

# THE PILLARS

Houston.





# HBU First All-America GARRETT DOLAN

AP All-America and STATS FCS All-America

- ..... Southland Conference  
Fall Commissioner's Honor Roll **3.25 GPA**
- ..... Bench Press **365 pounds**
- ..... 135 total tackles  
with 12.3 tackles per game **2nd in nation**
- ..... Squat **500 pounds**
- ..... 40-yard dash **4.65 seconds**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**I** remember clearly when the HBU Presidential Search Committee approached me in 2006, I was very reluctant. (In fact, Sue encouraged me to edit my initial response so that I left a tiny door open for further communication). This had nothing to do with HBU, because Sue and I already knew the University through Doug and Sadie Hodo and others, including many of the faculty and staff, and had always had a great respect for the University. Rather, the sticking point was in me – because of the circumstances of life for Sue and me at that time.

It just didn't seem right that I should take on another college presidency. The vision the Lord had given me with respect to Christian higher education was still something I deeply felt should be done – but it no longer seemed like a viable pursuit for me, so I was pretty sure we would go somewhere else to labor for the Lord. Maybe in a pastorate, or some other capacity of ministry.

But the Presidential Search Committee was very patient and gracious in talking to Sue and me. What became clear to me, among many things, was that the committee – and indeed the entire Board of Trustees – had very strong aspirations for HBU, for a comprehensive university, one that could be national in scope and influence while also being distinctively Christian in its worldview.

The other major factor was the City of Houston. Two friends – independently of each other – pointed out to me that it was very rare to have a Protestant/evangelical university in a major city. I actually did an internet search and confirmed that what others were telling me was true. Schools like ours in major cities are rare in the United States.

I began to consider the City of Houston and all of its resources. That, and the relationships we were building with the Search Committee became the impetus the Lord used to change our hearts and minds.

We then began to see that the horizon of influence for HBU, starting from a city like Houston, with its tremendous resources and entrepreneurial spirit, was broad and rich in possibilities.

And today, Sue and I are more than ever convinced that Houston represents a significant platform and network of friendships, support, students, faculty, staff and opportunity for a distinctive university like ours:

1. in a major city;
2. aspiring to become a national university that is comprehensive in its academic programs, including doctoral programs;
3. already committed to academic rigor;
4. having a heart for student life, where deeply traditional values of integrity and honesty are upheld and students have the opportunity to enjoy clubs, organizations, and national sororities and fraternities;
5. possessing a diversity of students, faculty, and staff that reflects not only the great City of Houston, but the international landscape of the world, where business, the arts, entertainment, travel, medical practice and research, and politics are increasingly interlocked;
6. competing in all major athletic sports in Division I of the NCAA; and
7. unapologetically committed to Jesus Christ as Lord.

And, by the grace of God, I believe it's happening. At one level, of course, this kind of vision is never done. But so much progress along these lines has been made, as we have stood on the shoulders of all those who've gone before us over the now nearly 60 years of HBU's history.

If you haven't been to the campus lately, or talked to our faculty, staff, alumni or trustees, I urge you to do so. Come see what's happening. Talk to the people here who embrace this kind of hope and aspiration for HBU and for the Lord's work. It's truly a blessed thing.

Thank you for your support and all the things that so many of you do to enable this kind of work and vision to come true.

Blessings,

Robert B. Sloan





6



8



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24



51

**ON THE COVER:** Downtown Houston, Texas cityscape with circular skywalk connecting buildings. Copyright Jim Olive/Stockyard Photos. www.stockyard.com

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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.



**HUSKY VETERAN ASSOCIATION**

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# SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

**Dion Johnson**  
*Sergeant*  
*US Army*

2017 was the first year in HBU history that the University  
was named Military Friendly® by Victory Media.





Less than a year ago, two student veterans formed the Husky Veteran Association (HVA) to serve the nearly 90 HBU students currently using veteran benefits. Approximately 40 served their country while the other half is comprised of veteran dependents and family members. When the fall term began, the Husky veterans charged forward. The association grew from 2 to 18 veterans, redefined the Husky tailgate experience, sold more than 250 t-shirts in their first official semester and hosted an Honor Walk on campus. Now they have a website [HBU.edu/HVA](http://HBU.edu/HVA) and are excited about the new Veteran Service Center above the Baugh Cafeteria.

Most of HBU's student veterans are commuters who have families. Because of their drastically different life stages and experiences, student veterans have different needs than 'typical' undergraduate students. "We want to give student veterans a sense of community, and a voice and a place to call home," said HBU senior Gino Manguino, vice president and co-founder of the Husky Veteran Association. The HVA has hopes of eventually implementing peer-to-peer counseling and recruiting more veterans for HBU. HVA President Chris Maust told *The Pillars*, "We are trying to get more veterans to come here, and we're helping our veterans tie into the huge veteran community of Houston, with all of the resources and service opportunities."

"We are particularly thankful for our student veterans and for their service to our nation," said Eduardo Borges, staff advisor to the organization. "In the past year, this commitment has been reflected in the addition of a new veteran service center, enhanced services and support for our Husky Veterans. We are excited about the new opportunities that lie ahead."

Visit: [HBU.edu/MilitaryFriendly](http://HBU.edu/MilitaryFriendly)







# WELCOME TO HOUSTON

**H**ouston evokes many emotions. Maybe your lifelong dreams of space draw you to the Johnson Space Center, favorite memories of the Apollo missions (or watching the movies), or reciting the infamous line, “Houston, we have a problem.”

Or perhaps as a sports fan, you think of the Houston Texans and Bob McNair; the Houston Astros and the famous, first-of-its-kind Astrodome; or the Houston Rockets.

You could be someone who only visits this sprawling

metropolis of concrete and highways when the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo – the largest of its kind – is in town. Perhaps your first thought is honking horns and horrible traffic. Maybe you’re a resident, and you just want Highway 290 to be finished already. (I’m with you.)

Perhaps your love of shopping pulls you into the Houston Galleria, a marvel of architecture and mixed development when it was first introduced in mostly open country. You could also just think of oil, business and generosity, for





# HOUSTON

Houston has been named one of the most generous cities in the country multiple times. Perhaps you think of the Houston Symphony, the Houston Grand Opera, the Houston Ballet or the Alley Theatre.

How did I forget? Maybe you just think of the monstrosity this metropolitan area is with more than six million people! So many emotions are evoked because so much is here, including us—Houston Baptist University.

The old adage “location, location, location” is also true

for universities, and we firmly believe that our location in Houston gives our students an advantage both while they are here and after they graduate. We are a University in an international megacity, and we have tapped into the thriving networks of business, healthcare, education, trade and energy that will launch our students into the world. Throughout this magazine, notice the bits of Houston trivia and learn how Houston’s opportunities are important for our students as they prepare for their careers and lives.





# A Faith-Based University In Houston?

**4 REASONS** WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND





Indisputable evidence corroborated by repeated studies reveals how vitally important a college degree is in 2017. The national economy has recovered from the Great Recession (late 2000s) and technology continues to open different and non-traditional careers. With hopes for the new president and a conservative Congress, our students are looking at endless career possibilities in Houston and beyond. Because of our liberal arts core that helps shape broad and encompassing worldviews, our faith that sets us apart, and our location in a booming and international city, Houston Baptist University is a launching pad for career success from the moment a student steps on campus.

## REASON 1

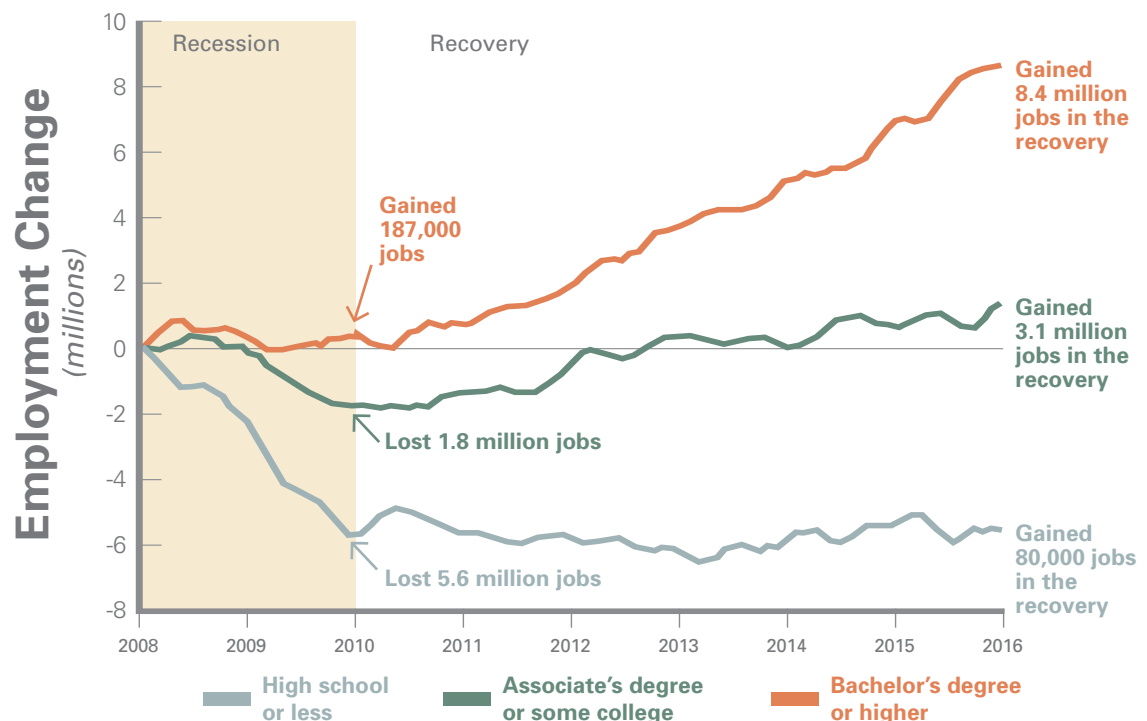
# College degrees are more valuable than ever

According to Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce (CEW), in our country's recovery from the Great Recession, workers with a Bachelor's degree or higher gained 8.4 million jobs while workers with high school diplomas or less gained only 80,000 jobs.

Nearly all of the jobs created in the recovery have gone to workers with at least some higher education. For the first time in the history of the United States, workers with

at least Bachelor's degrees outnumber workers with high school diplomas or less. In addition, the types of jobs workers with Bachelor's degrees access are considered better jobs with higher salaries, more stability and employer benefits. Exceptions always exist, but workers with high school diplomas have lost more than 1 million high and middle-skill jobs since 2010 while adding 1.2 million low-skill jobs. Today, the average difference between a college and high school graduate's lifetime wages is \$1 million.<sup>1</sup> (CEW)

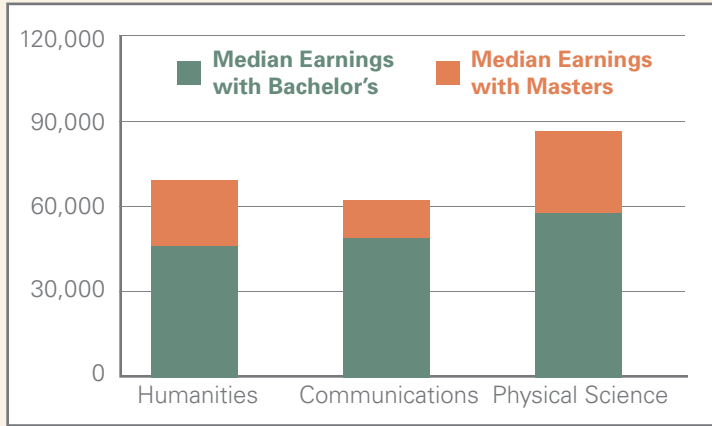
**Figure 1. Workers with a Bachelor's degree have added 8.4 million jobs in the recovery, but workers with a high school diploma or less added only 80,000 jobs after losing 5.6 million jobs in the recession.**



Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of Current Population Survey (CPS) data, 2007-2016.

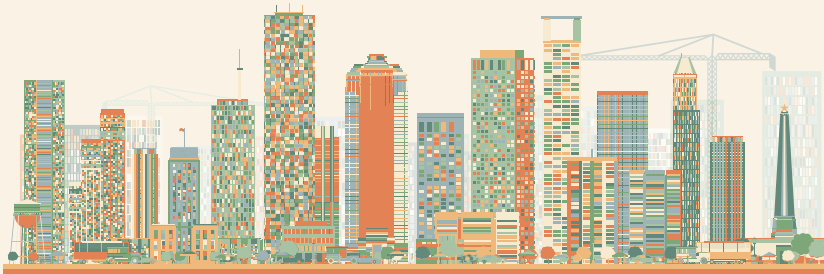
Note: Employment includes all workers age 18 and older. The monthly employment numbers are seasonally adjusted using the U.S. Census Bureau X-12 procedure and smoothed using a four-month moving average.

Some have gone so far as to say the Master's degree is the new Bachelor's degree with one out of every three college graduates eventually earning a graduate degree. When students continue into graduate school to further their careers, they open up brand-new opportunities for management jobs and higher salaries. On average, workers with Master's degrees make 28 percent more than workers without.<sup>2</sup>



Based on Median Earnings & Average Earning boosts from Master's degrees over workers with terminal Bachelor's degrees, from Georgetown University's CEW "What's it worth? 2016." Only major groups represented at HBU are listed.

