery
BA: Theological Studies	MA: Human Services-Life Coaching
BA: Practical Theology	MA: Human Services-Military and Veteran Care
BA: Healthcare Administration	MA: Human Services-Human Sexuality
BA: Managerial Studies with Concentration in Management	MA: Psychology
BA: Psychology-Sport Psychology	MA: Pastoral Counseling-Human Sexuality
BA: Psychology-Industrial and Organizational Psychology	MA: Pastoral Counseling-Addiction and Recovery
BA: Psychology-Developmental Psychology	MA: Pastoral Counseling-Marriage and Family
BA: Psychology-Christian Counseling	MA: Pastoral Counseling-Crisis Response
BA: Psychology-Life Coaching	MA: Pastoral Counseling-Professional Life Coaching
BA: Psychology-Gerontology	MA: Pastoral Counseling-Military and Veteran Care and Counseling
BA: Psychology-Addiction and Recovery	MA: Christian Counseling
BA: Psychology-Marriage and Family	MA: Marriage and Family Therapy-(LMFT)
BA: Psychology-Mediation	MA: Apologetics-Cultural Apologetics
BA: Psychology-Crisis Response and Trauma Care	MA: Apologetics-Philosophical Apologetics:
BA: Kinesiology-Wellness Management	MA: Theological Studies
BA: Kinesiology-Sport Management	MA: Christian Leadership Master of Divinity (MDiv)
BA: Marriage and Family Studies-Sport Psychology	MEd: Educational Administration
BA: Marriage and Family Studies-Developmental Psychology	MEd: Curriculum and Instruction
BA: Marriage and Family Studies-Gerontology	MEd: Curriculum and Instruction-Instructional Technology
BA: Marriage and Family Studies-Addiction and Recovery	MEd: School Counseling
BA: Marriage and Family Studies: Christian Counseling	MEd: Higher Education-Educational Technology
BA: Marriage and Family Studies: Psychology	MEd: Higher Education Counseling (Educational Psychology)
BA: Marriage and Family Studies: Mediation	MEd: Higher Education-Christian Studies
BA: Marriage and Family Studies: Crisis Response	MS: Human Resources Management
BA: Marriage and Family Studies: Industrial Psychology	MS: Healthcare Administration
BA: Marriage and Family Studies: Professional Life Coaching	MS: Sport Management

## *“THE PILLARS” at HBU*

# HBU’s Major Development Initiative Underway

**H**ouston Baptist University has engaged in the first stage of a long-term initiative to increase the University’s enrollment and to modernize and expand its campus facilities. The initiative, which was formalized in the campus master plan, includes the redevelopment of a commercial property along Southwest Freeway to create an innovative “university village” mixed-use development. The university village will be branded The Pillars at HBU – “The Pillars” for short.

The Pillars is intended to provide a new amenity for the HBU community that will help support HBU’s enrollment growth objectives, generate additional income for HBU, and serve as a catalyst for other neighborhood redevelopment. The architectural style at The Pillars will match the campus standards to create a commercial center with a collegiate atmosphere that rebrands the campus edge and extends HBU’s visibility to the nearly 300,000 cars that use Southwest Freeway on a daily basis.

The Pillars at HBU includes a new entry road connecting the campus to Southwest Freeway, an iconic entry tower, retail, office space, a hotel, enhanced parking, and an arena and event center.

With leadership from Dr. Robert Sloan, Sandy Mooney, Sharon Saunders, Corky Dragoo, John Holmes, and Gary Dyke, among other campus administrators, The Pillars project has taken shape. Additionally, HBU hired Austin-based Brailsford & Dunlavey to provide third-party development advisor services to support the University on the implementation of the project. The HBU Board has authorized development at every phase, and as a result, The Pillars has successfully been launched and multiple phases of the project have been implemented. A generous gift included a generous gift from MaryAnn Belin and the Belin family helped HBU break ground at The Pillars, supporting both the connector road and Belin Tower. On August 25, Belin Tower was dedicated by President Robert B. Sloan, Jr. in front of an excited audience that included students, faculty, staff, administrators, Board members, HBU alumni, and community members. The dedication served as a tribute to Dr. Bruce Belin’s contribution to the growth of HBU and marked a launching point for the other commercial assets planned for The Pillars.

### DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

HBU’s strategic initiative to extend the University’s brand to the edge of campus manifested itself in deliberate and detailed design requirements for the retail located within The Pillars. As stated by Dr. Sloan,

“It was imperative that the retail located within The Pillars differentiated itself from other Houston retail centers. We wanted to ensure that the retail center represented the quality of the institution and the HBU brand, so design requirements were established to provide a sense of continuity with campus, elegance, and permanence.” Houston-based architect, PGAL, was engaged to create the design standards, which have been used on both Belin Tower and the retail buildings, and which will be carried forward as requirements for any future development at The Pillars.

### QUALITY COUNTS

In addition to the design requirements, HBU knew that the quality and type of retail tenants within the development were critical to establishing a sense of place and creating a village concept. According to Sandy Mooney, “In order to accomplish HBU’s goals, The Pillars required desirable, high-quality tenants that would serve both the campus and the neighborhood communities. We targeted a coffeehouse environment, sandwich shops, healthy food options, and unique Houston-based retailers that supported HBU’s vision and tradition. We are very pleased with the response from the retail market.”

### OPENING IN PHASES

The retail will be opened in two phases, with the first phase of retail stores open for the 2016 fall semester and the second phase of retail stores open for the 2017 spring semester. HBU is currently negotiating with additional retail tenants to be included along Southwest Freeway for subsequent phases of development in the near future.

The success of The Pillars and the recent growth of HBU has generated additional demand for an office building located at the campus edge. HBU met with multiple potential development partners to explore the opportunity for office development, and after successful meetings, HBU has engaged the DDM Texas Group, LLC as a partner for the development of an approximately 80,000 square foot, Class A office facility to be located within the development along Fondren Road. The office building will be subject to the same design requirements established in other parts of The Pillars development.

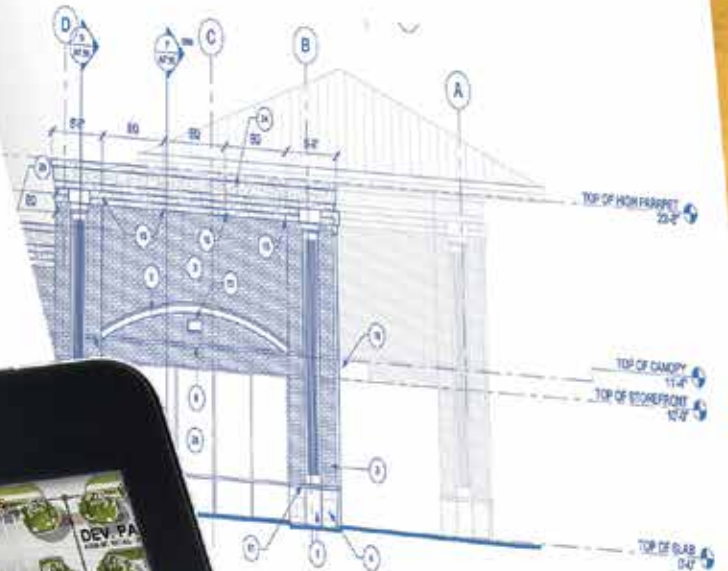
HBU plans to lease a portion of the space to accommodate campus growth, but HBU and its partners are working collaboratively to attract office tenants that will supplement HBU’s space needs. The proximity of the campus to major Houston thoroughfares, the atmosphere generated by HBU, and the increased scale



With the help of Houston-based retail partner Property Commerce, HBU has since signed retail leases with Salata, FedEx, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Sprint, Jimmy John's, Shipley's Donuts, Firehouse Subs, LifeWay, and Minuti Coffee.

and quality of food and retail venues makes the office building highly desirable for prospective tenants. The project will remain in pre-development until a leasing threshold is met. HBU encourages people from the University community to reach out to Sandra Mooney at [smooney@hbu.edu](mailto:smooney@hbu.edu), or call her at 281-649-3202 if you have office space needs and would be interested in locating within The Pillars.

The development of The Pillars has been steady, phased, and deliberate, and it will continue to grow into the future. HBU has started negotiations with a potential partner for a hotel development, retail opportunities continue to be explored and negotiated throughout the campus edge, and ultimately a new arena and event center will round out The Pillars.



BLDG B1 (BLDG. C2 O.H.) - EAST ELEVATION





# First Generation Alum Back to Lead Student Success Program

**H**ouston Baptist University is home to one of the most diverse student populations in the country. With each incoming freshman class comes the opportunity to reach out to more students. That is exactly what Director of Student Success Kelley O'Neal BA '01, MEd '05, and Success Coaches Bethany Mayott and J.R. Harris are accomplishing through the Student Success Program. Both O'Neal and Harris are first generation graduates themselves. Along with Mayott, they emphasize the importance of support networks and mentoring to help current Huskies achieve their potential.

"We have been where these students are," O'Neal said. "There was a lot we were unaware of along with the challenge of meeting people and getting involved in the right group. We want students to know that there is someone here who is just like them."

