

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY / JULY 2017

THE PILLARS

20k

Graduates

MAY 2017 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The HBU Alumni Association was honored to be a part of a monumental graduation in Houston Baptist University's history. On May 13, 2017, HBU celebrated 50 years of Houston Baptist University graduation ceremonies and awarded HBU's 20,000th diploma. (SEE STORY PAGE 10)

It was a time of appreciation of the first alumni, a class of 59 graduates, who paved the way for future Huskies. A representative from the class of 1967 spoke to the graduates at each ceremony. Derry Dunn, Charlie Bonds, and Doug Tipps shared a thoughtful message from their unique perspective as the first graduating class and 50 years as alumni.

[HBU.edu/p53-Commencement-9am](https://www.hbu.edu/p53-Commencement-9am)



[HBU.edu/p53-Commencement-11am](https://www.hbu.edu/p53-Commencement-11am)



[HBU.edu/p53-Commencement-2pm](https://www.hbu.edu/p53-Commencement-2pm)





[HBU.edu/p53-Pinning](https://www.hbu.edu/p53-Pinning)



NURSING PINNING CEREMONY

The Annual Pinning Ceremony was hosted by The School of Nursing and Allied Health where graduates receive their nursing pins, which signify their entry into the profession of nursing. The pins are a 1,000 year old symbol of service to others, and today the pin for the Baccalaureate Degree program bears the University's seal and has become a distinctive mark of nursing excellence.

RING CEREMONY

This ceremony is a special tradition that recognizes students' educational and personal achievements during their time at HBU. Dr. Robert B. Sloan and the HBU Alumni Board of Directors had the honor of presenting students with their rings to an audience of family and friends. Bob Powell, class of 1976 shared a reflective testimony of what his ring had witnessed as an alumnus. The students left the ceremony with their ring to symbolize their experiences at HBU.



[HBU.edu/p53-RingCeremony](https://www.hbu.edu/p53-RingCeremony)



HONORS COLLEGE COMMISSIONING

The Honors College is an educational community for undergraduate students at HBU that aims to educate students in wisdom and character. Built on the scholarly activities of reading, writing, questioning, thinking and discussing, the Honors College provides an experience perfect for students who want to challenge themselves academically. Because of their commitment to excellence, Honors College students get the most possible out of their college education, and, of course, graduate with a higher level of distinction.

Within the context of Christian faith, students are inspired in the Honors College to develop their moral and intellectual lives. As Winston Churchill said, "The first duty of a university is to teach wisdom, not a trade; character, not technicalities." There is no better way to get this foundation of wisdom and character than experiencing the challenges and rewards of our Honors College.

The medallions awarded to the graduating Honors Scholars are unique at HBU and bear the motto of the Honors College: Sapere Aude (Dare to be Wise).



[HBU.edu/p53-HBUhonors](https://www.hbu.edu/p53-HBUhonors)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I think you will find reading this issue of *The Pillars* to be both enjoyable and inspiring. I hope you will not only pick out your favorite articles, but, if you have the time, read it through word-for-word.

This edition celebrates many things, and in so doing, it both reminds us of our past and points us to our future. We have recently celebrated the 20,000th graduate of HBU, an event that providentially took place as we celebrated 50 years of awarding degrees. We were chartered in 1960, began classes in 1963, graduated our first students in 1967, and just recently, now obviously in 2017, celebrated the 50th reunion of our first graduating class. What a historic milestone for HBU—and what a blessing and privilege for all of us who were there to see it and be part of it! And we will have a 50th class reunion to celebrate every year from now on!

As you read many of the articles, you will be amazed at the accomplishments the Lord has allowed us to make. I think you'll agree that a lot has happened in the history of this still very young university and that the work of our students, faculty and staff over many years is truly remarkable. These successes provide a firm foundation for all the things we are moving toward in the future—whether the addition of a college of engineering, the expansion of our doctoral programming (since we are now a comprehensive university), the construction of athletic facilities, the building of new laboratories, the construction of new classrooms (including, with the help of our capital campaign, the Center for Law and Liberty) or the significant expansion of our online offerings.