Pew Research <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/02/11/6-key-findings-about-going-to-college/>  
 CEW Reports: <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/whats-it-worth-the-economic-value-of-college-majors/>  
<https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/americas-divided-recovery/>



## REASON 2

# Liberal Arts degrees continue to prove their worth



In a 2015 NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers) survey, employers were asked to define the most important resume traits of candidates. The survey found that technical skills were ranked tenth while teamwork, writing skills, strong oral communication, and problem-solving aptitude were four of the top five ranked traits—all of which are distinctive features of traditional liberal arts education. In this technological age, marketing, communications and sales jobs have risen dramatically. A desire for liberal arts majors is not limited to these fields as many employers have found that it is easier to train strong writers in other skills than to train technically oriented candidates to be strong writers.

In addition, while liberal arts majors generally start with lower salaries, many times the income gap closes as careers progress.  
 NACE Survey Summary: <http://www.naceweb.org/s11182015/employers-look-for-in-new-hires.aspx>  
 Wall Street Journal articles: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/hunting-for-soft-skills-companies-scoop-up-english-majors-1477404061>  
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/good-news-liberal-arts-majors-your-peers-probably-wont-outearn-you-forever-1473645902>  
 Forbes article: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/georgeanders/2015/07/29/liberal-arts-degree-tech/#45d84c385a75>  
 U.S. News and World Report: <http://www.usnews.com/news/college-of-tomorrow/articles/2014/09/22/there-is-value-in-liberal-arts-education-employers-say>

## How Pay Stacks Up

Median annual earnings for select liberal-arts and other degrees, based on years of experience:

LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS	0-5 yrs	10-20 yrs	20+ yrs
English lang. & literature	\$39,000	\$69,000	\$73,000
History	41,000	72,000	81,000
International relations	44,000	74,000	119,000
Philosophy	42,000	82,000	97,000
Political science	43,000	82,000	97,000
Psychology	38,000	60,000	69,000

## OTHER MAJORS

Accounting	\$47,000	\$73,000	\$84,000
Business management	45,000	69,000	81,000
Civil engineering	56,000	89,000	108,000
Computer science	63,000	103,000	116,000
Hospitality management	39,000	60,000	70,000
Nursing	57,000	73,000	75,000

Note: Data is for bachelor's degree Source: PayScale  
 THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



## REASON 3

# Houston is a megacity brimming with opportunity

Houston is the fourth largest city in the United States and the Energy Capital of the World. It was the first word that was said from the moon. If Houston were an independent nation, it would have the world's 30th largest economy.

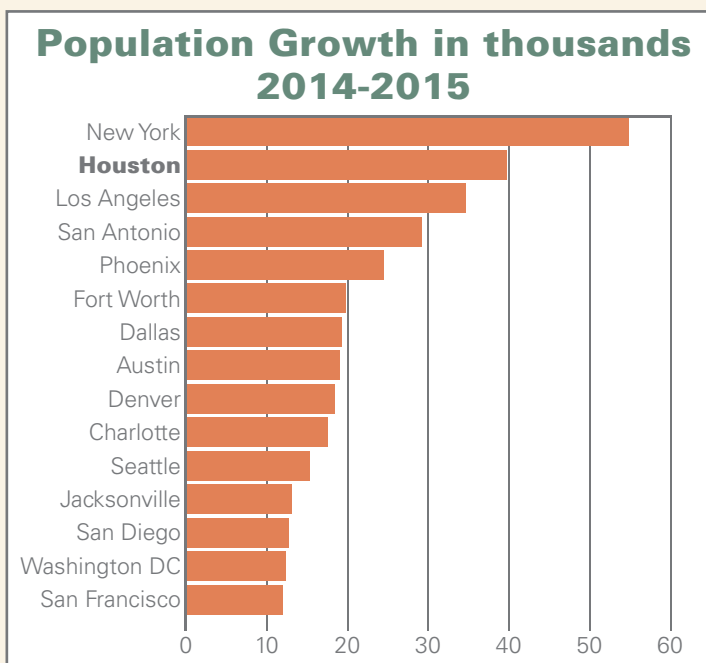
In 2015, more than 55 million passengers utilized Houston's three-airport system, and 10 million of those were international travelers.<sup>3</sup> Houston speaks more than 145 different languages and has the third-largest Mexican and Hispanic populations in the nation.<sup>4</sup> With the exception of New York City, Houston has more Fortune 500 headquarters than any other U.S. city, and the Port of Houston ranks first in US international waterborne tonnage (according to [HoustonTX.gov](http://HoustonTX.gov)).<sup>3</sup> Houstonians eat out more than people of any other U.S. city and have access to world-renowned cultural and artistic accomplishments in the large museum and theater districts. In 2016, Houston added 3.4 million square feet of retail space, which should translate into retail jobs this year.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, Houston is one of only five megacities in the nation that house half of the new businesses that have started since the late 2000s recession; those new businesses are the primary driver for job creation.<sup>6</sup>

From 2014-2015, Houston came in just behind New York in population growth, ranking number two. The total population of the City of Houston stands at 2,296,224, according to census numbers. data from 2015 showed that the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX metropolitan area has a population of 6,656,947 people. Even with the drop in oil prices, people continue to pour into Houston. According to the *Houston Chronicle*, Houston is the biggest city on the list of the fastest growing metro areas in the nation, and people are coming here for jobs and the low cost of living.

<https://urbanedge.blogs.rice.edu/2016/05/19/new-census-numbers-show-houston-other-texas-cities-among-fastest-growing-in-u-s/#.WHZeyHeZNBx>

<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2016/cb16-81.html>

**The cost of living in Houston is nearly 10 percent lower than the national average, and housing costs are more than 20 percent lower.**

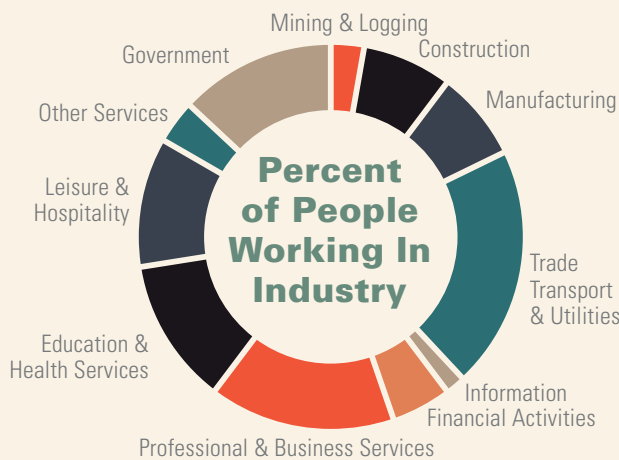


HBU graduates enter the international workplace of Houston as it brims with opportunities for flexible and adaptable young employees. Because of HBU's location, students have an edge through local internships, shadowing and networking opportunities with major employers. From healthcare and business to energy and education, HBU alumni are scattered across the city with more than half of HBU alumni still in the Houston metro area. They are here because Houston is resilient with a long history of innovation, entrepreneurship and hope.

**When students attend HBU, they are pursuing degrees that prepare them for one of the most dynamic cities in the world.**

Essentially, Houston is a powerhouse of business, energy, technology and healthcare—the perfect place for students to grow and learn.





According to October 2016 Bureau of Labor Statistics data of the Houston metropolitan area.

The world's largest medical complex—the Texas Medical Center—sits within Houston's inner loop and employs approximately 106,000 healthcare professionals as hospitals continue to grow and expand throughout the metro area. One recent HBU nursing graduate reported an annual starting salary of more than \$60,000, which is just a sample of the healthcare employment opportunities available in this city. Entry-level teachers in Houston make an average of \$50,000 a year, considerably higher than the national average of \$35,000.

Of the more than 10,000 HBU alumni on LinkedIn, nearly 8,000 are in the Houston area. Of those who are here, 1,000 work in education; 700 work in business development, and nearly 700 work in healthcare services. Other

careers cited include sales, entrepreneurship, operations, community and social services and human resources. Top employers include school districts, hospitals and energy companies. The sheer size and growth of Houston translates into diverse opportunities and career paths.<sup>7</sup>

<http://www.houstontx.gov/about/houston/houstonfacts.html>

Pay info from Payscale.com

For stories of success, perseverance, and growth, read *Houston through the Years*, a history book by the Houston Chronicle.

<http://www.tmc.edu/about-tmc/facts-and-figures/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/houston-baptist-university>



How does a student make a smooth transition from the college campus to the workforce? HBU's Office of Career and Calling is available to all students and alumni, offering various resources, such as resume building, mock interviews, career fairs, preparatory workshops and job-search aids. The Office of Career and Calling offers the Hire-A-Husky website, which includes job listings such as internships, work-study positions and part- and full-time positions.

Many students encounter the frustration of applying for entry-level positions that require previous experience, but how can students acquire that experience before they have a first job? Professional experience prior to graduating from college is essential, and internships are key to

being competitive in the job market. The Office of Career and Calling recently launched their Community Internships Program, an internship placement program available to all students.

HBU is partnering with Houston employers in an effort to match students with available internships.

Alumni are also encouraged to utilize the Office of Career and Calling. It's never too late to brush up on interview skills or network with employers, and Career and Calling is always looking for new employer partnerships. Visit the Office of Career and Calling page today at [hbu.edu/CareerAndCalling](http://hbu.edu/CareerAndCalling) or visit in person in the Hinton Center on HBU's campus.



## REASON 4

# Faith continues to set us apart

Our most important characteristic is our commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord. Ultimately, Christian education is for the glory of God, but Christian practices can also positively impact the way students enter and act in the work place. Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." In Matthew 22, Jesus states, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." In Romans 12:2, Paul urges his readers, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."<sup>8</sup> While many universities have forsaken their Christian roots, Houston Baptist University continues to stand on the truths of scripture. Every subject and major is taught within the bounds of ethics and morality as defined by the Bible.

Our faith is our distinction, and our commitment to Biblical principles provides a foundation for success, both in professional and personal life. A follower of Christ who is striving to be like Christ has great potential as a humble and strong servant leader. A

student who works with all of his heart will be a good employee. A worker who loves the Lord with all she is will also treat her co-workers well. A boss focused on honoring Christ should be an excellent superior. Even more, at HBU students are able to develop social relationships that will encourage them to honor God. For a culture and generation that devalues marriage and avoids commitment, HBU provides opportunities for students to build foundations for their future relationships. We pray that friendships and marriages that come out of Houston Baptist University will be glorifying to God, just as much as we pray that HBU alumni will be exceptional in the workforce.

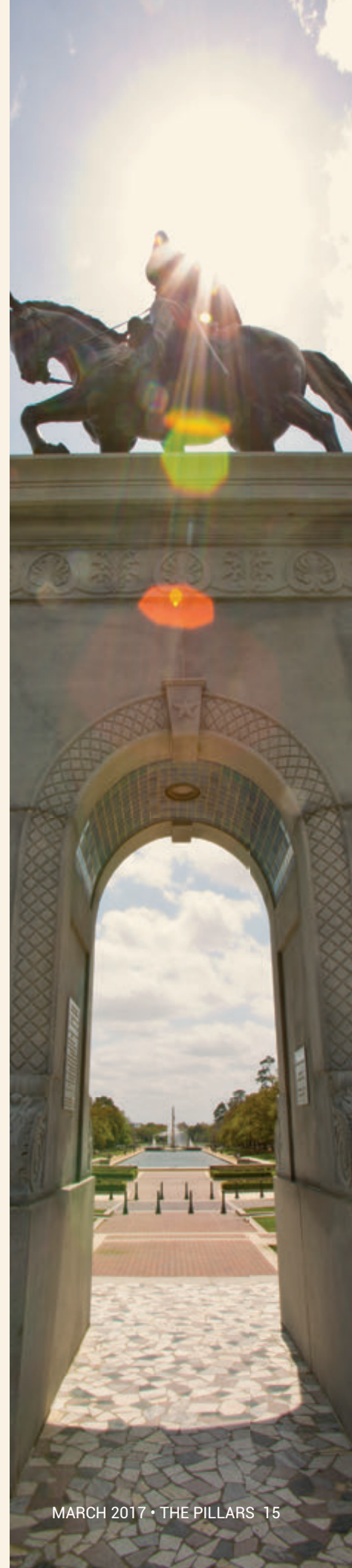
As Christians, we are to follow the example of Christ in humility, wisdom, patience and forgiveness. HBU proudly represents Christ in this world in our education, our service, and our mission. Even when students are not Christians, they are taught work ethic based upon scripture to develop moral and ethical foundations that will prepare them for their careers and personal lives. The foundation of faith that HBU offers is priceless.