The Student Success team leads the First Generation Success Program (Gen 1) and, individually, each success coach currently works with 150 students. Their time with students offers support during the transition to college, assistance in finding resources, and encouragement to those who are doubting their choice to attend college. "My desire as a success coach is to be able to help all students at HBU discover their fullest potential," Harris said. "As the department of student success grows, my hope is that we can continue helping students identify and effectively use campus resources during their time at HBU."

"Data shows that students like me generally do not graduate from college. I worked very hard and persevered through some difficult times, and now I am hoping that my story will help others like me here at HBU," O'Neal said. "Although some first generation college students come into college lacking some skills, it does not mean that they will not be successful."

With the stress involved during college transition, the program provides an environment consistent with Biblical teaching to nurture students into fulfilling their greatest possible potential - something that requires resources students may not otherwise be aware of.

"College can be such an amazing time in a student's life, and yet the transition into college can be difficult for some students and their families," Mayott said. "My hope is that the Student Success Program will continue to expand providing services to help every HBU student experience a holistic college experience that challenges and prepares them in all areas of life - academic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, professional, and spiritual."

The success coaches in the Student Success Program offer monthly Lunch & Learns exploring topics like financial literacy, GRIT and time management. The coaches also create and facilitate one-on-one mentoring and academic coaching. The Student Success department collaborates with other departments at HBU to create opportunities for students to learn valuable skills and hold final exam prep sessions. Student Success has also partnered with Career & Calling to host a "Dress for Success" workshop for all first generation freshmen students.

The program builds upon existing relationships around campus by placing former first generation students as mentors for incoming first generation students. Junior Alanna Khubieh, a student and mentor in the Gen 1 program, remembers the difficulty of her own transition.

"Gen 1 has a bridge program dedicated to teaching incoming first generation students about what to expect and helping them form a community of friends before they even set foot on campus," Khubieh said. "Gen 1 was such an amazing resource to me because neither one of my parents went to college. It was intimidating and scary to approach college without any idea of what to expect, but everyone at Gen 1 was really excited to get to know me."

"Being a first generation college graduate has really given me a sense of pride," O'Neal said. "We are here to help first generation students, minority students, low-income students, and students who are academically underprepared. Simply stated: the Student Success program wants to help every student at HBU."



A photograph of four diverse professionals (two men and two women) standing together in an office environment. The man on the far left is wearing a dark suit and a pink tie. The woman next to him is wearing a black blazer, a red skirt, and a patterned scarf. The woman next to her is wearing a blue top and black pants. The man on the far right is wearing a pink checkered shirt and dark pants. They are all smiling at the camera. In the background, other office workers are visible, some blurred, suggesting a busy work environment.

**We want students to know that  
there is someone here who is  
*just like them.***



# What's in a Website?

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white sleeveless top, is holding a smartphone in her hands. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. Overlaid on the phone's screen and extending upwards are glowing, futuristic digital elements: a circular interface with a grid pattern above the phone, and several vertical lines of light emanating from the screen. The background is a deep blue space filled with numerous small, bright stars.

Barely two decades into the digital revolution, it's hard to remember what life was like before the Internet. Even the iconic business device; the fax machine, has virtually disappeared from offices. Documents can be captured and shared electronically with the touch of a button.

Ten years ago, Apple introduced consumers to the iPhone, which revolutionized how we access the Internet. The smartphone has become an ubiquitous device that most in society can't function without. Ruffalo Noel Levitz reports that 95% of high school students have a smartphone. In fact, over 40% of students said they use their mobile device(s) for *ALL* of their web browsing.

In response to this global digital transformation, HBU is positioning itself to embrace and fully leverage Internet technologies. As web browsing continues to shift from desktop computers toward mobile platforms such as tablets and smartphones, the time has come to migrate HBU.EDU to a mobile-friendly experience known as Responsive Design.





## A NEW DIRECTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY

The first step toward technology transformation started with a decision to partner with Ellucian. Ellucian created the enterprise resource planning software Banner, the computer platform that manages key University functions. In addition to software, Ellucian provides technology management resources and support. “Universities should know what they do best,” says CFO Sandy Mooney, “and then find partners to help support functions that are not their core business.”

Ellucian began supporting IT services in 2014 and quickly established an effective IT governance structure. Governance consisted of committees and working task forces to include staff members, faculty, and administrators meeting regularly to provide requirements, guidance, and prioritization for technology decisions.

In only two years, the Ellucian team has helped HBU to make numerous infrastructure and business process improvements including: computer hardware upgrades, cloud services, improved safety and security, upgraded Wi-Fi, as well as faster campus internet access. Additionally, application and business process improvements have been achieved for the Banner environment and its corresponding customer relationship management system, Recruiter; used to manage student admissions processing. “Within weeks of the Ellucian team’s arrival we had established a priority list. We were having meetings, we were getting things done, and we were getting things fixed,” says Provost Dr. Cynthia Simpson.

Glen Johnson, HBU’s chief information officer, leads HBU IT with a clear mission: “To achieve excellence through the design, development, and implementation of secure information technology services in support of the learning experience and consistent with the University Mission and Vision.”

Throughout the summer and fall of 2015, Johnson participated in numerous constituent conversations regarding challenges with the current HBU.EDU website. A recurring theme was captured in those communications – the need for a mobile-optimized

website along with a design refresh. Realizing the University would face lengthy implementation timelines and burdensome financial challenges with a traditional website redesign project, Johnson turned to Ellucian Web Services Group for partnership and solutions to help overcome these barriers. After vetting a unique proposal from Glen in November, HBU extended the Ellucian partnership to redesign HBU.EDU with a goal of launching a mobile-optimized website by Spring 2016.

The new website will be based on a responsive design platform that accommodates any web browser adaptive to any device screen size. A determined and motivated group of HBU employees (affectionately referred to as the “Tiger Team”) has been assembled to support the website transformation. The team represents a broad constituency of University academic and administrative functions. This team is working diligently with Ellucian web designers to produce a mobile-optimized fresh look that establishes a new baseline for HBU’s global web presence.

Ellucian has also introduced a new web content management platform as part of the redesign project. The new platform extends HBU beyond basic content management into a framework for integrating website page content with core business information systems. By way of example, updating information such as contacts, academic department chairs, and University events shifts from manual data entry to automated process that pulls from existing administrative systems which store the most current information; making website content dynamically up-to-date.

The Tiger Team has set an aggressive goal to quickly redesign, update and remap the current content, and relaunch the University’s website on a new responsive design platform. We are excited about this process and the progress we have made thus far, so look for a new HBU.EDU website coming to your favorite web browser and mobile device later this spring!



## Hall of Fame Scholarship Winner

Lesley Barnes was awarded the Stewart Morris Scholarship at a luncheon and black tie event by the Texas Business Hall of Fame. The scholarship is a \$15,000 award for graduate study. Lesley is one of HBU's top performing MBA students. She is pictured here with Dr. Michael Weeks, HBU's dean of the Archie W. Dunham College of Business.



## Mock Trial Scholarship Winners

The HBU Mock Trial Team competed in the 6th Annual Ole Open at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota in November. The team placed 3rd out of 20 teams. Carlos Cruz won an individual Witness Award and Jonathan Richie won an Attorney Award. Other members of the team are Brenda Brocato, Samantha Hasbell, Julia Jimenez, Hannah Lambert, and Sonora Moreno. Nefi Lopez BA '14 accompanied the team to the tournament.



*Suetta Miller (right) and  
Brenda A. Barros-Rivera*

## Miller Wins Prestigious HR Student Contest

The National Academy of Human Resources (NAHR) sponsored the yearly Ram Charan Essay Contest in New York City, and taking top prize were Suetta Miller, a student in the masters of HR management program at HBU and Brenda A. Barros-Rivera, a PhD student in the HR and organizational-behavior program at Texas A&M. Their paper, titled In the Game—A Contingency Framework of Public Policy, explored HR's role in influencing public policy. The NAHR inducts top HR executives into their group as Fellows. This year's group of inductees was quite impressive – they included execs from Procter & Gamble, Google, HP, Blackstone Group, Cornell, and a former executive from DirecTV.

Three winners/students from around the world were selected and flown to the meeting in New York City to present their paper to the Fellows, both past and present. Top winners receive a \$20,000 prize.

## New Endowed MFA Scholarships

Dr. Nansen G. and Marina S. Saleri were honored at a reception in the University Academic Center in September. The entire Saleri family, MFA and BFA students, and art faculty joined Dr. and Mrs. Sloan to present a bronze plaque dedicated to artist Kristin Saleri. Two Master of Fine Arts Scholarships have been endowed by the Saleris in her memory.





# Alumni Association Hosts Christmas Commencement Celebration



*Christa Hall, assistant director of Alumni Relations and Amy Youngblood, director, Alumni Relations and Advancement*

**D**r. and Mrs. Sloan, along with the Alumni Board of Directors and staff, hosted a Christmas Commencement Celebration for the 2015 December graduates to welcome them as the newest members of the Alumni Association and to introduce them to their fellow alumni.