## Scripture teaches us about all aspects of work. We have included a few verses by topic below.

<b>Honesty</b>	Proverbs 24:26	Ephesians 4:25	Colossians 3:9	2 Timothy 2:15
<b>Integrity</b>	Psalms 112:5	Proverbs 21:3	Luke 6:31	2 Corinthians 8:21
<b>Work</b>	Genesis 2:15	Proverbs 12:11	Colossians 3:23	1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
<b>Attitude</b>	1 Samuel 16:7	Ephesians 6:7	Philippians 2:14-15	Matthew 5:16
<b>Endurance</b>	Galatians 6:9	Colossians 1:11	Hebrews 10:36	James 1:2-3
<b>Leadership</b>	Proverbs 17:27	John 13:13-17	Philippians 2:3-4	1 Timothy 4:12
<b>Confidence</b>	Matthew 6:31-34	Ephesians 6:10-17	Philippians 4:6-7	1 Timothy 6:17

### Footnotes

1. "America's Divided Recovery: College Haves and Have-Nots 2016. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. McCourt School of Public Policy. <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/americas-divided-recovery/#full-report>
2. "What's it worth?: The economic value of college majors." Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/whats-it-worth-the-economic-value-of-college-majors/#full-report>
3. <http://www.houstontx.gov/about/houston/houstonfacts.html>
4. <https://www.visithoustontexas.com/about-houston/facts-and-figures/>
5. Houston chron Jan 22, 2017
6. <http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2017/02/01/the-five-megacities-where-business-startups-have-boomed/>
7. <https://www.linkedin.com/school/21949/alumni>
8. New International Version



DEGREE CATEGORY	HUMANITIES	ART	LAW & PUBLIC POLICY	BUSINESS	COMMUNICATION
<b>HBU Degree</b>	Biblical Languages Biblical Studies Theological Studies Christianity Classics English Great Texts History Interdisciplinary Studies Philosophy Spanish	Art Therapy Music Studio Art Cinematic Arts Multi Media Arts Keyboard Performance Organ Performance Piano Performance Vocal Performance	Criminal Justice Government Pre-Law/Legal Studies	Accounting Finance International Business Marketing Management	Mass Media Arts Writing
<b>GRADUATE</b>	MAA - Master of Arts in Apologetics ( <i>Cultural or Philosophical</i> ) MABL - Master of Arts in Biblical Languages MACL -Master of Arts in Christian Leadership MDiv - Master of Divinity (Biblical languages or English language) MAPhil- Master of Arts in Philosophy MATS- Master of Arts in Theological Studies MLA - Master of Liberal Arts ( <i>multiple tracks</i> )	MFA - Master of Fine Arts		MACCT- Master of Accountancy MBA - Master of Business Administration MIB - Master of International Business MS-HRM - Master of Science in Human Resource Management	
<b>POSSIBLE SALARY RANGE</b> (for terminal Bachelor's degree-holders)	<b>\$32,000-\$70,000</b>	<b>\$30,000-\$65,000</b>	<b>\$36,000-\$74,000</b>	<b>40,000-\$90,000</b>	<b>\$34,000-\$75,000</b>
<b>MOST COMMON INDUSTRIES</b>	Education Professional services Financial services Retail trade Health services	Professional services Retail trade Education Information Health services	Public administration (43%) Health Services Financial services Professional services Retail trade	Financial services Professional services Education Public administration Manufacturing	Information Professional services Education Retail trade Financial services
<b>Average Percent of degree-holders who PURSUE MASTER'S DEGREES</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Average Percent BOOST IN SALARY by Master's degree</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>25%</b>



HEALTH	PSYCHOLOGY	EDUCATION	PHYSICAL SCIENCES	BIOLOGY & LIFE SCIENCE	COMPUTER & MATHEMATICS
Medical Humanities Kinesiology- Athletic Training Kinesiology- Wellness Management Kinesiology- Sports Management Nursing	Psychology	Elementary Education (multiple tracks) Education 4-8th (multiple tracks) Education 7-12th Certification (multiple tracks)	Chemistry Physics	Biology Biochemistry- Molecular Biology	Mathematics
	MACC - Master of Arts in Christian Counseling MAC-LPC Counseling (Leading to License as professional counselor) MAP- Master of Arts in Psychology MAP-LSSP - Licensed specialist in school psychology MAP-LSSP Respecialist	Med - Master of Education (multiple tracks) EdD - Doctor of Education in Executive Educational Leadership	Chemistry Physics	Biology Biochemistry- Molecular Biology	Mathematics
<b>\$45,000-\$80,000*</b>	<b>\$30,000-\$62,000</b>	<b>\$30,000-\$62,000*</b>	<b>\$35,000-\$75,000</b>	<b>\$35,000-\$75,000</b>	<b>\$48,000-\$100,000</b>
Health services (72%) Retail trade Education Public administration Financial services	Health services (26%) Education Public administration Financial services Professional services	Education (55%) Health services Retail trade Financial services Public administration Health services	Professional services Education Public administration Manufacturing	Health services Professional services Education Public administration Manufacturing	Professional services Financial services Manufacturing Information Education
<b>31%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>50%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>31%</b>

# THE CULTURAL VALUE OF CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

*Christian colleges can develop students in ways few other institutions can.*

EXCERPTS OF SPEECH BY **DAVID BROOKS**



*“At Christian colleges, you have the ultimate exemplar: the life and example of Jesus.”*

“I’ve come to love and appreciate the world of Christian colleges.

You [Christian colleges] have what everybody else is desperate to have: a way of talking about and educating the human person in a way that integrates faith, emotion and intellect. You have a recipe to nurture human beings who have a devoted heart, a courageous mind and a purposeful soul. Almost no other set of institutions in American society has that, and everyone wants it. From my point of view, you’re ahead of everybody else and have the potential to influence American culture in a way that could be magnificent...

“Most universities have gotten out of the business of spiritual and character development, and they’ve adopted a research ideal. We’ve all benefited intellectually from this research orientation, but as Tony Kronman writes, this orientation ‘draws our attention away from the whole of our lives and requires that we focus on some small special aspect of it instead.’ It makes the idea of our lives as a whole seem less familiar and less compelling. It emphasizes the instrumental reasoning over the other faculties of heart and soul. It teaches students how to do things but less why they should do them and less how to think about what is their highest and best life. To ask about the meaning of life is to appear unprofessional...

“You have the example of Jesus Christ. You have the beatitudes; the fire of the Holy Spirit; you believe in a personal God who is still redeeming the world. As Pope Francis demonstrated, when a single person

acts like Jesus, the whole world is transfixed. Carrying the Gospel is your central mission to your students and to those you serve beyond the campus walls, but that’s not all you have. You have a way of being that is not all about self. You have a counterculture to the excessive individualism of our age. You offer an ideal more fulfilling and more true and higher than the ideal of individual autonomy...

“Secular colleges have gotten out of holding up exemplars of excellence. At Christian colleges, you have the ultimate exemplar: the life and example of Jesus. But there are other ideas to copy and to inspire, and the ideals of exemplars inflame a desire for excellence...

“There was a guy named Robert Livingston in the 19th century who said that when people don’t do good, it’s often not because they’re bad but they have been given an insufficient ideal. That is not true at Christian schools, but it’s often true at other schools...”

David Brooks is a Jewish American journalist, social analyst, and leading political commentator. His column in *The New York Times* started in September 2003, and he has worked and contributed to various national publications. He is the author of *The Road to Character*. Brooks’ writing reflects many Christian themes.

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Brooks delivered this speech at the Council for Christian Colleges and University’s 40th Anniversary Celebration Gala in Washington, D. C. Used by permission of the Council For Christian Colleges & Universities. Read the entire transcript at <http://advance.cccu.org/stories/the-cultural-value-of-christian-higher-education>.



## PILLAR THREE...

# A Bold Statement of Growth

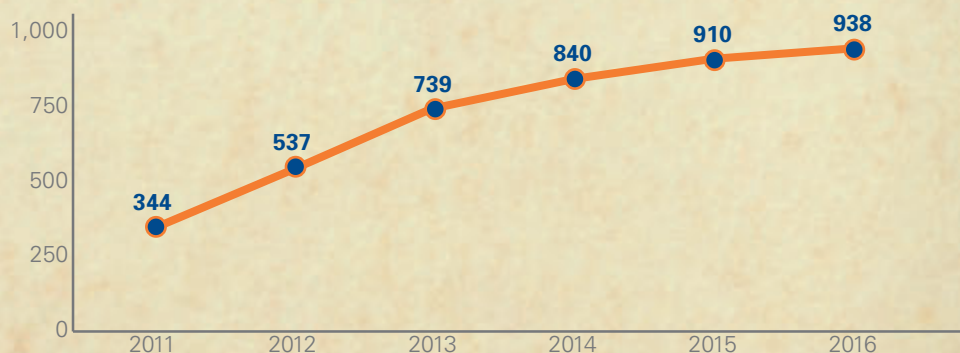
**P**illar three of HBU's *Ten Pillars* is a bold statement of how we intend to Embrace the Challenge of Christian Graduate Education. One of the most important ways to trace progress and measure effectiveness is in growth of programs and students. Growth is evidence of increasing comprehensiveness of HBU's educational offerings and its impact on the community.

In the last five years HBU has been blessed to have an increase in graduate students in every Fall semester. Added up, the change has been dramatic with 594 additional students enrolled in Fall 2016 vs. Fall 2011. In five years, HBU's graduate student population has grown by over 172 percent. There are currently over nine hundred students in HBU's Graduate School obtaining advanced degrees and who are preparing themselves for leadership in the professional world.

A key reason for the growth is the increase in the number and types of programs at HBU. Under the leadership of Dr. Sloan, HBU has started programs in Biblical Languages, Fine Arts, Philosophy, International Business and Apologetics. In addition, HBU celebrated two important milestones in Fall 2016. First, HBU's first doctoral program, the Doctor of Education in Executive Educational Leadership welcomed its first cohort. Second, HBU founded Houston Theological Seminary and began offering the Master of Divinity degree program. Next year looks to be another year of growth as HBU expands the graduate online offerings and plans to offer graduate programs in the School of Nursing and Allied Health.

Our communities need Christian universities to step up to the challenge of educating graduate students and preparing the next generation of scholars. HBU is meeting this responsibility and sending out students trained at a university that affirms that all the different areas of study were made through Christ and for Him.

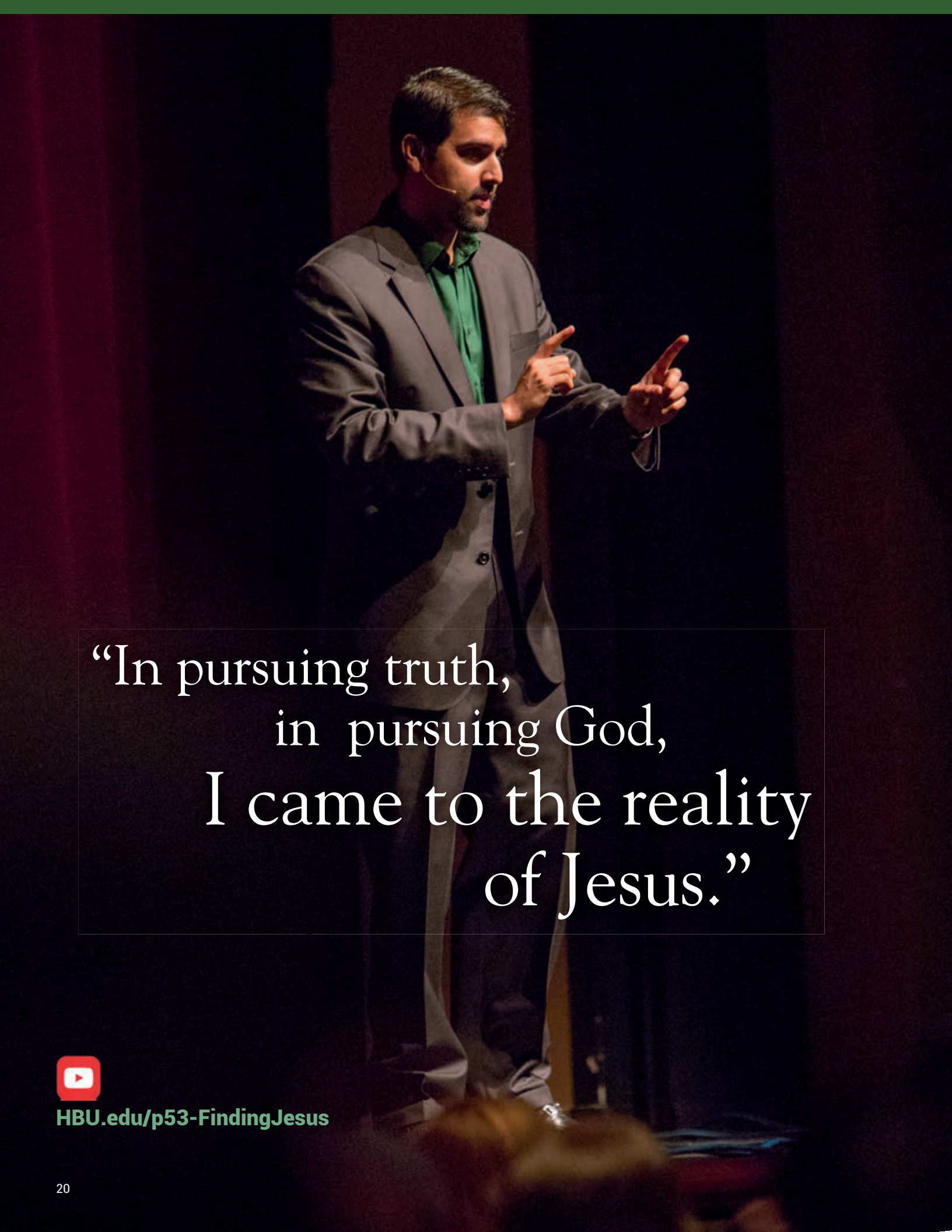
## FALL GRADUATE HEADCOUNTS AT HBU



## HBU HAS EXPERIENCED:

- an increase of 24 percent in students in the School of Christian Thought compared to Spring 2015,
- strong growth in the College of Education and Behavioral Science with a total student population of 496 with an 8 percent growth in the Master of Arts in Counseling and a 9 percent growth in the Master of Education programs and
- increased demand in the Master of International Business program which saw the greatest year over year increase of 17 percent.





“In pursuing truth,  
in pursuing God,  
I came to the reality  
of Jesus.”



[HBU.edu/p53-FindingJesus](https://HBU.edu/p53-FindingJesus)



NABEEL QURESHI PREACHES AT HBU

# Best-selling author and former Muslim **BRINGS POWERFUL MESSAGE**

*“I think Nabeel Qureshi is one of God’s great anointed spokespeople for the 21st century,” said best-selling author and faculty member Lee Strobel when he introduced Nabeel Qureshi at a recent convocation.*

Nabeel Qureshi is the author of the New York Times bestselling *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, the only book ever to win Christian Book Awards for both “Best New Author” and “Best Nonfiction.” Nabeel is a global speaker and holds degrees in medicine, Christian apologetics and religion. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in New Testament studies at Oxford University. Nabeel was recently diagnosed with stage 4-stomach cancer and moved with his wife and their one-year-old daughter to Houston for treatment. Lee Strobel told students, “We are praying that God would heal him completely and continue to use him as a great spokesperson for the truth of the Christian faith.” Please keep Nabeel in your prayers, as well.

Below is an excerpt of Dr. Cristie Johnston interviewing Nabeel.

**CRISTIE:** Is belief in Jesus as the only way to God being intolerant of other people’s faiths and beliefs, especially in today’s culture?

**NABEEL:** Unfortunately a lot of people don’t understand this because they don’t necessarily have their own set of beliefs. They just more or less have a very inclusivist idea towards people—we should all get along, we should all love one another, and I love that compassion, I really do. But once you have your own set of beliefs, once you have your own construction of what the world is like, what you think this universe is, how it came to be, once you come up with your own conclusions, you will find out that you have your own views and other people have their views and to some degree they’re contradictory.

Anybody who believes in any truth thinks that their truth is true and others





are incorrect. And so it's not intolerant. It's just the very nature of what it means to believe something to be true.

**CRISTIE:** So you were a Muslim {that} converted to Christianity. Were you a liberal or non-practicing Muslim and is that why maybe you had a predisposed attitude toward becoming a Christian?

**NABEEL:** No, not at all. I was a very devout Muslim. I was raised in a devout Muslim home, reciting the Quran by the age of three, I'd finished the entire Quran recitation by the age of five. My father often led the daily prayers in the community. My mom was often taking roles of responsibility. My grandfather was a Muslim missionary and my great-grandfather was a Muslim missionary, so I come from this line of devout Muslims and I really love the faith.

I honestly, fervently believed in the message of Islam. I loved the theology. It was in the midst of defending Islam and arguing for the truth of Islam that I realized, especially when it comes to the person of Jesus, that the claims of Islam don't hold up in the face of the historical records of Jesus' life.

**CRISTIE:** So really, you could give some of the credit of your conversion to Islam because of how hard you studied it.

**NABEEL:** Absolutely. I believe I was seeking Allah when I found Jesus and that was the whole point. Islam tells you to pursue truth, and so I did. But in pursuing truth, in pursuing God, I came to the reality of Jesus.

**CRISTIE:** Recently you were diagnosed with stage 4-stomach cancer. What's your prognosis and how has that impacted your faith?

**NABEEL:** This is stage 4-stomach cancer, which has a survival rate of four percent. And so you know, 90 percent, 70 percent, even 20 percent, you can think, I can beat the odds. I can do this. But when they come back and say, "You have a four percent chance of surviving," you really don't walk away thinking, I can do this. You walk away thinking, I need a miracle. But here's the thing. Our God exists. Our God is real and He is a miracle-working God.

I believe I'm going to be healed. And the reason for this is because in the scripture Jesus is constantly healing. He makes Himself present and available for every single person who comes to Him.

His will is for healing. Now if I don't get healed and I pass on into the next life, does that mean that everything I believed was wrong? No. Does that mean that God's will is not for healing? No.

God's will can still be for healing. For some reason



*“Thousands if not hundreds of thousands of Iranians are becoming Christian because they’ve encountered the reality of Islam.”*

you might not be healed. That may still happen. But I honestly truly believe that I will be healed and I’m praying for it, I’m waiting for it. And I can’t wait to testify to God’s glory when that happens.

**CRISTIE:** How do you respond to people from your past who say that Allah is cursing you because you converted to Christianity?

**NABEEL:** That’s when I pray, “God save me. For Your namesake.” To be fair, I have lots of Muslims who are praying for me and sharing love with me. But I also have lots of Muslims who send me taunting emails, saying God is cursing you for what you’ve done and if you die, then the whole world will know that this is what happens to people who leave Islam and who proclaim Christ. And so throughout the Psalms we see David saying, “Lord, save Your servant for Your namesake,” and that’s been one of my prayers so that the work that has been done will continue to call people to Christ.

This doesn’t hinge on me, by any means. People have seen in the Islamic world what it means for Islam to proliferate. In Iran, for example, Shaddai became the law of the land during the Clerical Revolution, and now Iranians are becoming Christian in droves. Thousands if not hundreds of thousands of Iranians are becoming Christian because they’ve encountered the reality of

Islam. The same thing happened in Egypt. Just before the Arab Spring, a survey was conducted to see how many people in Egypt believed in God, and 99 percent were theists. After the Arab Spring, after the Muslim Brotherhood came in, was given control for a while and then they were kicked out, the same survey was conducted and 70 percent now believe in God. They have seen Islam. They saw the Muslim Brotherhood bring in the core principles of Islam and they said, “We don’t want this.” So they’re rejecting that faith and they’re now coming to Christ in unprecedented numbers.

I know—I don’t just believe but I know—that this generation in the past 14 years has seen more Muslims coming to Christ than the previous 14 centuries combined. And whether I live or die is not going to change that. God is doing a movement in this world, where people are coming to know him in unprecedented ways. I am super excited about the 21st century because I believe that revival is going to happen unlike any, and this is the generation that gets to see it. So I hope to be a part of that here on this earth to see it, but if not, I’ll be watching it from Heaven.





**DR. JEREMIAH JOHNSTON**

President of CTS, author of *Unanswered: Lasting Truth for Trending Questions*, and HBU faculty member

**50 STATES, 3 YEARS, TURN THE TIDE**

# UNANSWERED TOUR *with Christian Thinkers Society and Museum of the Bible*

**B**iblical literacy is at an all-time low, and it would seem that most Christians know enough about the Bible to be dangerous. Houston Baptist University is committed to the truths of Biblical scripture; part of maintaining that commitment is helping people know what the Bible says. Christian Thinkers Society (CTS)—a resident institute of HBU—has partnered with Museum of the Bible (MOTB) to launch the Unanswered Tour that will cross the 50 states in three years.

Dr. Jeremiah Johnston, president of CTS, author of *Unanswered: Lasting Truth for Trending Questions*, and HBU faculty member will host the tour events. Jeremiah is known for his unique communication skills and his infectious love for people, as well as his dedication to sharing the truth of scripture with as many people as possible. Last year, Jeremiah and the Unanswered tour traveled across the United States to churches in Texas, Oregon, Tennessee, Georgia, Arkansas and more.





Museum of the Bible will be on hand during each stop of the tour to give an overview of what guests may expect during a visit to the 430,000 square foot museum opening in Washington D.C. in fall 2017. It is the global initiative of MOTB to create a safe and neutral space where people are encouraged to engage with the history, narrative and impact of the Bible. When they are available, MOTB President Cary Summers and Chief Development Officer Tim Smith will join Jeremiah on the tour.

Jeremiah Johnston explained how the CTS/MOTB partnership furthers the missions of both organizations. "This tour is about turning back the tide of biblical illiteracy that is rampant throughout our country. The Museum of the Bible is about

engaging people with the Bible. Christian Thinkers Society challenges people to have a thinking faith. We can't have a thinking faith without knowing what the Word of God has to say, so it is a perfect match."

The Unanswered 50-State Tour starts on the west coast in March. You can learn more about CTS at [christianthinkers.com](http://christianthinkers.com).

In addition, Houston Baptist University will be promoted in every church the tour visits. The potential impact of this tour on HBU is immeasurable. Please pray for the Unanswered tour, that God would use HBU, Christian Thinkers Society, and Museum of the Bible to change lives across the 50 states and the world.



The Billy Graham Crusade came to Houston three times: 1952, 1965, and 1981.

Billy Graham also spoke on the HBU campus October 30, 1963.







**Houston's nonprofit arts organizations support 14,115 full-time jobs locally. An additional 12,192 professional artists call Houston their home. In total, 29,729 jobs are sustained by the city's nonprofit arts industry.**

[VisitHoustonTexas.com](http://VisitHoustonTexas.com)



# Thank you, Dr. Y

"Did you tell him he's not allowed to leave? We love him too much." It is the sentiment felt across HBU as our beloved Dr. John Yarrington plans to retire. Dr. Y, as he is affectionately called, first joined the HBU faculty 18 years ago in 1999. He has served in many roles: director of the School of Music, Schola Cantorum, and University Singers; faculty athletic representative; and a kind mentor to students both in and out of music. Dr. Yarrington told *The Pillars*, "I love what I do, and I'm going to miss the students I've had over these years terrifically. Many times, I've come through the HBU gates and thought, 'Thank you, Father.'" One of Dr. Y's favorite memories of his time here "was when Schola sang in Haydn's church in Eisenstadt, Austria, as a part of a classic music festival. It was a highlight!"

Dr. Y has written four books; published multiple compositions; directed workshops, honors choirs, and church events across the United States; and conducted major works by Bach, Handel, Mozart, Haydn and more. For the past 16 years, Dr. Y also directed the Chancel Choir at First Presbyterian Church in Houston.

While Dr. Y's career accomplishments could fill this magazine, his witty sense of humor and enthusiastic love for people are the marks by which he will be remembered. Alumnus Ruben Alcala '10 said, "Dr. Y's love of music is only overshadowed by his love of students. He has been a mentor, friend, teacher and father-figure to many students, and I would not be the person I am today without his love and guidance."

The men's basketball team will miss Dr. Y's cheers during their practices and

games. Coach Ron Cottrell said of the music professor, "Dr. Y has been an ever-present mentor, encourager, supporter and friend, not only to me, but to everyone associated with our basketball program. Dr. Y's wit, candor and wisdom on a daily basis will be missed, but we congratulate him on this next phase and will continue to cherish his support and friendship in the future."

HBU President Dr. Robert Sloan holds a high respect for John Yarrington. "John has a unique gift of drawing out special qualities in students that they didn't know they had. He has a remarkable ability to encourage students and help them reach their full potential. Sue and I have a deep affection for John and Diane Yarrington and the work that he has done here at HBU. He is a personal friend and will be missed."

John and his wife Diane of 50 years have six children and 10 grandchildren. In retirement Dr. Y plans to stay busy with his family, teach music and participate in mission work through his church. He jokes that Diane warned him, "I married you for better or worse, but not for all day."

Houston Baptist University will miss Dr. Y's love, humor and passion. We thank him for nearly two decades of teaching and shaping HBU students for the glory of God, and we wish him the best in retirement.

Come and support Dr. John Yarrington in his last HBU choir concert on Monday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. in Dunham Theater. Former music students of Dr. Yarrington are asked to join Schola Cantorum as they present "Choose Something Like a Star." Contact Ruben Alcala at [RubenJAlcala@KatyISD.org](mailto:RubenJAlcala@KatyISD.org) for more information.







# Book 2 of Dr. Sloan's Hamelin Stoop series is out!

*Hamelin Stoop: The Lost Princess and the Jewel of Periluna*

**H**amelin finally makes it across the footbridge only to learn that his quest to find his parents and learn his true identity will not be quickly completed or easy to fulfill. The Great Eagle leads him through the dangerous Waters of Death and Life and into the Land of Gloaming, where Hamelin is thrown into the midst of a war already being waged between the evil Chimera and the mysterious Ancient One.

A story that will capture the imagination of all ages, Hamelin Stoop's journey leaves you anxiously awaiting the next volume.



Book 1 *Hamelin Stoop: The Eagle, the Cave, and the Footbridge* & Book 2 *Hamelin Stoop: The Lost Princess and the Jewel of Periluna* are available on Amazon and at [HamelinStoop.com](http://HamelinStoop.com)





## MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE EXECUTIVE VISITS CAMPUS

Museum of the Bible is a one-billion-dollar project currently under construction in Washington D.C., only three blocks from our nation's Capitol. In November of this year, the museum will open its doors to visitors from around the globe.

Fundraising for such a project was not for the faint of heart. Tim Smith serves as vice president of development for Museum of the Bible. Tim carries more than 30 years of nonprofit and fundraising experience, authored the book *Donors are People Too*, and is currently working on *From 1,000 to 1 Billion*, detailing his career story from his first fundraising campaign in the 1970s to his current project with Museum of the Bible.

While visiting the HBU campus, Tim spoke at convocation, taught two management classes and shared with faculty from the School of Christian Thought. Tim shared with us some of his favorite aspects of the Museum of the Bible project. "The scope and scale of this project has given us an audience with phenomenal people. We are non-sectarian so we've been able to build donors with Catholic, Protestant and Jewish traditions. The ability to get all of those people together and agree to leave their disagreements outside of the room and focus on where they centralize around the Bible has been amazing. I think it will be one of the most collaborative things that ever comes together in our lifetime."

Learn more about Museum of the Bible at [museumofthebible.org](http://museumofthebible.org)



**HBU.edu/p53-Smith**



<sup>3</sup>For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup>The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup>We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

# What We Do at HBU *and* How We Do It

— Robert B. Sloan

**T**he mission statement of the University says – in summary form – that we seek to provide a learning experience for students that enables them to live out the full implications of the foundational Christian confession, “Jesus Christ is Lord.” That’s what we do.