The HBU Alumni Board of Director's Chair, Rachel David BA '09 shared her story of how she would not have been able to attend HBU without being blessed with the scholarships she received. Now as an alumni, she and her husband Erik David BBA '08, are able to give back to the scholarship fund and encouraged other alumni to join this culture of philanthropy.







*President Robert Sloan and Jan Witham (r) presented Kelly Siegler with a rare Bible page to honor her career. "Hate evil and love good: establish justice in the gate." Amos 5:15*

## **Guild Hosts Christmas Luncheon Program**

During its annual Christmas Luncheon in December at River Oaks Country Club, The Guild demonstrated yet again that its dedication to Houston Baptist University is incredible. Members of The Guild have raised more than \$1.7 million in scholarships for graduate students in education and theology, as well as special projects. During the luncheon, Guild President Jan Witham presented Dr. Sloan with a gift of \$20,000 for The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies.

This year's guest speaker, Kelly Siegler, was a former

Harris County prosecutor and current star of the television series *Cold Justice*, in which she solves cold murder cases across the country. In her keynote speech, "Waiting on God," she explored her experiences as a prosecutor and the trials of waiting for a sign from God while still trusting in Him.

More than 400 attendees also heard Joshua Hilburn, now a pastor at Ecclesia Houston, speak about his experience as a recipient of The Guild's Robert Sloan Endowed Scholarship.





Rick Ogden

## Special Projects Team Formed

It is with great excitement that the Office of the President announces the formation of a Special Projects team. Dr. Sloan has created this team, with Ed Borges serving as the senior director (formally the director of Admissions) and Rick Ogden serving as the director (formally the director of Foundation and Denominational Relations). Borges and Ogden will focus on new initiatives related to outreach, recruitment, and retention. Their diverse professional backgrounds and enthusiasm for the success of HBU make them ideal candidates for this addition to the Office of the President.



Ed Borges

## Simpson Named Provost

President Robert B. Sloan, Jr. has named Dr. Cynthia Simpson as Provost and vice president for Academic Affairs of the University, effective January 20.

"I am very confident Dr. Simpson will provide excellent leadership as provost and chief academic officer," said President Sloan. "The University continues to make progress in our twelve year vision plan, *The Ten Pillars: Faith and Reason in a Great City*. Dr. Simpson's talents will be invaluable as we launch our first doctoral program in educational leadership and expand our online academic programs."

Dr. Simpson has served as interim provost since May of 2015 and previously served as dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences and dean of the Graduate School, while simultaneously serving as a professor of Education. "It is an honor to help lead the academic team that will be working to advance Christian higher education and *The Ten Pillars*, not only in Houston, but throughout the state and nation," said Simpson. "I am both privileged and humbled to step into this role as its chief academic officer."

Dr. Simpson joined the University in the summer of 2012 from Sam Houston State University, where she served as a faculty member and the program coordinator of special education. She received her PhD from Texas A&M University, her MEd from Sam Houston State University, and her BS degree from Texas State University.

In her time as interim provost, Dr. Simpson worked with Dr. Sloan to successfully move the University "to the next level" by creating a plan for a new doctoral program.



INTERNATIONAL WEEK – *celebrating diversity*  
**HBU Brings the World**





# Together



When Shruti Sahasrabudhe entered her first classroom at HBU this fall, she didn't know a single other student. She had come to the U.S. from India with her family for her husband's job and decided to pursue a MBA to further her own education. A few days later at the International Student Welcome Coffee, she met Yue Hao from China and Komal Punjani from Pakistan. All three students realized they were in the same class and made plans to study together. A friendship blossomed and from there, the students volunteered to represent their home countries during HBU's first annual International Week held in November.

This week-long celebration, sponsored by the International Student Organization and the Student Programming Board, celebrated HBU's incredible diversity on campus. During International Week, food trucks from different regions of the world were on campus each day providing an opportunity for students to experience the vast array of culinary choices the world has to offer.

The International Culture Fair was also held in November with students showcasing items from their home countries and giving attendees a tour of the world without setting foot off campus. Shruti and the Indian delegation exhibited Indian culinary delicacies, beautifully woven fabrics, and pictures depicting the beauty of the other side of the world. Mexicans proffered tastes of their homeland while testifying about recent indigenous holidays. Vietnamese students gave samples of their famous coffee and spoke with students about the hallmarks of their hometowns.

The highlight of the week was the International Fashion Show. During this event, HBU cultural organizations

such as the Filipino Student Association, Vietnamese Student Association, and African Student Association, as well as delegations from other countries, performed traditional dances and exhibited clothing from their home countries. The event raised funds to bring clean water to communities around the world through donations to Living Water International.

These events brought the world to HBU and united the students together into a community. The feeling has changed from campus being just a place to come to class to a place that is a home away from home. Charlotte Hartshorn, president of the International Student Organization and from England, said that International Week "makes me feel part of a family away from home."

Alejandra Rivero, from Mexico and the ISO social chair, reported that planning for and participating in International Week "has given me the space and time to share the love and pride I feel for my country with other students who feel the same passion for their own countries. For students like me, who have home so far away, talking about our country makes us feel at home, especially because we feel listened by others who feel the same way."

The purpose of International Week is to glorify God at HBU by highlighting the incredible people and cultures He has made. International and domestic students bonded together to showcase the uniqueness of the cultures represented on the HBU campus, while emphasizing that we are here together as Huskies. "Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples." 1 Chronicles 16:24 (NIV)





A photograph of Michael Roque Collins, a man with glasses and a grey button-down shirt, standing in his studio. Behind him is a large, abstract painting titled 'Venetian Series-Sacred Towers' (2014-15), which features a central, dark, arched structure resembling a tower or a staircase, surrounded by textured, layered brushstrokes in shades of brown, black, and white. To the left of the man, a black bucket holds several paintbrushes. The overall scene is a professional portrait of the artist in his workspace.

# Under the Radar

-Houston Chronicle

Michael Roque Collins, standing in front his painting  
*Venetian Series-Sacred Towers*, 2014-15, Oil on Linen,  
60"x50", Collection of Dr. & Mrs. Robert B. Sloan, Jr.



**U**nder the Radar,” the group show at Williams Tower Gallery this fall, contained such a range of works it almost appeared random.

A casual visitor might have wondered how a large, wreathlike work made of plastic water bottles relates to abstract paintings, portraits of characters with tattoos, inky drawings of animals, a vitrine of quirky mixed-media objects and edgy ceramic sculpture. The show offered a glimpse of one of the most surprising developments on the Houston art scene in years. The works were by graduate students at Houston Baptist University, a school that barely had an undergraduate art program a decade ago.

Curator Sally Sprout is a friend of Michael Roque Collins, the program’s director. “His boundless enthusiasm about the program is hard to deny,” she said. Still, she was surprised by the work she discovered during studio visits at the campus’ three-year-old arts building.

“It’s an emerging program, distinctly different from what you would see at the University of Houston,” Sprout said. “The UH kids have been around the block; they’re hip. At HBU, they seem a little more innocent. Maybe it’s the mind-set of the school.”

Collins said he happily left a tenure-track job at Texas Tech University in Lubbock to rekindle HBU’s once-sleepy undergraduate art program when the prominent theologian Robert B. Sloan Jr. became president in 2006. “My friends at Baylor thought the world of him,” Collins said.

A pedigreed painter with a mile-long résumé, Collins grew up among Houston’s art elite. “I’ve been painting since Methuselah in this city,” he quipped. His father, Lowell Collins, was a dean of the Houston Museum School, the precursor to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston’s Glassell School. His mother, Glinda Gayle Simpson Pritchett, managed an art gallery. The legendary John Biggers was among the family’s close friends.

Michael Collins also has a magnetic personality; he’s more likely to give you a bear hug than a handshake the first time you meet. He turned on that charm full-throttle for HBU, recruiting top-flight artists to teach — among them the painter, curator and widely published author Jim Edwards, co-author of the recent *Texas Abstract*; UH alum Laura Kreft; German sculptor Hans Molzberger; and art historian David Brauer.

Collins and his colleagues had the school’s undergraduate program running by 2008. They launched the graduate program in 2011 with three students. This year it has 22, from a field of more than 40 applicants, Collins said. That’s just less than half the number of graduate students

in the University of Houston’s studio art and art history programs.

“We’re kind of an equal opportunity provider for the master of fine arts degree,” Collins said. He attributes that program’s “meteoric” growth to professional need. “There are people that come out of undergraduate programs, maybe UH or St. Thomas, and they don’t want to go back to the same school for an MFA,” he said. Space has become tight, but each graduate art student has a studio in the school’s arts building.

Reflecting the campus at large, the art programs attract diverse students who are as likely to be Muslim, Hindu or Buddhist as Christian. The graduate students are also diverse in other respects — aged 28 to 72, from all over the world and all walks of life. About two-thirds receive financial aid, and the school has begun to build endowed fellowships to support them.

While some of the school’s liberal arts program courses explore how art, philosophy and poetry plumb the soul through Christian themes, others have an aesthetic and intellectual viewpoint that demands students think for themselves.

Collins, Edwards and Kreft put all applicants through a two- or three-day interview. “We’re essentially building a family here,” Kreft said. “We want to make sure everyone can finish the program.” Collins said graduates emerge with powerful portfolios partly because the faculty delivers hard but positive criticism.

The masters program quickly became a force to watch in “Rising Eyes,” an annual juried show at the Rockport Center for the Arts featuring works from the state’s 19 graduate art programs. The school’s art students also frequently built installations Project Row Houses and win awards.

They’re making commercial inroads, too. Camille and Debra Samara, owners of the year-old contemporary art-focused Samara Gallery on Main Street, have snapped up several HBU alums including Rachel Gardner, Carlos Canul and Abidemi Olowonira, whose first solo show was on view there this past fall. Their holiday show will featured small works by HBU students. “It’s a hidden treasure over there,” Camille Samara said.

He and his wife sought out Olowonira at the urging of the collector and dealer Gus Kopriva. On their first visit to the school’s studios, they also signed on Canul and Lesley Anne Walker. And they presented a show by Moltzberger in February 2015. “It’s a great source of good art, and it’s been successful,” Samara said. “The work sells. We couldn’t be happier.”

*continued on page 28* ►

# TO THE SOURCES, TO THE FUTURE!

## *Conference explores issues surrounding Erasmus' Bible*

2016 is an important year in Christian studies, marking the **500th anniversary of the first publication of the Greek New Testament by Erasmus**. A leading Renaissance scholar, Erasmus encouraged Christians to go back to the original source of Christian teaching, the Greek New Testament.

Throughout the middle ages, the Scriptures were primarily found in Latin, the language of the educated elite. However, in the preface to his 1516 Greek text, Erasmus encouraged vernacular translations of the Scriptures, saying all people should be able to read the Scriptures in their own language: "Would that they were translated into all languages so that not only Scotch and Irish, but Turks and Saracens might be able to read and know them." Erasmus' Greek text went through five editions and spurred the translation of Scripture across Europe. Martin Luther in Germany and William Tyndale in England used Erasmus' text in preparing their translations. Erasmus' work was truly foundational for the Reformation, traditionally seen as beginning in 1517.

In commemoration of this important anniversary, HBU's Department of Theology, in conjunction with

the Dunham Bible Museum, hosted the conference *Ad Fontes, Ad Futura: Erasmus' Bible and the Impact of Scripture*, February 25-27. The Latin title means "To the sources, to the future," and the conference considered the textual and historical issues surrounding Erasmus' publication, as well as a look forward at issues in Bible translation and cultural influence.

Four leading scholars addressed the conference. Dr. Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School, opened the conference on Thursday. He is a leading scholar in church history and the Reformation, is general editor of the *Reformation Commentary on Scripture* and author of numerous books, including *Reading Scripture with the Reformers and Theology of the Reformers*. Dr. Craig Evans, the John Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins at HBU, addressed the conference on the subject, "Erasmus and the Beginnings of Textual Fundamentalism." Dr. Daniel B. Wallace, director of the Center for the Study of New Testament



Manuscripts and senior professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, spoke on "Erasmus and the Publication of the First Greek New Testament." Dr. Herman Selderhuis, professor of Church History at the Theological University Apeldoorn and director of Refo500 spoke on "The Impact of Erasmus' Biblical Work on the Reformation."

## **Under the Radar** *continued from page 27*

Olowonira, a Nigerian native who stitches works together from shards of leather and fur, has a drawing degree from Texas Southern University but realized he needed a master's because many galleries require it. Those two years of rigorous focus at HBU helped him develop a work ethic that might be more important than the degree itself, he said. He worked closest with Holtzberger, who helped him build welding skills, but all the HBU faculty were supportive, he said.

Kreft feels HBU's program is at "an absolutely beautiful

place at a moment in time where everything is working." She makes sure students are exposed not just to Houston's large and varied art scene but also to things happening around the state. "We're not an island over here," Kreft said.

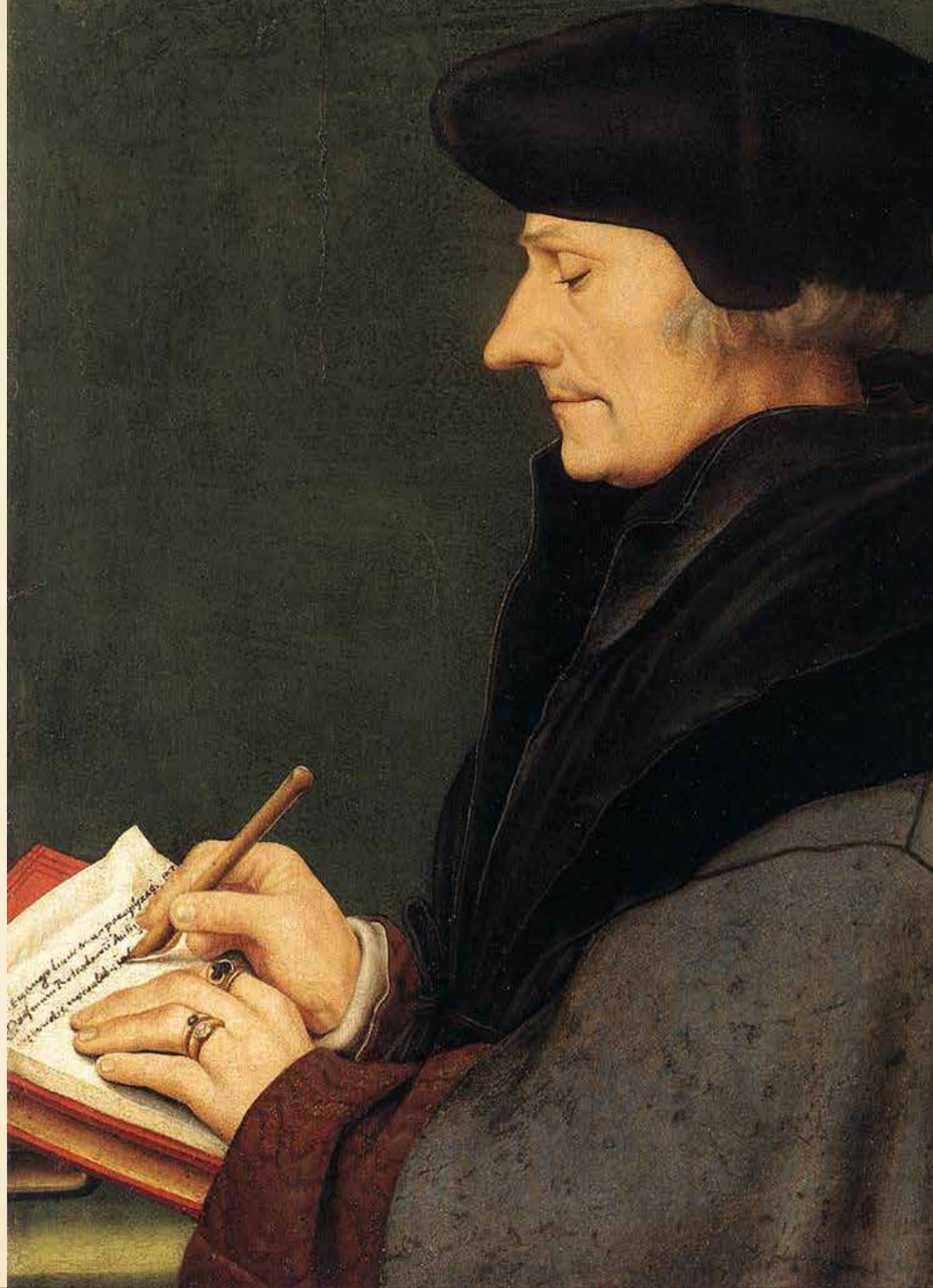
The HBU art faculty also leads by example. Their work was recently featured in a group show at Texas A&M University. The prolific Collins also had a solo show, "Sojourn in the Shadowlands," at the Holocaust Museum Houston this winter and a retrospective, shared with his



The conference also included special sessions with additional presentations by scholars on Erasmus' Bible and the impact of Scripture.

In addition to the conference, throughout 2016, the Dunham Bible Museum has a special exhibit featuring Erasmus' text and its influence: *Renaissance of the Bible: Erasmus' Greek Text, a Foundation for Reformation*. The conference and exhibit are a part of Refo500, an international group of partners telling the story of the Reformation as we approach its 500th anniversary. *Ad Fontes, Ad Futura* was made possible in part with a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Dunham Bible Museum is open Monday-Saturday, 10 am-4pm. Appointments can be made for group tours by contacting Dr. Diana Severance at 281-649-3287 or [dscverance@hbu.edu](mailto:dscverance@hbu.edu).



late father, which opened in January and runs through April 5 at Allen Center Gallery.

Collins said while his exhibition record and Edwards' reputation as a curator and author may be helping to propel the school's street cred, their program is succeeding because — as Sprout noticed — it is close-knit.

Of course painting, sculpture, drawing, ceramics and print-making are covered in-depth. But during a weekly reading day, graduate students also discuss their

religious philosophies. And they share baked goods on "pie" days.