In other words, we believe that since God has created the world through Jesus Christ and presented Him as the great redeemer for all of humanity, the one through whom the entire creation can be restored – He is already (by virtue of his resurrection from the dead and enthronement at the right hand of God) the ruling king of the cosmos. So, to say that Jesus Christ is Lord is to say that He is king over the entire created order and that everything that exists and moves has its foundational meaning and purpose in relationship to Jesus the King.

That’s connected to what we mean in Christian scholarship when we say, “all truth is God’s truth”: that is, in seeking to discover all that can be known as truth – whether through science or literature or politics or social studies – we are trying to understand its relationship to and connection with the one true God who created the world and rules it through his king, the Lord Jesus. We believe that in understanding who God is, what his purposes are for the world, and what our vocation is as human beings in the world, we can better understand what we should do and how we should live. That’s the *what* of our work as a Christian university.

But there’s also the closely related question of *how*.

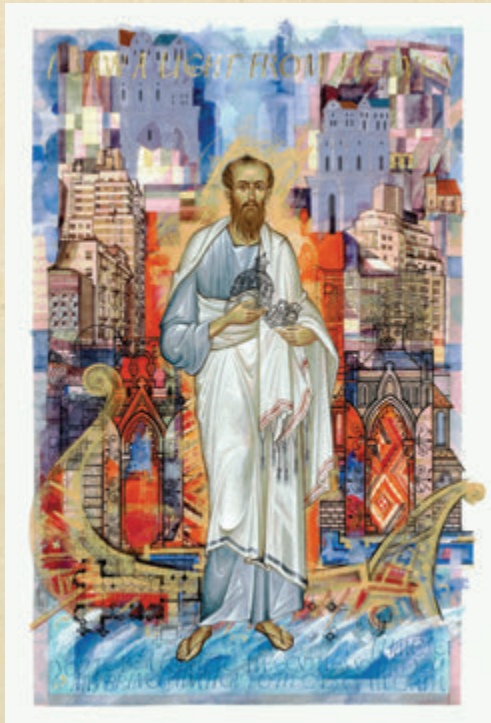
By how, I am referring to strategy. How can we work out the implications of the kingship of Jesus?

In 2 Corinthians 10:1-5, Paul speaks of his larger program of ministry and in so doing gives not only an example, but also a key strategy for how Christian work is to be done:

Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ – I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent! <sup>2</sup>I ask that when I am present I need not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh. <sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup>for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. <sup>5</sup> *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. (NASB)

In verse 3, Paul speaks of how he conducts his campaign of “warfare.” It’s not by military weaponry – though he certainly knows that governmental entities are called upon at times to use “the sword” (Romans 13:4). Paul says that his strategy for tearing down barricades and fortresses opposed to the knowledge of God is through thought and argument. He is using the theological insights that come from what God has done through Jesus Christ to destroy “speculations.” He says he is “taking every thought captive to the obedience of the Messiah, the King” (author’s paraphrase).





The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA, in HBU's Dunham Bible Museum.

That's what we do at the University. That's our strategy. We seek to discover the truth, teach the truth, and apply the truth so that false ways of thinking and living can be corrected by the truth. If we think correctly, we are far more likely, with the aid of God's Spirit, to live correctly.

But there's one more critical point. For years I missed the implications of the last part of verse 5. Paul does not merely say that he's taking every thought captive to Christ. That would be a truthful point, if we were emphasizing the submission of our thinking to Christ. But Paul is actually staying more than that. He says he's taking every thought a prisoner *so that it can be turned over to the service of Christ. He is taking every thought captive for the sake of obeying the Messiah.*


In other words, whatever things are good and true, wherever we find the truth – whether in philosophy, science, literature, or the Scriptures – we bring all truth so that it may, whatever its source, serve the King.

Paul himself often used the language of Stoicism, but he was no Stoic. He takes


the language of the public arena – see his sermon on Mars Hill in Acts 17, where he quotes a pagan poet – and presses it into the service of the greater truth found through Jesus Christ.

That's *how* we do what we do. We seek to know and learn everything we can about the created order – the material world and the human world of people and nations – and we seek to bring all of it, using not military weaponry but the weapons of faith, prayer, love and good thinking – into the service of Christ.

That's why we teach Scripture – but we are not a Bible college. We believe all the world and all the disciplines of learning that reflect the world as it is can be brought under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We want our students – and indeed we want all of us as alumni, friends, faculty, and staff of HBU – to bring all that we have and all that we are, our thoughts and our deeds and our possessions, into the service of Jesus the King.



**Houston is home to some of the nation's largest churches, including Lakewood Church, Second Baptist Church, Woodlands Church, The Church Without Walls and Houston's First Baptist. 34 percent of the city's Protestants identify as Baptist.**





# The Guild



Sharon Saunders, Grace Gandy,  
President Sloan

Guild President Ruth Alford welcomed nearly 300 guests at the River Oaks Country Club to The Guild's annual Christmas Luncheon in December. Ashley Wright, recipient of the Sharon Saunders Endowed Scholarship, continued the program, sharing her appreciation of HBU and The Guild. Dr. Robert Sloan reported on the many HBU history-making milestones during the year and provided a glimpse into exciting developments still to come. He also announced the naming of the Grace Gandy Endowed Scholarship. Nancy Guthrie spoke from the book of Ruth about God's grace and redemption.

Members of The Guild support the University and its students by raising funds for graduate scholarships in education and theology.



Scholarship recipient  
Ashley Wright



More than 2.4 million foreign travelers came to Houston in 2014, the most recent year for which data exists. The vast majority of those travelers came from Mexico.

[VisitHoustonTexas.com](http://VisitHoustonTexas.com)



## Silver Tea Honoring Sue Sloan

APRIL 6, 2017

[TheGuild@hbu.edu](mailto:TheGuild@hbu.edu)







"Our project has the potential  
to improve language and  
literacy education for  
**62,500 children**  
in the *Houston area.*"



# ¡Hablamos Español!

## REACHING SPANISH SPEAKERS

This University is truly diverse with no ethnic majority, much like the city of Houston. The undergraduate student body is more than 40 percent Hispanic and growing. HBU is quickly adapting to the changing demographic landscape with a new grant to support current programs targeted toward preparing bilingual educators in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, funding for translating translating several pages on the HBU website, and a new bilingual Bible study in the Baptist Student Ministry.

HBU received a \$2.6 million grant in the fall to fund Project ADELANTE!: Assistance and Development in Language Acquisition for Novice Teachers of English Learners. The scope of the grant allows HBU to implement a scholarship program to help 150 undergraduate and graduate students obtain Texas educator certifications in bilingual education or English as a second language. HBU will also implement a Novice Teacher Academy for 100 new teachers of English learners. The potential effects of this five-year project are immeasurable. "If each of the 250 educators teaches 25 students per year for 10 years, then our project has the potential to improve language and literacy education for 62,500 children in the Houston area," said assistant professor and project director Dr. Polly Trevino.

In addition to the targeted academic efforts, funding has been secured to create replicated pages of HBU

content into Spanish and many Spanish-speaking parents of HBU students help in the college search. A Spanish translation of the website will benefit the parents, the students, and HBU during the college search and admissions process.

An additional effort to be more inclusive of our diverse student body is the development of the Baptist Student Ministry launched a Spanish-speaking group: BSM en Español. Jonathan Rangel, a student and youth minister at a Spanish-speaking church in Houston, is co-leader of the group. Fluent in English, Rangel's first language is Spanish, and he is passionate about sharing the Bible and truth of God's Word with other students in their native language. Ten students attended the first meeting, and it has grown, morphing into a bilingual Bible study. Rangel told *The Pillars*, "It has truly been a blessing, not only helping those who are Spanish speakers, but most importantly helping the entire community. Our first semester was a success, and I believe the spring semester will be even greater, in Jesus' name!" A generous sponsor provided Bible study books for every student, and Pastor Rick Vasquez of Crosspoint Church in Bellaire has become the group's official sponsor.

As Christians, we are called to go into the world to share the Gospel, but a vast majority of the world does not speak English, and a growing portion of our state and community speaks Spanish. Even more, our educational system is faced with a growing need for English language and bilingual teachers. HBU answers both of these needs as we remain committed to academic and spiritual excellence.



# PR CLASS HELPS NON-

**H**ow do you get a hashtag to “trend”? How does a website show up on the first page of Google? How do you rally people of all ages behind a cause? These are the questions students in Adjunct Professor John Meredith’s Principles of Public Relations class asked last fall in their semester-long group project that consisted of identifying a nonprofit organization, making professional connections, studying the current PR, and creating a proposal for improvement. Professor Meredith has been assigning this project for seven years. “HBU’s mission focuses on ‘A Higher Education,’ so helping nonprofits provides the students with practical experience while helping the lives of the clients that the nonprofits serve.”

One student group chose to connect with Souper Bowl of Caring, a national organization headquartered in Houston that used the hype of the Super Bowl to mobilize those looking to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. The nonprofit encouraged groups to take up a collection around the Super Bowl and then give 100 percent of their collection to a local hunger-relief charity.

After meeting the Souper Bowl of Caring team, the student group studied every aspect of the non-profit’s marketing and PR. Then they developed a social media plan, but the task proved more difficult than they had anticipated. Using social media for their own personal lives came naturally, but the transition to strategizing for a company was foreign. The student group also began to understand branding, name recognition and the cost of acquiring a famous spokesperson.

“There are people who are really passionate about this cause,” said team leader Shayla Kuykendall, a junior at HBU. “But trying to reach or even find those individuals is a challenge.” The student group even volunteered at a Souper Bowl of Caring media training day at which HBU Professor Joshua Sikora, along with several Cinema & New Media Arts students, helped high schoolers from the nonprofit’s Student Advisory Board practice on-camera mock interviews. In December the student group provided

a proposal with several PR models for the Souper Bowl of Caring team to implement.

South Texas Field Director Meredith Massey told *The Pillars*, “What I appreciated about HBU is that it wasn’t a paper that came to us at the end of the semester, but there was interaction throughout and those student members actually invested in our organization. Their time and creativity were highly valuable.”

***Souper Bowl of Caring saw more than \$8 million in cash and food items raised for their cause.***

At their final presentations, the student groups learned how their peers approached the project. One team studied WorkFaith Connection, an organization devoted to training disadvantaged job seekers, and presented several ideas at the nonprofit’s board meeting. Another team worked with ReStore, a division of Habitat for Humanity, and dove into the worlds of website management, Internet reputation, and the legal back-end of nonprofit work.

The PR students served Houston nonprofits while developing essential and marketable job skills. The project produced a final work product that students can show potential employers, and the collaborative nature of the project highlighted the importance of teamwork. Houston served as the perfect setting for such a challenging assignment.



A tradition of elaborate generosity has formally existed in Houston since the Houston Endowment was established in 1937. (*Houston through the years, Houston Chronicle*) In September 2016 Charity Navigator ranked Houston #1 in Most Charitable Places in America.



# -PROFITS

*How do you rally people  
of all ages behind a cause?*



## **AMERICAN HISTORY AND WESTERN CIVILIZATION CHALLENGE BOWL**

The Houston Baptist University team of Paul Hoyt, Jacob Phillip and Kenneth Peters placed second in the first American History and Western Civilization Challenge Bowl, presented by the American Heritage Education Foundation, on January 28th.

The students earned points by presenting oral essays and answering toss-up and bonus questions. This Challenge Bowl is the first of annual competitions and is modeled after the early radio and television college quiz shows of the 1950s and '70s.

The HBU team members each received \$1,000 scholarship awards.

Dr. John Tyler, professor of Law and Society and Humanities at HBU, was moderator. HBU coach Dr. Gary Hartenburg, assistant professor of philosophy and director of The Honors College, said, "We competed against teams from much larger schools than HBU and represented HBU well with a second-place finish. The team members all demonstrated a breadth of knowledge in key areas of the liberal arts, a testament to HBU's commitment to a liberal arts education."



# SCHOOL of FINE ARTS

## JEREMIAH FRANCE

"If you want to go into art, go to HBU. The support that I've received since coming here has been overwhelming. The feedback and constructive criticism you get from the teachers and faculty is huge. The art program here is amazing."

Jeremiah France is a senior studio art major with a wife and two little boys. He is an army veteran with a background as an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) pilot and instructor. Since coming to HBU, Jeremiah has labored thousands of hours on portrait sculptures made out of screws and bullet casings. HBU's faculty and staff support continues to help Jeremiah develop his creativity and skills.

**HBU.edu/FineArts**  
**281-649-3211**  
**admissions@hbu.edu**



**HBU.edu/p53-HBUArt**

"Morgan Freeman"  
Charcoal portrait

"Shadowman"  
from Disney's  
*The Princess  
and the Frog*  
6,000 screws  
1,200 hours\*







"Noah"  
1,800 screws\*  
300 hours\*

"Flag of the Fallen"  
(working title)  
6,758 bullet casings,  
silver soldered,  
representing the  
total casualty  
count in Iraq &  
Afghanistan  
450 hours so far\*  
Stars—.45 caliber  
casings  
Stripes—alternating  
.40 caliber and  
9mm casings

\*Denotes approximation.



## VOCAL STUDENT EXCELS NATIONALLY



Fidel Angel Romero is a senior vocal performance major. Last summer, Angel competed against approximately 1,600 vocalists through the Regional rounds of the Classical Singer Competition and progressed to the National Semi-Finals round in Boston.

As a result of this successful audition, he was contracted to sing the role of Tamino in Mozart's opera *Die Zauberflöte* in Washington.