"It's a fertile territory," Collins said. "Community is the key here. We care about each other." He's not expecting masterpieces out of the gate.

"They're all hungry. I don't think any one of them feels they've done great work yet," he said. "We tell them, 'You'll probably be much older before you understand your life deeply enough to make something that's truly profound...It's the long haul that counts.'"





*Trustee Jim Smith and his wife Sherry, long term University donors, were powerful instruments of the creation of HBU's magnificent chapel organ. In 2007, the Smiths pledged \$1,500,000 to provide the Smith Organ for the Belin Chapel. The Sherry and Jim Smith Létourneau Organ was dedicated in September 2009.*

## ***HBU Smith Organ to be featured at AGO National Convention***

In today's society, where high volume production and instant gratification often seem more valued than time-intensive artistic masterpieces, it is easy to overlook the treasures around us. Our city is blessed with exquisite masterpieces. Like the priceless treasures that fill our historical and fine arts museums, many of Houston's pipe organs are a magnificent testimony to the time-honored tradition of custom organ building.

The HBU Smith Organ, with its breath-taking façade, will be one of the featured instruments at the American Guild of Organists (AGO), National Convention in Houston, June 19-23, 2016. Other equally stunning instruments will

be featured in recitals, worship services and competitions. Houston is honored to host the 2016 AGO National Convention, the premier gathering of organists, organ enthusiasts and other musicians. At this five-day event, the timeless craft of organ-building will be showcased through our city's many exquisite pipe organs.

The AGO is a professional organization dedicated to the promotion of the organ in its historic and evolving roles, and encourages excellence in the performance of organ and choral music providing a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members. Every other year, the AGO holds a national





*Eighteen beautiful venues will include Christ the King Lutheran Church, Foundry United Methodist Church, Houston Baptist University, Rice University, St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and St. Martin's Episcopal Church.*

convention in a major U.S. city that reflects the diverse aspects of the guild and its official work across the country.

In 2010, Dr. Rhonda Furr, professor of music at HBU, was named Convention Coordinator for AGO 2016 National Convention. The AGO National Convention will be held June 19-23, 2016, and will showcase Houston's superb instruments through performances by world-class organists, present world premiers of creative new music, and provide enlightening workshops and inspirational worship services. AGO National Conventions attract 1500-2000 organists, organ enthusiasts and other musicians from five continents.

The AGO is committed to education and community outreach beyond its membership. The Houston convention will engage college students, youth and families by offering significant discounts for college students, a youth day (including concerts at HBU) and family-oriented programs. The convention will host a national performing competition for young organists and showcase several other young artists. The 2016 Convention will also feature winning pieces from a church music composition competition.

Unlike many professional conventions that employ a staff to plan, coordinate and execute each detail of national conventions, AGO conventions are designed and led by volunteers who are more accustomed to sitting at an organ bench than learning how to build a web-based registration platform, create contracts, or map out convention spaces. While a National Headquarters office provides guidance, the detailed planning of each AGO convention is dependent on the volunteers. Each person involved committed several years to this worthwhile project.

"We are motivated by the global impact of this 'gift of time' to our area of passion! It has been both a rewarding and exhausting journey," said Furr. "When I sought permission from our HBU administrators to accept the position of coordinator of a national convention six years ago, I was not only encouraged to do so, but offered full University support."

In addition to the use of our beautiful Létourneau pipe organ in Belin Chapel, HBU provided office and meeting spaces, a student assistant, administrative support and the use of the HBU vans and buses. This partnership between HBU and the AGO has brought valuable recognition to the University both locally and nationally.

You are invited to join organ enthusiasts from around the globe for this historic Houston arts event. For more information and ticket sales for individual concerts, available beginning May 15, go to [AGOHouston2016.com](http://AGOHouston2016.com).

All worship services (excluding Opening Convocation and the Hymn Festival) are free and open to the public.

*The convention recitals at HBU will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2:00-2:50 and repeated at 4:00-4:50 pm. The performances feature the 2014 National Organ Competition winner, Jonathan Rudy, and the 2014 National Organ Improvisation winner, Patrick Scott.*



Dr. Rhonda Furr is the coordinator for the 2016 American Guild of Organists' National Convention. She joined the HBU faculty in 1989 where she teaches organ and music history and literature courses. She has taught church music courses and supervised academic study tours in Europe.

Dr. Furr was the University consultant for the Smith Organ in Belin chapel, and was responsible for the oversight of a 1.5 million dollar gift. She worked closely with Letourneau's artist director, Andrew Forrest, and external consultant John Gearhart to design the Smith Organ and was primarily responsible for pipe specification and console design.

Dr. Furr received her Bachelor and Master's degrees in music from Western Carolina University and completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ and musicology at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Her teachers include Dr. Boyd Jones, organ, Dr. Donald Hustad, service playing, and Dr. Hugh McElrath, musicology.

Rhonda was a contributing author to *Jubilate, Amen! A Festschrift in Honor of Donald Paul Hustad* and prepared both the biographical and bibliographical chapters on this distinguished teacher, conductor, organist, and scholar of church music. She has also had several organ pieces published by Fred Bock Music.

Dr. Furr is a former Dean of the Houston Chapter of the AGO and has been organist at First Presbyterian Church of Houston since 2004 and also served as organist in Methodist, Episcopal, and Baptist churches.

# FACULTY AS CULTURE INFLUENCERS



Encarna Bermejo



Valerie Bussell



Michael Bouchahine

**DR. ENCARNA BERMEJO**, assistant professor of Spanish, spoke at the Language and Professional Speaker Series - Healthcare at the University of Houston Downtown in November 11. The title of the talk was "¡Sana, Sana! Language Competency and Cultural Awareness through Medical Spanish."

**DR. VALERIE BUSSELL**, associate professor of Psychology in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, and **MICHAEL BOUCHAHINE**, an HBU Alumni, presented a poster at the Sixth International Conference on Sport and Society at the University of Toronto in Toronto Canada in July. The title of the presentation was "Athletic Identity in University Athletes: Differences for Gender and Type of Sport."

**DR. DAVID DAVIS**, assistant professor of history; **DR. BRENDA WHALEY BS '79**, professor of biology; and **LISA COVINGTON BA '10**, compliance support manager, led a group discussion at the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges' Annual Meeting at the George R. Brown Convention Center in December. The topic of their discussion was "Maintaining Mature Data for Accrediting Standard 3.3.1: Drilling Down to the Details." This session provided an opportunity to share HBU's assessment model with other universities.

**DR. CRAIG EVANS** has been appointed dean of the School of Christian Thought. Dr. Evans began serving in this position January 1. Evans was interviewed by Smithsonian Magazine along with various archaeologists on recent works at Bethsaida and Magdala - the two cities featured the opening chapter of his book, *Jesus and the Remains of His Day: Studies in Jesus and the Evidence of Material Culture*. In the Smithsonian's article, "Unearthing the World of Jesus," Evans stated that the "most important gain" of the last few decades of historical Jesus research is a "renewed appreciation of the Judaic character of Jesus, His mission and His world." Evans and **DR. JEREMIAH JOHNSTON**, associate professor of Early Christianity; president, Christian Thinkers Society, were also referenced in *Decision* magazine in January.

**JOSHUA FARRIS**, assistant professor of Theology presented a paper and gave closing remarks at the Heythrop College conference, The Self in Light of Divinity, and book launch for the *Ashgate Research Companion to Theological Anthropology*. Professor Farris is currently a Fellow at the University of London.

**DR. CRAIG FERRELL**, assistant professor of Criminal Justice, spoke at the 2015 IACP Conference and Exposition, Legal Officers Section Track in October in Chicago, Illinois. The session was called "Law and Liberty: The United States Bill of Rights; It is the Guarantee." This will be a more in-depth discussion of the topic discussed in his article, "Law and Liberty: The Guaranteed Freedoms in the United States Bill of Rights," which was published in *The Police Chief* 82 (October 2015) magazine.

**DR. CHARLOTTE FONTENOT**, assistant professor of Special Education, and research partner Dr. Mary Houser from West Chester University, presented findings from current research on "Home-School Collaboration for Students with ASDs: Parents' Perspectives" at the National Division for Early Childhood Conference in Atlanta, GA. Also Fontenot, as the faculty advisor for HB CEC student chapter, and member of the HB Council for Exceptional Children, also provided service for the "Texas Walk Now for Autism Speaks" event at the Minute Maid Park. This event is a national platform to promote autism awareness.

**DR. COLLIN GARBARINO**, assistant professor of History, published two essays with *Reformation21* in October: "What Has Gotham to Do with Jerusalem?" and "Halloween: a Distinctively Christian Holiday."

**JESSE GROTHOLSON**, assistant professor of Cinema & New Media Arts, presented at the 10th annual Innovations in Teaching and Learning Technology Conference hosted by Lee College in Baytown, TX in November. His presentation was titled "Using Media for Teaching and Communicating: Best practices for Reaching and Teaching Millennials."

**DR. DAVID GRUBBS**, assistant professor of English, completed a series of interviews for the Christian Humanist Profiles podcasts, including an interview with Dr. Leland Ryken, emeritus professor of English at Wheaton College regarding his book, *A Christian Guide to the Classics*; Dr. Greg Peters, associate professor of medieval and spiritual theology in Biola University's Torrey Honors Institute regarding his recent book, *The Story of Monasticism: Retrieving an Ancient Tradition for Contemporary Spirituality*; Dr. Kevin Vanhoozer, research professor of systematic theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School regarding his book, *The Pastor as Public Theologian: Reclaiming a Lost Vision*. Most recently Grubbs interviewed Dr. Joseph Loconte, associate professor of History at King's College in New York City regarding Loconte's recent book, *A Hobbit, a Wardrobe, and a Great War*. and Dr. Chris Tilling, senior lecturer

Micah Mattix



Phillip Marshall



Jason Lester



Daniel Kramlich



Chris Hammons







David Davis



Brenda Whaley



Lisa Covington



Craig Evans



Jeremiah Johnston

in New Testament Studies at St. Mellitus College in London regarding his recent book, *Paul's Divine Christology*. Christian Humanist Profiles is an interview podcast, engaging authors of recent books in the areas of Christian theology and the humanities.

**DR. CHRIS HAMMONS**, director of Center for Law & Liberty, was the featured scholar at a workshop for high school government teachers in Midland, Texas in September. The workshop was on the Constitution and Executive Power and was conducted by the Bill of Rights Institute (Arlington, VA) in conjunction with HBU's Center for Law & Liberty. Also in September Hammons was the keynote speaker at the national convention of the Sons of the American Revolution in Louisville, Kentucky. Hammons spoke about American founding principles, higher education, and HBU's Center for Law & Liberty. Dr. Hammons was inducted into the SAR after the national chapter discovered that his sixth great grandfather fought in the revolution.

**DR. DANIEL KRAMLICH**, professor of Music, was interviewed on the Worship Lab podcast, which covers topics of interest to people who are involved in or interested in music in worship. The interview conversation centered on the role of the choir in worship.

**DR. JASON LESTER**, dean of the School of Fine Arts and chair of the music department, had the distinct honor of serving as Governor for the 65th annual Texoma National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Regional Conference held at Oklahoma City University. This conference includes multiple Artist Series presentations, a guest recital by international operatic star *Nathan Gunn*, a performance of Donizetti's opera *Don Pasquale*, a master class with internationally renowned teacher Stanford Olsen from the University of Michigan, Young Artist Program Auditions, Singer-of-the-Year competition, and the Student Auditions Competition. As governor, Dr. Lester organized, coordinated, and managed all aspects of the conference and is honored to be HBU's first Texoma Governor.

**DR. PHILLIP MARSHALL**, assistant professor of Biblical Languages/Classics, presented two academic research papers at the annual, national meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Atlanta, in November. He delivered "(Case-)Marked Left-Dislocations: The Case of Qoheleth" to the Linguistics & Biblical Hebrew section, and "An Analysis of the Function of Greek Anarthrous Participles in Oblique Cases" to the Biblical Greek Language & Linguistics section. As well, the quality of HBU's undergraduate and graduate programs in Biblical Languages was on display at the SBL national meeting. Dr. Marshall shared the podium with graduates of these HBU programs in both sections, each delivering fine research papers of their

**DR. MICAH MATTIX**, assistant professor of Literature, and **DR. STEVEN L. JONES**, assistant professor of Classics, published an essay on the role of the poet in society in the October issue of *Chronicles Magazine*.

**NANCY PEARCEY**, professor of Apologetics and scholar in residence, was invited to deliver the annual lecture for Denver Seminary's Gordon Lewis Center. She spoke on "Finding Truth: How the Bible Teaches Critical Thinking," and at luncheon the following day, addressed "Arguing for Sexual Truth in a Secular Age." That evening she also spoke at Horizon Christian Fellowship in Denver. In addition, Pearcey published two articles for John Piper's Website, *Desiring God*, "One Strategy to Rule Them All: How to Answer Skeptics from Romans 1" and "The Bait-and-Switch over Same-Sex 'Marriage'." In media, Pearcey was invited to appear on *Breitbart News* during the Values Voter Summit, and on various Christian programs: Gino Geraci on *Crosswalk*, John Clemens on the *Clemens Report*, David Wheaton on *The Christian Worldview*, and a podcast interview with Michael Easley, former president of Moody Bible Institute. She did print interviews that appeared in *Apologetics for Parents* and in *ByFaith*, in both the online and the print versions. Pearcey also has signed a contract with David C. Cook to write a new book on life and sexuality issues and has also been published on the subject in the *Christian Post*, and in mainstream media such as *The Daily Caller* and *The American Thinker*.



Joshua Farris



Craig Ferrell



Charlotte Fontenot



David Grubbs



Jesse GrothOlson



Collin Garbarino





Alexandru Spatariu



Alan W. Presley



Dean Riley



Nancy Pearcey



Steven L. Jones



John Spoele



Dianne Reed



Philip Tallon

**DEAN RILEY**, professor of Library Science and systems librarian for Moody Library and **ALAN W. PRESLEY**, associate director of web strategies and operations, co-presented at the 10th Annual Innovations in Teaching and Learning Technology Conference at Lee College in Baytown, TX, on the topic of "Utilizing LibAnswers to Create a Campus-Wide Knowledge Base." The presentation discussed how they repurposed Springshare's "LibAnswers" product from library reference database to campus-wide knowledge base for everything regarding the institution.

**DR. ALEXANDRU SPATARIU**, associate professor of Education, was chosen to review research papers for the American Education Research Association, the most prominent education association in the world. He has reviewed a total of 17 papers in Division C (Learning and Instruction) and a Special Interest Group (Computer and Internet Applications in Education). Spatariu has co-authored two professional paper presentations — One at E-Learning annual peer reviewed technology conference and another was a peer reviewed paper presentation at HBU's annual Teaching and Learning Symposium with a focus on writing quality messages on discussion boards in online courses. Spatariu also co-authored a review article on student achievement and teacher evaluation multicultural aspects published in the *Journal of Education Policy, Planning, and Administration*.

**DR. JOHN SPOEDE**, director of the Center for Research and Doctoral Studies, and **DR. DIANNE REED**, professor of Education, co-authored, a manuscript titled "Issue Update: Special Education and Bullying" in the Fall 2015 volume of *The DiaLog Journal of the Texas Educational Diagnosticians' Association*. Spoele and Dr. Roxy Riefkohl-Siegrist presented "LPC or School Counselor? How to Function When You Have Two Professional Identities and Potential Ethical Dilemmas" at the November Texas Counseling Association's 59th Annual Professional Growth Conference in Corpus Christi, Texas.

**DR. PHILIP TALLON**, assistant professor of Theology, recently spoke at the New Room Conference in Franklin, TN, a gathering for evangelical pastors and theologians

in the Wesleyan tradition. His presentation was titled "A Vision for Catechesis for Confirmation to College." He also spoke at the conference about his book, *The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith*, an introduction to Christian theology which will be published soon. He also recently published three essays: "The Problem of Evil Defended" and "Reply to David L. O'Hara" in C.S. Lewis's *Christian Apologetics* (Brill, 2015); "On Death Proof: A Discussion about the Ethics of Watching Super-Violent but Aesthetically Excellent Movies" in *Tarantino and Theology* (Gray Matter, 2015).

**DR. ERIC VAN CAEMELBECKE**, professor of Chemistry, and his two undergraduate Welch Research Scholars, Dayna Patterson and Kenneth George presented their work at the American Chemical Society Regional Conference in Memphis, TN in November. The title of their presentation was: "Axial and Equatorial Ligand Binding Reactivity of Ru<sub>2</sub>(dpf)<sub>3</sub>(OAc)Cl where dpf is the N,N'-diphenylformamidinate ion."

**DR. MICHAEL WARD**, professor of Apologetics, has completed a two-week lecture-tour of the United States, speaking about the theological imagination of C.S. Lewis and promoting awareness of the online MA program in apologetics.

**DR. DAWN WILSON MED '99**, professor of Education, and **DR. KATIE ALANIZ**, assistant professor of Education, presented at the Technology and Curriculum Conference of Aldine in October. Their presentation was entitled "The Next Generation of Professional Development: Creating a Culture of Coaching for Tech Integration," and provided an in-depth discussion of their book *Naturalizing Digital Immigrants: The Power of Collegial Coaching for Technology Integration*.

**DR. YURI YATSENKO**, professor of Business, presented a key talk, "Games with Adaptation and Mitigation" at the 4th International Workshop on Natural Resources, Environment and Economic Growth held at the European University at St. Petersburg (Russia) in October. The workshop was attended by experts from USA, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Russia, Switzerland, Netherlands, and Greece.

Eric Van Caemelbecke

Michael Ward

Dawn Wilson

Katie Alaniz

Yuri Yatsenko







## FOLDS of HONOR

### Huskies Take Part in Folds of Honor Tribute Program

## *Pay tribute to two fallen service members this spring*

The HBU men's and women's golf teams will participate in the **Folds of Honor Tribute Program** this spring, head coach David Shuster announced.