In November, Angel placed first in the Senior Men category at the Texoma NATS Regional Competition. He competed against 475 students, both undergraduate and graduate, from universities across Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Additionally, he became the first HBU student to win the Grady Harlan Award.

Angel is currently finishing up his graduate auditions at schools such as The Juilliard School, University of Indiana, Rice University and UCLA. Congratulations to Angel and we wish him the best in his future!



## SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS *cont.*

### NOTABLE NIGHTS



[HBU.edu/p53-NotableNights](http://HBU.edu/p53-NotableNights)

The Department of Music hosted Notable Nights in McNair Hall in February. Notable Nights was the department's annual fundraiser for choral and vocal activities and tours. The lovely evening of music and romance included a dinner with musical entertainment centered on a Valentine's theme.



### HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WRITERS CONFERENCE 2017

HBU's Annual Writers' Conference was hosted on March 4 and featured young adult fantasy author Bryan Davis as keynote speaker. Other speakers included Houston Poet Laureate Robin Davidson and a selection of speakers from the Houston Writers Guild. The conference also provided an opportunity for educators to receive TEA-recognized Continuing Professional Education (CEU) hours. You won't want to miss this great event next year!



### Mark Your Calendar!

#### ✓ HBU and Houston Civic Symphony:

Friday, April 28 in Dunham Theater at 8 p.m. HBU choirs will join other area choruses to sing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Houston Civic Symphony.



#### ✓ Cinema & New Media Arts Film

**Festival:** Friday, May 5 in Dunham Theater, 7:30–10 p.m. Join the exclusive premiere of new films from HBU's Cinema & New Media Arts students!

## MLK GRANDE PARADE

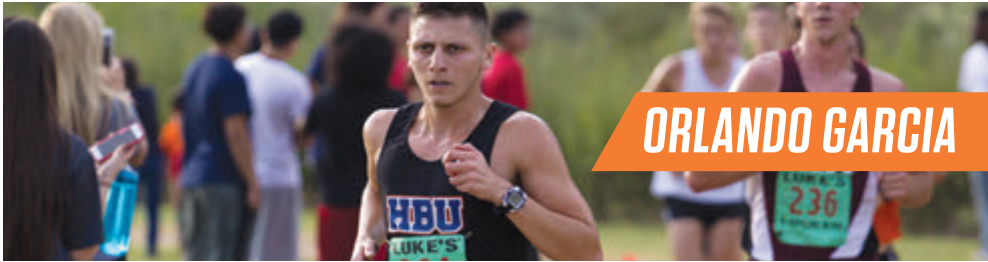
Thirty-four students in the HBU marching band performed in the 23rd annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Grande Parade on January 16 in downtown Houston. The MLK Grande Parade is the third largest parade in America, behind The Rose Parade and The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. A parade selection committee invited the 30 participating bands.

Band director and music professor Patrick Moore said, "This was the first year the HBU Band has performed in this parade, and it was a huge honor. It shows how hard the students work each and every day, and I am glad their hard work is paying off."





## ATHLETES EXCEL IN ACADEMICS



**ORLANDO GARCIA**



**WOMEN'S GOLF WITH THE DIRECTOR'S CUP**



**KRISTI O'BRIEN**

HBU student-athletes continue to excel both on the field and in the classroom as 83 Huskies were named to the 2016 Southland Conference Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll.

Fifteen Huskies also earned perfect 4.0 GPAs during the fall semester, including five from the football team (Mev Ajdin, Adam Beck, Will Shealy, Langston Tunson and Andre Walker). Women's soccer had four student-athletes with 4.0 GPAs (Morgan Dean, Kristi O'Brien, Megan Rickert and Charlotte Vancura) while volleyball had three (Bailey Banks, Melissa Fuchs and Jessica Wooten). Women's cross country had two (Stephanie Aguilar and Lauren Stockton), and men's cross country had the other (Orlando Garcia).

HBU has increased its number of Commissioner's Honor Roll members each fall, beginning with 37 in 2013, then jumping to 73 with the addition of football in 2014 and 79 last year.

The Southland Conference Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll acknowledges participants in all sports sponsored by the league and its member institutions. The honor roll recognizes student-athletes who

maintained a minimum 3.00 GPA. Student-athletes, nominated by their respective academic advisors, must have been eligible to compete in a conference sport during the academic year in which the nomination occurs.

In addition to the Commissioner's Honor Roll, Director of Athletics Steve Moniaci awarded the inaugural Director's Cup to the women's golf program.

The Director's Cup honors the HBU athletic program that posts the highest combined GPA each semester, and the team will retain the cup until the following semester's recipient has been announced.

Women's golf recorded a 3.58 GPA, edging out softball, which had a 3.54 GPA. The women's golf team is comprised of senior Charlotte Hartshorn, junior Giorgia Carletti, sophomores Lexi Brooks and Kaity Cummings and freshmen Alisa Chong, Alexis Kollmansberger, Mollie Pruett and Caylee Senn. Their coaches are head coach David Shuster and assistant coach Jordan Jeffers.

Check out [HBU.edu/SouthlandHonorRoll](http://HBU.edu/SouthlandHonorRoll) for the HBU – Southland Conference Commissioner's Fall Academic Honor Roll (\*4.0 GPA)

**HOUSTON TRIVIA**

Houston has five professional sports teams and four stadiums that hold over 150,000 fans collectively.





The  
Astrodome  
opened in 1965  
as the first-ever  
domed stadium  
and was known  
to many as the  
Eighth Wonder  
of the World.  
It hosted the  
Astros from  
1965 to 1997 and  
the Oilers from  
1968 to 1997.



*"I'm thrilled that  
he could score his  
thousandth point  
in front of our  
home crowd with  
his family here."*

Ron Cottrell  
Head Coach





## LASHER JOINS THE 1,000 POINT CLUB

**C**olter Lasher joined a prestigious club of Husky basketball players on January 12, 2017 when he scored career-point number 1,000 in the Huskies' Southland Conference game against Central Arkansas. The senior from Anchorage, Alaska became just the third player in the last decade to reach the milestone.

"It means a lot to me, because I've never seen anyone here get it. I also never got to 1,000 in high school so it meant that much more to me to get it here," said Lasher. "It's a pretty cool honor to have."

As Lasher neared 1,000 in early January, he fell just two points shy of reaching the mark on January 7 in HBU's 60-49 home win over McNeese in which he finished with 17 points. The following game was the matchup with Central Arkansas, with Colter sitting at 998. After missing his first three shots of the game, Lasher got his points on a fast break layup following a steal by teammate Atif Russell.

"I'm so happy for Colter because he's been a mainstay for our program the last four years," said head coach Ron

Cottrell. "I'm thrilled that he could score his thousandth point in front of our home crowd with his family here. It's such a great thing to see a young man who has worked so hard to have such an achievement."

"It was perfect timing," Lasher added. "I just happened to have family come down for a game and it happened to be a home game which made it that much better. It was nice to be able to celebrate with people I'm close to."

Lasher began his career at HBU by appearing in 26 games as a freshman, starting the final 11. He averaged 5.7 points during that first season and excelled from behind the three-point arc, shooting above 40 percent (22-of-54). As a team, the Huskies made their debut in the Southland Conference, finishing with a 6-25 overall record and a 2-16 mark in conference play.

By the time his sophomore season rolled around he had become a key piece of the lineup, starting 26 of the team's 28 contests. That year, he finished second on the team in scoring and even led the team in field goals made while helping lead the way to an improved 12-16 record, finishing

7-11 in the Southland.

As a junior, Lasher helped guide the Huskies to a 10-8 conference record, 17-17 overall, the Southland tournament semifinals and a bid to HBU's first postseason tournament since returning to the NCAA Division I ranks. He averaged over 10 points per game for the second year in a row while starting 29 of the 32 games he appeared in.

"Colter, and all four of the seniors who have been here throughout their career, have had such an impact on this program, coming in as we entered the Southland Conference and helping us grow the program to where it is today. Really, the program grew as they grew in the program," Cottrell added. "We've been able to enjoy success because of that group, and certainly what Colter has done has played a big part in that."

At the time this article was written, the 2016-17 HBU men's basketball team owned an 11-12 record overall and was 7-6 in the Southland. Lasher was at 1,125 career points, good for 22nd on the all-time scoring list.

## JARED MOON: ALL-TIME WINNINGEST

Just two days into his 12th season as the head coach at his alma mater, Jared Moon became HBU's all-time winningest baseball coach with his 307th career victory. The Huskies rallied for five runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, then held on to clip Fordham, 7-6, at Husky Field in February.

"I have been blessed and have been so fortunate," Moon said. "I will forever say 'good players make good coaches.' I just want to thank all of the guys who I have had the pleasure of coaching and all of the coaches I've enjoyed working with. They all share the credit. I am humbled by all of their hard work and commitment."

Moon has been at the helm as the Huskies are now in their 10th season of Division I competition. Under his direction, HBU won the 2015

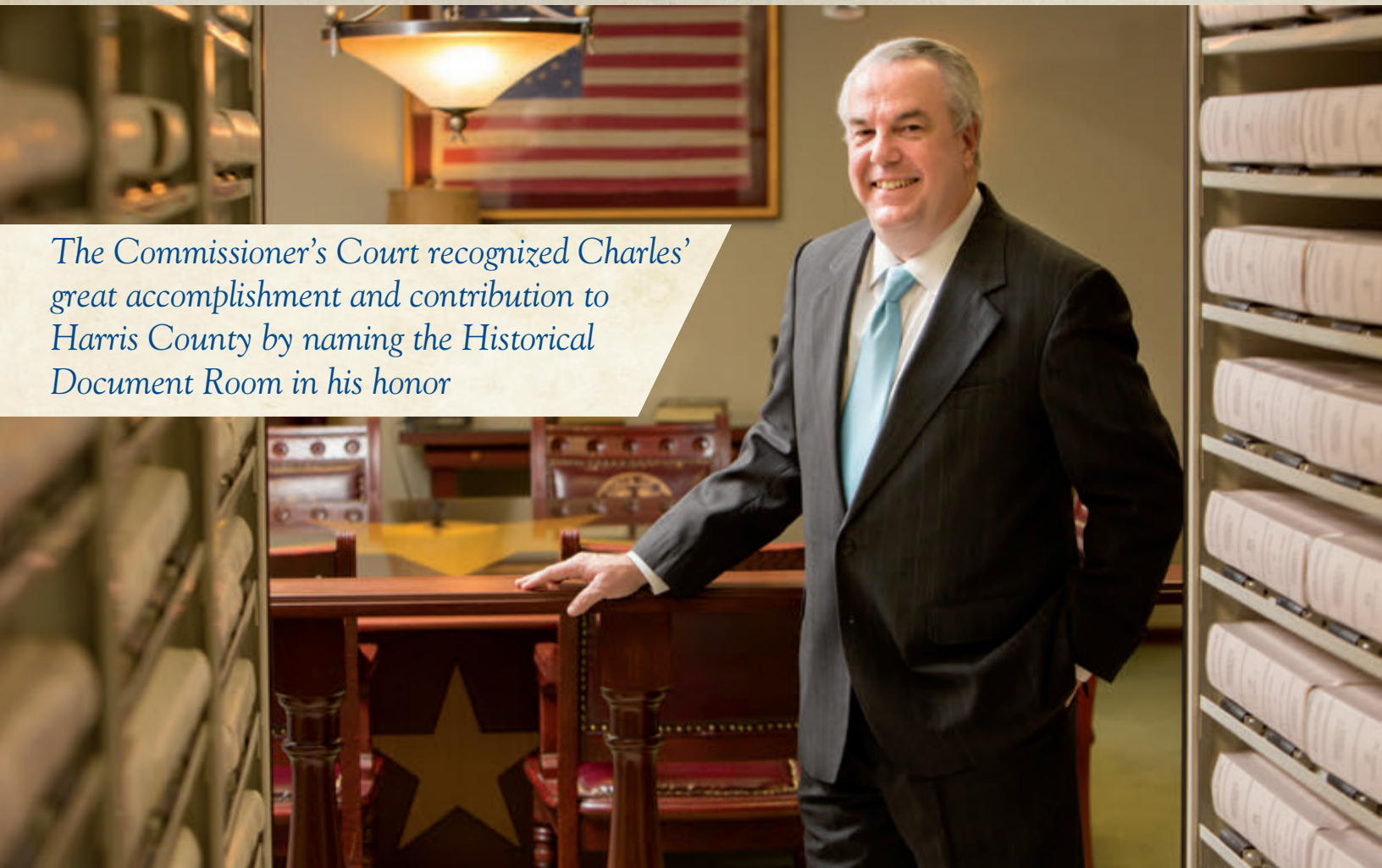
Southland Conference Tournament title and made the school's first NCAA Baseball Championship appearance at the Houston Regional. The Huskies also won the final Great West Conference Tournament championship in 2013. Before joining the Southland, Moon's highlights also included upsets of seventh-ranked TCU in 2011 and eighth-ranked University of Houston in 2015.

HBU had arguably its best season in 2007, posting a 44-20 record and making its first-ever NAIA World Series appearance under Moon. The Huskies also posted a 40-win season in his first year as head coach and won the first of back-to-back Red River Athletic Conference championships in HBU's final two seasons in the NAIA.





# COMMITMENT TO HISTORY

A photograph of Charles Bacarisse, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit and a light blue tie. He is smiling and standing in a room filled with shelves of historical documents. In the background, there is a wooden bench with a large gold star on the backrest, and an American flag is visible on the wall. A lamp hangs from the ceiling.