"This is such a great honor for our program to be able to pay tribute to two fine American gentleman who gave their lives defending our country, as well as bring awareness to all our military and their daily sacrifices," Shuster said. "Their service has allowed our kids to get a good education and grow up in society feeling safe, and we are certainly proud to be able to recognize these individuals and what they stand for."

The Huskies will pay homage to two servicemen, Staff Sergeant Charles Clayton Mitts (Army) and Lance Corporal Shane Martin (Marine Corps), who gave their lives in the line of duty and hail from the Greater Houston area, by baring their names on two individual golf bags that will be carried by a member of the HBU lineup at each tournament throughout the season. The bags display the name, rank and branch of service of the deceased.

"This program allows America's best and brightest student-athletes to shine a light on the significance of sacrifices made by our nation's military service men and women," said Fold of Honor founder Major Dan Rooney.

"It gives them the opportunity to acknowledge and then reciprocate those losses through financial support of Folds of Honor and its scholarship recipients. The Folds of Honor Military Tribute

Program ensures that participating teams and their institutions continue to leave no family behind."

*Folds of Honor, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with a mission to empower deserving military families, provides educational scholarships and other assistance for the children and spouses of military service men and women killed or disabled while serving our great nation. Folds of Honor is supported by the Golf Coaches Association of America and Women's Golf Coaches Association.*



## Athletes Spend Free Time Volunteering During the Holidays

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) welcomed many children from Carter's Kids to Husky Stadium prior to the Thanksgiving break. Carter's Kids is a non-profit organization that supports foster youth across the nation. The kids' ages ranged from 5-15 and they spent the afternoon playing varying sports with the HBU student-athletes.



Carter Kids

"FCA has had the opportunity to host and serve Carter's Kids the past two years here on the HBU campus," said FCA member Sebastien Huang. "The love that we get to share with these kids is such a blessing, not only to the children but also to all the athletes that come out to help. To encourage, inspire, and motivate these kids for a brighter future, volunteers get to witness smiles and laughter, joyful and cheerful hearts, as well as life-changing moments for both parties."

Members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) spent their Saturday morning volunteering at the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament at Copperfield Bowling Center, as part of the Southland Conference's "Southland Gives Back."

"It is really great to be part of a conference and to attend a school that encourages us to give back to the community," said senior women's soccer player and SAAC President Blake Martin. "Our student-athletes really enjoy being able to cheer on the kids and help out in any way we can to make the Special Olympics kids' day better."



Bowling group

The men's and women's Track and Field teams volunteered their time at Jingle Bell Express, which is organized by the Christian Community Service Center which provided new toys, books, and holiday food to underprivileged children and their families.



Jingle Bell Express

"I'm very happy we went and we were able to have a large group of the team come," said Head Track and Field Coach Theresa Fuqua. "Jingle Bell Express does a lot of good things for the unfortunate youth in the Houston area."

Several other HBU athletic teams plan to volunteer at different locations around the Houston area in the spring.



## Marking 25 Seasons at HBU

The 2015-16 academic year marked the 25th seasons for two staples of HBU Athletics, head coaches **Ron Cottrell** (men's basketball) and **Mary-Ellen Hall** (softball).



"It is very rare at the Division I level of college athletics today to have the kind of longevity that both Coach Cottrell and Coach Hall have had here," HBU Director of Athletics Steve Moniaci said. "They would not have been here that long unless they were not only very good coaches and great people, but also completely committed to the mission here at Houston Baptist University. Both of them are among the most successful coaches in their respective sports in intercollegiate athletics and both have a very high winning percentage. Just as important though, both of them also have a very high graduation rate for their players. "As many of them will attest to, the student-athletes who competed for these two coaches, and our institution, have been truly blessed by Mary-Ellen's and Ron's presence here at HBU."

Cottrell and Hall made their coaching debuts during the 1991-92 academic year, and Moniaci recently announced contracting extensions for both through the 2018-19 season. Cottrell also serves as associate director of athletics, while Hall is the department's senior women's administrator.

"It's tough to put into words how much HBU means to me, because this University has been such a big a part of my life, and my family's life, for so long now," Cottrell said.

Cottrell led the Huskies back to the NCAA Division I ranks after 16 seasons building a perennial power at the NAIA Division I level, and has the program off to a strong start in their third season as a member of the Southland Conference. He is by far the program's winningest head coach, having amassed over 440 wins in his time at the helm.

Over his tutelage, the Huskies had at least one basketball player receive All-America honors across a 13-season span, also coaching athletes to All-America accolades 20 times, including the 2002-03 Basketball Times NAIA National Player of the Year, Rod Nealy. In addition, HBU has recipients of All-Conference honors 39 times under Cottrell.

In conjunction with the Huskies' on-court success, Cottrell continues to stress excellence in the classroom as well, holding an 85 percent graduation rate. Six players under Cottrell have garnered Academic All-America honors and 53 have earned Academic All-Conference accolades.

Cottrell was named Red River Athletic Conference Coach of the Year five times. He also has twice been awarded the Houston Area High School Boys Basketball Coaches' College Coach of the Year and he received what he regards as one of his highest honors in the summer of 2006 when he was selected by USA Basketball to serve as a court coach for the gold-medal winning 18U USA team.

Cottrell served as the director of athletics at HBU from 1994-2009.

Hall is the winningest coach at HBU in her own rights, sporting 732 wins as the softball team enters the 2016 season.

"To be here 25 seasons shows the continued support that the athletic department and administration have had in what assistant coach Roger Willhite and I are doing," Hall said. "This place has been my home since I

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## Martin Excels Both On and Off the Field

Blake Martin is the epitome of a student-athlete. The College Station, Texas, native is a four-year letterwinner on the women's soccer team, where she is fourth in program history with 6,469 minutes played. In her career, the defensive midfielder has three goals and three assists for nine points, as the team captain posted a career high three points last October against Nicholls. Martin helped the Huskies reach the Southland Conference Tournament in consecutive years in 2014-15, including winning the first SLC title and reaching the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history in November 2014.

She was Great West Conference Newcomer of the Year and First Team All-GWC in 2012. Martin earned Honorable Mention National Soccer Coaches' Association of America (NSCAA) Scholar All-South Region honors in 2014, as well as being named the 2014-15 HBU Varsity Athlete Academic Award. She has twice been named to the Southland Conference Honor Roll, is a three-time Academic All-Conference recipient, and earned CoSIDA Academic All-Region accolades. Earlier this month, Martin earned her second award from the NSCAA as she was named to the All-Central Region Third Team.

Her work off the pitch is just as impressive as on. Martin has a 4.0 cumulative GPA in nursing and is a member of both the Alpha Chi National College and the Chi Alpha Sigma National College Honor Societies. Martin was one of 30 candidates for the prestigious NCAA Senior

CLASS Award, given to a senior student-athlete who excels in athletics, academics, and community service. In addition to the hours spent on the soccer field and in the classroom, Martin averages 16-20 hours per week in clinical training at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital. She was a Houston Methodist Hospital 2015 Outstanding Student Nurse Scholarship nominee and was part of the Grampion Student Nursing Exchange Program to Scotland in May 2015.

"I'm so thankful for the opportunities that have been given to me by God, my family, and everyone at HBU," stated Martin. "My time as an NCAA student-athlete at HBU has provided me the chance to give back to my community and school in a way that has grown me as a person and will help me continue serving in the future."

A two-time President of HBU's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), Martin helped organize and run a dodgeball tournament to raise money for Toys for Tots and has twice led the charge for SAAC's volunteering of the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament. Her Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) group has helped with Carter's Kids, an organization that assists foster children in the Houston area. In May 2014, Martin and others went on a mission trip to Boston where they cleaned a park and painted over graffiti. She has also collected canned goods to the Houston Food Pantry and selected toys for the Salvation Army to children who would otherwise not have Christmas gifts.




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***"Blake is the kind of student that should write a book called **How to Strive in Nursing**," said Dr. Renae Schumann, Dean of the School of Nursing and Martin's advisor. "Every college student-athlete should meet her. She has been a model student."***





## Marking 25 Seasons at HBU

*continued from page 37*

was a student-athlete, walking the very campus my players do today. There's no place I'd rather be than HBU."

Hall led the Huskies to the SLC tournament in their first season as a member of the league, winning their first tournament game with an 8-7 victory over Stephen F. Austin. During her tenure as head coach, Hall has led HBU to nine NAIA national championship tournament appearances and appearances in the national rankings, including the team's highest final ranking of second in 2005.

She was honored by the University at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association for her 500th career win during the 2006 season and has had athletes selected All-America a total 31 times Academic All-America 44 times. The Huskies also have been awarded for excellence in the classroom by the NFCA.

Prior to taking over the reigns as head coach, Hall served as an assistant coach for three seasons. In her first year as an assistant, which also was the first year of HBU softball, the Huskies competed as a Division I member.