*The Commissioner's Court recognized Charles' great accomplishment and contribution to Harris County by naming the Historical Document Room in his honor*

**H**BU is blessed to have many talented and successful employees serve within our walls. One such individual is Charles Bacarisse, vice president of major gifts in the Office of Advancement. Charles was the Harris County District Clerk from 1995 to 2007. During his time as District Clerk, Charles' office discovered that Harris County court documents dating back to the Republic of Texas were being housed in an environment without air conditioning and were slowly rotting away. Charles and the Honorable Judge Mark Davidson led the way for these court documents to be digitized and preserved, which started an effort state-wide to preserve historic county and state documents.

Some court documents that were discovered revealed a lawsuit between Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston, the namesakes of the cities of Austin and Houston, as well as a lawsuit between Sam Houston and Mirabeau B. Lamar, the first and second presidents of the Republic of Texas. Had

Charles and his team not acted, these historic documents would have been lost to the effects of carelessness and Houston humidity.

In December 2016, the Commissioner's Court recognized Charles' great accomplishment and contribution to Harris County by naming the Historical Document Room in his honor. The Charles Bacarisse Historical Document Room is available for viewing court documents from 1837-1925.

Charles was very honored and especially proud that his now-adult children could attend the court and hear about the work he did when they were young. "I was really quite surprised and humbled by it. I couldn't believe it at first, but it was really wonderful to go for the Commissioner's Court and to have my kids come down and see this."

HBU congratulates Charles Bacarisse on this great honor!



**CYNTHIA SIMPSON**

## HOUSTON'S 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMAN



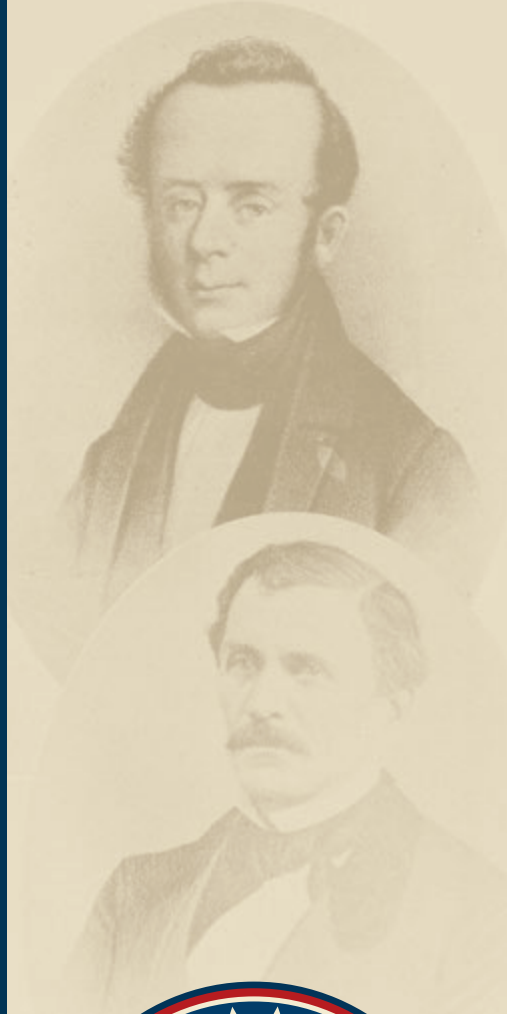
*Houston Woman Magazine* has named HBUs Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Cynthia Simpson, as one of “Houston’s 50 Most Influential Women of 2016.” Simpson was honored to be included with public relations directors, business women owners, academic leadership, executives and non-profit community influencers.

Beverly Denver, publisher of *Houston Woman Magazine*, stated, “those selected as Houston’s 50 Most Influential Women of 2016 are individuals with vast networks of social and professional connections. They have earned an enviable reputation for their expertise in a particular field or arena.”

Simpson became the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs in January

2016 and previously served as Interim Provost in 2015. Prior to her appointment as the University Provost, Simpson served as Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. She led the college in implementing several new initiatives including the offering of fully online degree programs in education and the development of the university’s first doctoral program—an EdD in Executive Educational Leadership.

Simpson has over 20 years of experience in the public and private sectors as an educator, advocate, educational diagnostician, administrator and chief executive officer. She maintains an active role in the education industry and serves as an educational consultant in the areas of assessment and program evaluation.



**Brothers Augustus and John Kirby Allen founded Houston in 1836. The city served as the capital of the Republic of Texas.**





# CULTURE INFLUENCE

▼ *Digital Media in Today's Classrooms: The Potential for Meaningful Teaching, Learning, and Assessment* (Rowman and Littlefield) by Dr. Katie Alaniz, Joshua Sikora, and Dr. Dawn Wilson ▼



▼ Dr. Rhonda Furr was the Convention Coordinator for the 2016 American Guild of Organists' National Convention. More than 1,200 organists, ministers of music and organ enthusiasts from around the globe attended the convention that featured 76 workshops and 35 concerts/worship services. This leadership position involved supervising 17 committees and oversight of a one million dollar budget.



◀ *The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith (Seedbed)* by Dr. Philip Tallon



▲ Dr. Barbara J. Elliott was the guest of honor at a recent breakfast attended by nearly 800 people to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the WorkFaith Connection. Dr. Elliott is the founder of this award-winning nonprofit, which helps people transition from homelessness, prison, addiction or unemployment into a new job and a new life - anchored in Christ.



▲ *C.S. Lewis at Poets' Corner* co-edited by Dr. Michael Ward



▲ Professor Mary Jo Sharp recently toured with Ravi Zacharias in Canada and spoke at LifeWay Christian Resources Women's Leadership Forum, a conference for leadership in women's ministry. She is currently traveling and speaking on her LifeWay Bible study Living in Truth. Learn more about Mary Jo's ministry at [ConfidentChristianity.com](http://ConfidentChristianity.com).



# NCERS

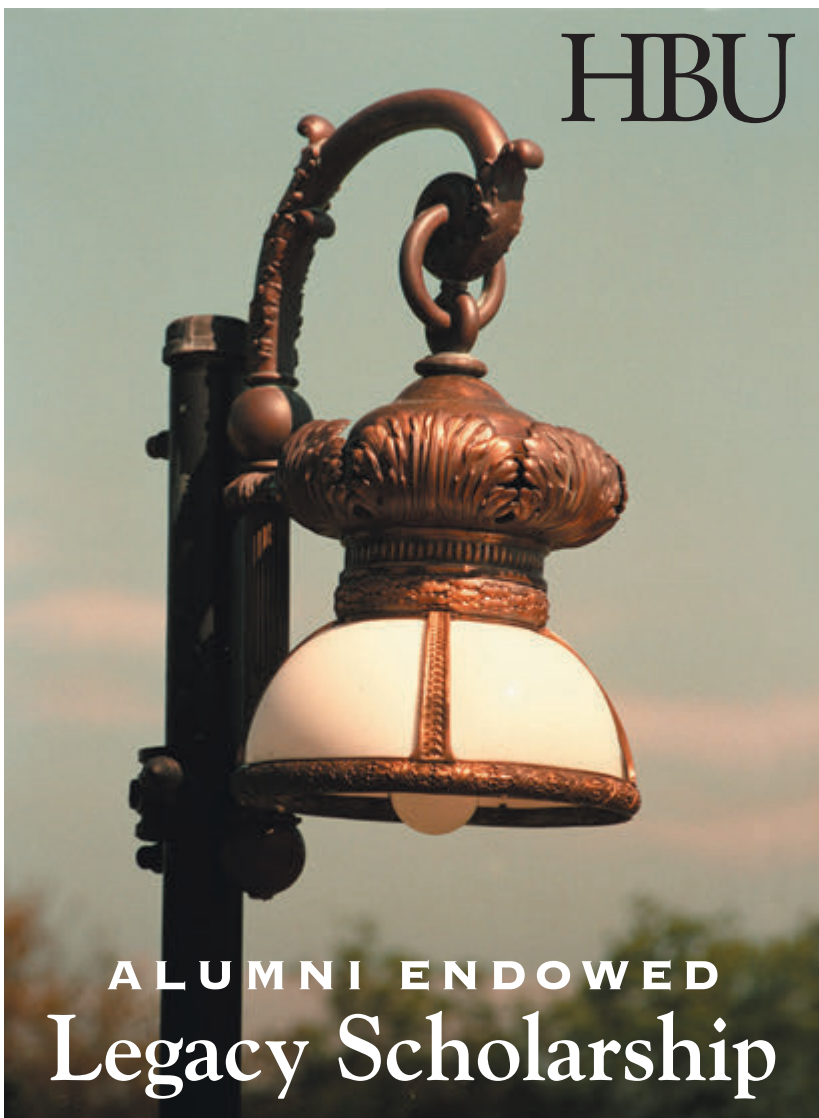
The faculty and staff of Houston Baptist University are impacting not just Houston and the state of Texas, but the nation and world. Our faculty are researching, publishing and speaking around the globe.

After prioritizing HBU students, faculty members are writing books, producing films and documentaries, lecturing at conferences, speaking at churches, publishing articles, reviewing pop culture products, developing Bible studies, taking students abroad and networking with political, educational and cultural icons.

When HBU faculty members share their expertise, they are spreading the influence of Houston Baptist University and the mission statement: "Jesus Christ is Lord."

You can keep up with their cultural impact by visiting [HBU.edu/CultureInfluencers](http://HBU.edu/CultureInfluencers)

***Catch a glimpse here of what our faculty has been doing!***



## HBU

### ALUMNI ENDOWED Legacy Scholarship

*Are you an HBU alumnus? Is a relative following in your Husky footsteps? Don't miss the Alumni Endowed Legacy Scholarship!*

The HBU Alumni Association currently has five endowed scholarships. Scholarships are awarded each year to a deserving freshman, selected by the Alumni Board of Directors, who is a relative of an HBU alumnus. Each recipient is awarded \$4,500 a year for four years, totaling \$18,000.

The Alumni Association is excited to support individuals who carry on the family tradition of attending Houston Baptist University.

The application deadline is quickly approaching. Learn more at [HBU.edu/LegacyScholarship](http://HBU.edu/LegacyScholarship)



# ALUMAGRAMS

## 1980s

**Randy Sorrels '84**, attorney and managing partner of the law firm of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz, has once again been named to the Top 100 Texas, Top 100 Houston, and Texas Super Lawyers lists for this year. Mr. Sorrels has been included in Top 100 Texas annually since 2007, Top 100 Houston since 2006, and Texas Super Lawyers for the past 14 years. Inclusion on the Super Lawyers list is restricted to the top five percent of attorneys in Texas, and recognition as one of the Top 100 lawyers in the both the Houston area and entire state of Texas is even more competitive, as both lists constitute attorneys in the very top of those respective legal communities.

**Benny Agosto, Jr. '86** partner at the Houston law firm of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz, has been named on the Texas Super Lawyers list for 2016. This year's inclusion marks Mr. Agosto's 12th appearance on the list. Selection to the list is a prestigious honor for any Texas attorney and appears annually in the *Texas Monthly* and *Texas Super Lawyers* magazines. The number of times Agosto has been included on this list speaks to his abilities, as well as his dedication to clients and colleagues. In addition to appearing on the Super Lawyers list for a number of years, Agosto has a strong record of community and professional service. Most recently, he was recognized by HBU with the Distinguished Alumnus Award and was inducted into the HBU Athletic Hall of Honor.

**Vincent Santos '88** was the 2016 recipient of the Ignatian Award as Alumnus of the Year for Strake Jesuit. The Ignatian Award recognizes individuals who exemplify the academic, religious, and social values of the Jesuit tradition; outstanding generosity to the community; and achievements contributing to the advancement of his area of expertise. Vince has led a life that can only be described as inspirational. At the age

of two he was diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA). Now at the age of 51 he has undergone more than 35 surgical procedures, a testament to his faith and strength.

## 1990s



**John Harris '90** was appointed president and chief executive officer of Worldwide Partners, the world's 10th largest advertising and marketing communications network. Made up of 65 independent agencies employing 4,500 people, Worldwide Partners has 141 offices located in 54 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America. John lives in Denver, Colorado, with his wife Betsy and their three children.

**Dwight Ward '92** is a proud alumnus and father to current Husky Cody Ward. Cody is a recipient of the Alumni Endowed Scholarship and a founding member of the Husky Hype pep squad. "I thank God that there is a great conservative Christian school that I can confidently send my son to and know that he is being loved and supported by many of the same people that meant so much to me while at HBU."

**Bryan Long '95, MBA '15** is now working as corporate controller at Gajeske, Inc.

**Reda Lyle '96** is now working as a contractor at Social Media Strategist, Content Manager. She is celebrating

another year of calling Sandbanks, England, home. It's a big change for her after living in Scottsdale, Arizona.

**Cherlyn (Shelton) Walker '98, MA '05** is an LPHA III/LPC for Austin Travis County Integral Care.

## 2000s

**Nick Covanes '01** "Greetings! Just wanted to drop a line and tell my fellow alumni that since my days at HBU, I have maintained that entrepreneurial spirit and have been working diligently to establish my advertising agency called Adwebvertising. I am a father of six wonderful children, one who is proudly serving his country in South Korea with the United States Army. I am actively teaching the word of God in several functions within my church after having served as a youth pastor for the last church we attended. My wife of nearly 10 years, Erin, has recently fought and overcome her battle with cancer by God's most excellent grace and mercy, and she continues to be a living testimony and inspiration for other women and men dealing with similar struggles. Life has been far from dull since graduating from HBU. I still keep in touch with many of my ATO brothers, whom I had the privilege of serving as Chaplain all four years at HBU. I was truly blessed to be a part of the HBU family!"