## ALUMAGRAMS

Send updates to [alumagram@hbu.edu](mailto:alumagram@hbu.edu)  
or *The Pillars*, 7502 Fondren Rd., Houston, Texas 77074-3298

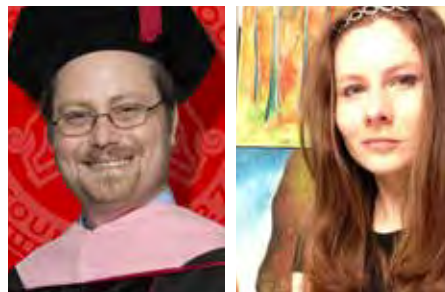
### 1980's

The Houston law firm of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend is pleased to announce that **Randy Sorrels BA '84** listed on Top 100 Texas and Top 100 Houston Super Lawyers lists this year. Houston attorney and managing partner Randall O. Sorrels, of the "oldest personal injury firm in Texas" - Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend - is once again named to the Top 100 Super Lawyers list for the state of Texas, which he has earned every year since 2007. Out of the nearly 97,000 attorneys in Texas, Mr. Sorrels is one of just 100 selected to this list. Mr. Sorrels is also named to the Top 100 Super Lawyers list for Houston, a distinction Mr. Sorrels

has earned every year since 2006. Prior to earning a place on the Top 100 lists, Mr. Sorrels has earned a general listing as a Texas Super Lawyer since 2003, more than 13 years running. The Super Lawyers list appears annually in the Texas Monthly and Texas Super Lawyers magazines.

Attorney **Benny Agosto, Jr. BS '86** a partner with the Houston personal injury law firm of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend, has been selected to the Texas Super Lawyers list for 2015. This year marks Mr. Agosto's 11th appearance on the list, which appears annually in the Texas Monthly and Texas Super Lawyers magazines. Super Lawyers is a listing restricted to the top five percent of Texas lawyers.

### 1990's



**Kevin Klotz BM '99** recently completed his Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting degree at the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston (December 2015). As part of his doctoral studies, he served as the Assistant Director of the Houston Symphony Chorus in 2012-2013. Kevin is currently the Artistic Director of the Houston Cecilia

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# ALUMAGRAMS

Chamber Choir and was recently appointed the new Artistic Director (beginning June 2016) of the Houston Choral Society. Since 1999, Kevin has served as the Music Minister at St. Laurence Catholic Church in Sugar Land. In addition to directing the liturgical choirs, he also conducts the St. Laurence Chamber Singers. In between his many positions, Kevin teaches at Wharton Junior College, where he conducts two choral ensembles and teaches music appreciation. Kevin is proud of his sister, HBU Alum **Melissa Klotz BA '07 and MFA '12**, who currently teaches in the HBU Visual Arts Department and Academy program.

## 2000's

**J.D. Humber BA '04** is an art teacher at Caney Creek High School and recently participated in his school's challenge for Spirit Week. Not only did his board win "Most Spirited" but the principal played the HBU Fight Song over the loud speakers! Congratulations to J.D. for continually showing his Husky Pride!

**Angela Mohle BA '05** is moving to College Station to attend Texas A&M to pursue a degree in Ecological Restoration, Rangeland Ecology and Management, and Watershed Science.

**Christopher Brannen BA '07** graduated last May from Lamar University with his M.Ed in Instructional Technology Leadership.

**Stephen Dinger BA '07** recently married Danielle Hamilton on November 22 at the Belle Tower on 24th. The wedding was officiated by fellow husky **Zach Dodd BA '05**, and the happy couple honeymooned in the Maldives.

**Branden Mickan BBA '08 & Kathlyn Hendrix BA '11** were recently married on August 22 at Clear Lake United Methodist and honeymooned in St. Lucia.



**Aaron Hendrix BM '13** and Emily Hutchins were married on June 28 at Station 3 in Houston and honeymooned in Costa Rica.

**Katie Brown BA '15** and **Gabriel O'Neale BS '14** were married on June 25.



**Brittany Graves MACCT '15** and **Samuel Gomez '15**, were married on October 24. The happy couple is looking forward to their new journey together.





▲ **Alex Hinojosa BM '97** and wife Jane welcomed **Andrew Seth Hinojosa** on April 5. Andrew weighed 6 lbs, 1 oz and was 19.5 inches long.



▲ Justin, former advancement writer, and **Sarah Lacey MEd '13** are proud to announce the birth of their firstborn, a daughter, **Harper Lynn**, on Thanksgiving morning, November 26, weighing 5 lbs, 14 oz, and measuring 17.75 inches long. Sarah is the 6th grade counselor at Salyards Middle School in Cypress-Fairbanks ISD.



▲ **Mac Gervais BA '09** and **Grace Gervais BA '11** are excited to announce the birth of their firstborn, a son, **Jayden Gervais** on October 11, weighing 7 lbs. and 22 inches.



◀ **Charles Liu BBA '95** and his wife Alice welcomed their daughter **Lexington** last November.

▶ **Jennifer Bird BA '07** and husband Michael are pleased to welcome their daughter **Edith Evangeline**, born at the end of July, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz.



## IN MEMORIAM

### FRIENDS



**Cliff Alford**, who passed away December 6, will be remembered for his generous spirit and grand style. Husband of Ruth, president-elect of The Guild,

Cliff's wonderful humor and gentle kindness touched many lives at HBU, Second Baptist and in our community.

**Earl Clifton Ogden**, father of Rick Ogden, director, Special Projects Office of the President, died January 11. He is a veteran of World War II. His greatest accomplishments are his relationship with God, the love

for his wife and of his family and his love for his country.

**Bobby Lee Presley**, father of Alan Presley, associate director of Web Strategies and Operations, passed away January 17.

### STUDENTS

**Chase Braud BA '15** died on December 7.

### FORMER STUDENTS



**Alyce Len Edwards BA '69**, passed away Jan. 12. In 1973 she returned to HBC to work as an Admissions Counselor for two years and then as the school's first sports information director before returning to her teaching career at various local schools, retiring in

2000. "HBU brought a group of friends together in 1973, and that steadfast friendship continued throughout our lives." - Dr. Chuck Lang BS '75 & MEd '82



**John A. Leslie**, former HBU student, passed away September 10, 2015. John was a member of the 1971 Husky Golf

Team that won 4th place in NCAA College Division Golf Championship competition. He was the founder and CEO of Multiview Corporation, and resided in the Boston area over the past 25 years. Both his son, **John M. Leslie**, and his former wife, **Melanie Wade Leslie**, have been a part of the HBU family as students; Melanie served on the art faculty for 19 years as well.



# HBU SPIRIT of *Excellence* GALA

◆ NOVEMBER 1, 2016 ◆  
**SAVE THE DATE**

The Spirit of Excellence Gala is a major fundraising opportunity for HBU. It is the highest tribute given by HBU, awarded to those who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to promoting excellence in their personal lives and throughout the community.

## GALA CHAIRS

Beth and Greg Looser

## UNDERWRITING CHAIRS

Jennifer and Tadd Tellepsen

## HONORING

### *Spirit of Excellence Award*

Elizabeth &  
John W. Gibson, Jr.

### *President's Awards*

Mary Ann Belin &  
Linda Higginbotham

*Introducing the  
Founders Medal Awarded to  
Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.*



### **SPEAKER: Peggy Noonan, Columnist and Best-Selling Author**

Peggy Noonan is a widely admired columnist for *The Wall Street Journal* and the best-selling author of eight books on American politics, history and culture. Called “the voice of our times” by *USA Today*, she is an accomplished and esteemed fixture in American political journalism.

A former special assistant to President Ronald Reagan and former chief speechwriter for Vice President George H. W. Bush, she is considered one of this century’s premier presidential speechwriters.

Her political column for *The Wall Street Journal* was called “indispensable to an understanding of the presidential year,” by the *National Journal* in 2008 and *Forbes Magazine* called it “principled, perceptive, persuasive, and patriotic.” Noonan’s essays have also appeared in *TIME*, *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post* and other publications, and she provides frequent political commentary on television.

Noonan’s most recent best-seller, *Patriotic Grace: What It Is and Why We Need It Now*, is a call for more elevated national politics. In it, Noonan reminds us that we must face our common challenges together—not by rising above partisanship, but by reaffirming what it means to be American.

Go to [www.hbu.edu/spiritofexcellence](http://www.hbu.edu/spiritofexcellence) for more information.



## Students Express Thanks Through Photos



In early December, just before finals, about 20 students gathered in the quad of the Brown Student Center for a simple photo. In the day of selfies and snapchats, one could assume that this was just another photo about themselves. Instead, these pictures had an entirely different purpose. The Office of Alumni Relations had asked students to gather to take a photo and tell their story, as a way to say thank you to the alumni and donors. Within the hour, over 20 students showed up to participate in the movement, “Giving Tuesday.” They came to simply to say “thank you” and to let their story of gratitude and thanks be heard. Each of these students has a story to tell – one that connects them to each of us who give – they are here at HBU due to scholarships made possible by our donors. Each gift, big or small, makes a difference in the life of these students. Our students see that direct impact on their lives and recognize the role HBU alumni and donors have in shaping their future, and they say thank you for giving back.

HBU HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

A Higher Education

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