**Bobby Delgado '01** is now the associate pastor for LIFEChurch Fort Bend. Bobby and his wife **Jen '00** have five children, Sydney, Riley, Mo, Kinsey and Jeremiah.





**Jean Anne (Harley) Marshall '03** and her husband Matthew were recently contestants on LeBron James's new game show, *The Wall*. Jean Ann and Matthew represented Houston, with great enthusiasm! Congratulations to Jean Anne on her success. Pictured: Jean Anne and husband Matthew with host Chris Hardwick.

**Crystal Streety '05** is an accounting supervisor for Service Corporation International, Inc.

**Marilyn Garcia '06** is a 5th grade bilingual reading teacher at Rick Schneider Middle School, part of Pasadena ISD. "I have been blessed to be a teacher for the past 6 1/2 years in Houston and South Texas. I've spent time in Spain backpacking this past summer and various mission trips since graduation, as well as working in my local congregation. I'm so honored and blessed to live out HBU's motto, John 14:6!"

**Timothy Momanyi MBA '08** is now the executive director of finance for the Aldine ISD board of directors. He is responsible for the annual \$670 million budget and a \$700+ million bond program. In his new role, he will be second in command.

## 2010s

### **Monica Hernandez Gaspar '12**

is a registered nurse at CHI St. Luke's in the Medical Center.

### **Alex Solorio '13, MATS '15**

is the director of College Ministry for First Presbyterian Church San Antonio.

### **Adesuwa Idehen Chestnut '14**

is a registered nurse at Memorial Hermann.



**JOLIE (GRAF) SCHAFER '12**

*"As the first in my family to graduate college, I have had to work very diligently just to be considered for graduate school, and now having this amazing opportunity to learn and work in Washington D.C., for the summer means so much."*

**Jolie (Graf) Schafer '12** was recently named an Archer Center Fellow for the Summer 2017 Graduate Program in Public Policy by The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) at Houston. "Receiving this fellowship means a lot to me," said Schafer, who is the first GSBS student to receive a fellowship from the Archer Center.

Alumni may submit for inclusion in Alum-a-Grams at  
[www.hbu.edu/news-and-events/the-pillars-magazine/](http://www.hbu.edu/news-and-events/the-pillars-magazine/)



# IN MEMORIAM

## FORMER STUDENTS

**Christopher Lee (Kit) Haines '67** passed away on October 25, 2016, at the age of 71. Much loved, Kit is survived by his spouse Page, two children, and two grandchildren. Kit graduated with a BA in Biology & Economics and then went to The University of Texas where he received his MBA in Finance in 1969. While at HBU, Kit was a member of the Houston Baptist College golf team in the first years that HBC was accepted into the NCAA for membership.

**James "Jim" David Rich '71** passed away at the age of 74 on March 1, 2016. Jim was a United States Marine who served in Vietnam. He graduated cum laude in 1971. After graduation, Jim joined the United States Secret Service as a special agent, where he provided security for various presidential candidates and foreign dignitaries. He retired from the Secret Service in 1992.

**Dr. Elizabeth Ruth Beeson '75** passed away on January 5, at the age of 64. Ruth was a faithful alumna of HBU and a dedicated patron of the Dunham Bible Museum.

**Vernon Howard Tyger III MS '92** died January 17. Vernon received his Master of Science in Management and earned professional certifications as a CPA, CSM and PMP. For 20 years, Vernon worked at Apache Corporation then as president and owner of Advantage Travel. Vernon served on the Archie W. Dunham College of Business Development Council and his wife Lynn is a member of the HBU Guild. His passion was sharing talents by serving others.

## FORMER TRUSTEE



**Dr. Grayson Glass** passed away November 6, 2016. Grayson served as a minister across the state of Texas for 65 years. He was director of missions for Galveston Baptist Association for 10 years, was chairman of the Executive Board for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and served on the Home Mission Board. Grayson was a trustee on the board at Houston Baptist University where he received an Honorary Doctorate. Grayson is survived by his wife of 65 years, Patsy and many dear family members.

## FORMER FACULTY



**Dr. Sidney 'Jules' Ladner** passed away January 2. Dr. Ladner is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marlene Endicott Ladner. After doing post-doctoral work in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Jules joined the faculty of Houston Baptist University, where he taught classes in chemistry, physics and mathematics. It was during this time he received his full professorship and took great pride and joy in serving as professor of Chemistry, mainly teaching physical chemistry. When Jules retired from HBU in 1997, he and Marlene relocated to El Lago, Texas.

## FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY



**Sharon Corry** passed away on January 10. Sharon served as a past president of the Guild, president of the Tanglewood Garden Club, and president of the American Museum Society. Sharon loved life and found joy in so many ways especially with her precious husband, Todd, and her son Trey, his wife Marci, and two grandchildren, Caroline and Colter.

# HUSKY PUPS



**Griffin Covington '11** and **Lisa (Lund) Covington '10** welcomed their baby girl, **Cora Jane Covington**, on October 2, 2016.



**Adam Chaney '14** and wife Christa Barnes-Chaney are excited to announce the birth of their second child, **Noah Cohen Chaney**, born July 12, 2016. Adam is the senior pastor of FBC Riesel and is about to finish his second year of M.Div. work at Baylor's Truett Theological Seminary.



Our very own **Amy Youngblood**, director of Alumni Relations, her husband Brent, and their first son David (2) are excited to announce the birth of a second son, **Daniel Austin Youngblood**, born November 4, 2016.

## BARBARA TAYLOR-COX '81 HONORED BY DOBIE HIGH SCHOOL



HBU alumna **Dr. Barbara Taylor-Cox '81** was recently inducted to the Dobie High School Hall of Honor. Barbara is a longtime Houston pediatrician, popular speaker with the Ovation talent group, and a podcast host on Houston-based Radio Brave for a program titled "Healthy Kids/Happy Kids." She is the founder and owner of Personal Pediatrics of Houston and maintains affiliations with Texas Children's Hospital, the Women's Hospital of Texas, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Memorial Hermann in the Medical Center and West Houston Medical Center, where she served as chief of pediatrics.

Barbara and her husband Ray Cox '81, whom she met at HBU, have adult twin

sons, Colton and Tyler. Ray is a past chair of HBU's Board of Trustees. Barbara was awarded the HBU Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1993 and is a member of the Dean's Development Council for the College of Science and Mathematics. As a student, Barbara was an Endowed Academic Scholar who coauthored, with faculty, two refereed journal articles on her undergraduate research as a biology/chemistry and pre-med major. She won Homecoming Queen and was a member of Student Foundation. Barbara continues to touch many lives at this University, and one HBU staff member described her as "THE BEST pediatrician in the universe." Congratulations to Barbara Taylor-Cox!





HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
*Covenant  
Society*

——— IMPACT SOMEONE'S TOMORROW ———  
*Join the Covenant Society*

Planned gifts to the University are a wonderful and unique way of making an impactful gift. The Covenant Society is for individuals who have named Houston Baptist University as a beneficiary in a will, insurance policy, or other planned gift.

If you would like more information on planned giving, or if you would like to let us know that you've included us in your plans, please contact Nina Harrison at 281.649.3134 or [nharrison@hbu.edu](mailto:nharrison@hbu.edu)

## Like us / Tweet Us / Watch us / View Us

You don't need to step a foot on campus to be involved at HBU (though we'd love to have you). In fact, you don't need to live in Houston, or Texas, or even in the United States. From anywhere in the world, you can see what our students and faculty are doing, watch athletic events, help recruit students, and keep up with all that's happening! Help us share the importance of Christian higher education and keeping faith at the center of our lives with the simple click of a button.

#HBU #hbuselfie #hbuskies #DawgsUp



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## HBU ... **THINK ABOUT IT**

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O h, how the digital world continues to expand. Several years ago, this thing called a “podcast” (a combination of the words “broadcast” and “iPod”) was introduced to the market. For you old-schoolers, podcasts can be similar to radio talk shows, except they are hip and new and all the kids love them. With this platform for reaching a whole new audience available to us, we at Houston Baptist University are launching our own podcast. *The Pillars* Editor Dr. Jerry Johnston, who was once a host for 100 Huntley Street, will be the show’s host. Jerry will conduct interviews with staff/faculty/students in each 30-minute show. Each episode will revolve around a theme: education, psychology, business, entrepreneurship, healthcare and theology. By subscribing to the podcast, you will get an inside look at Houston Baptist University.

Because we all grow weary of hearing the same polished answers, this podcast will have no practices, no retakes, and no take-backs – only the raw truth. We will continually answer this question: Who is HBU? The answer is different for every individual, and we can’t wait to share the secrets and hopes of this great University with you!

The podcast interviews include Steve Moniaci, athletics director, discussing HBU’s future in NCAA Division 1 athletics; Dr. John Spoede, assistant professor of education and professional counselor, talking about mental illness, addiction, and bringing faith into counseling; Tim Smith and Jeremy Burton, Museum of the Bible executives, describing the one billion dollar project currently underway in Washington D.C.; and various other staff, faculty and students from all of the schools and colleges.

We will post the first few shows on our social media platforms, so follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. You won’t want to miss this behind-the-scenes look at Houston Baptist University!

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For more information about Houston Baptist University, call 281-649-3000

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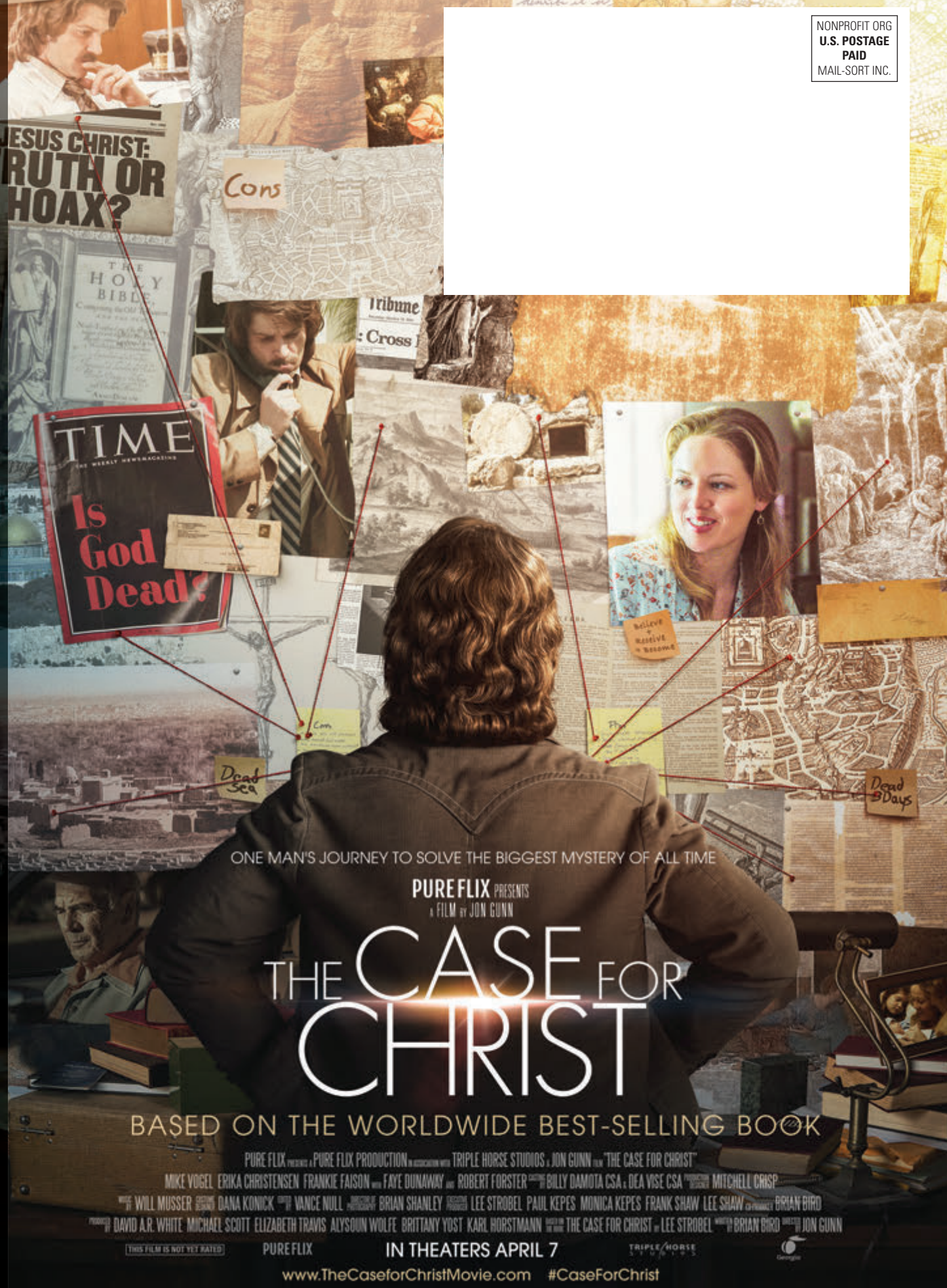
A Higher Education

HBU HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

#CaseForChrist #CaseForHBU HBU.edu/p53-Case Watch for April 7 release of the movie "The Case for Christ," based on HBU Professor of Christian Thought Lee Strobel's life and best-selling book.

MIKE VOGEL ERIKA CHRISTENSEN WITH FAYE DUNAWAY AND ROBERT FORSTER

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