HBU has experienced a lot of change. I always enjoy hearing from alumni who say things like “It’s been 10 years (or 20, or 30, or 40!) since I’ve been on campus, and I can’t believe all the things that have been accomplished!” We really have a lot to be thankful for. And much more to do. I tried to put some of this in perspective in my article (see page 47) that draws upon 1 Chronicles 29:10-12.

Thank you so much for all you do for HBU. We are especially grateful for your prayers and your supportive conversations about us to others.

All blessings to you and yours,



Robert B. Sloan





EDITOR'S CORNER

By Dr. Jerry Johnston

Behind the scenes of this dynamic University are champions who have persevered through many years to enable HBU to both survive and thrive! Each and every team player is important; however, in this issue of *The Pillars* we want you to appreciate the insightful reflections of the champions who stayed faithful through thick-and-thin to contribute so much to HBU's mission. As we gratefully look back, we also look forward with ambition and vision of the inestimable promise of growth for Houston Baptist University.

Ever entrepreneurial in his leadership, Dr. Robert Sloan initiated a task force to study, meet monthly, interface with experts, and submit a plan to expand HBU's Online. We are grateful to a few key individuals who sacrificially gave to allow the quality academic programs of HBU to be received by people of all ages

regardless of their geography. You will read exciting updates in the days ahead.

Last year, digital marketing in America exceeded television advertising for the first time, with \$72.5 billion spent online versus \$71.3 billion paid for TV spots, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers. As you have probably read, YouTube, Facebook and Apple are planning original programming content similar to Netflix. The big three networks are a thing of the past. YouTube algorithms have led viewers to watch 1 billion hours of video per day according to CEO, Susan Wojcicki. People want television programming on their own timetable. Amazon recently purchased Whole Foods, and soon going to the grocery store will be obsolete. Augmented and virtual reality may soon be an everyday experience on multiple levels of society including education.

The Christian university has never been more important and more needed than today! Thank you for helping HBU fulfill its mission with creativity and commitment to the core values that have made it unique in one of the most formidable cities in the United States.

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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.



A High-Tech Rebirth From Higher Ed's Ruins

Whereas we do not agree with all of Mr. Gelernter's conclusion in his remarks, which appeared in the Wall Street Journal, he does provide food for thought that universities must be extremely creative, maintain rigorous academic standards, and embody technological savvy in the current dramatic changes in society.

Gratefully, HBU is known for these distinctions by the example of our expanded online initiatives, which will cause us to reach new horizons. Simply put, HBU is moving forward under the providential God who has indisputably guided her for 50 years. Notable, and not mentioned in Gelernter's article, is the essential of Christ-centered academia that truly makes HBU unique in fulfilling the void degreed students often miss in other academic institutions. Dr. Robert Sloan's vision of a truly "comprehensive Christian education" is being fulfilled by HBU's missional statement embraced, unapologetically, by every member of our faculty: "Jesus Christ is Lord!"

By David Gelernter
Updated Jan. 22, 2017,
Used by permission
Appeared in the Jan. 23, 2017,
print edition, *Wall Street Journal*

COLLEGES ARE FAILING, BUT WHAT CAN REPLACE THEM? ONLINE COURSES, NET-CAMPUSES AND MENTORS.

U.S. colleges are failing—the fancy-pants institutions along with the rest. They nearly all have fundamental problems, and they have had them so long that these institutions seem destined to collapse as students demand value for their money and society demands colleges that work.

Today's colleges give students no idea of the structure of knowledge: the topics they should learn, the books and skills they should master. Educators refuse them the guidance and stiff requirements they need and often want. Colleges refuse to provide the survey courses, especially in arts and humanities, that students need to build an educational foundation. Instead, too many teach politicized courses and assign slanted readings and random garbage.

Educators fail at their first duty, to produce adults who can read and write and speak and listen like adults. And they fail at their second duty, to help create American citizens who can explain this nation, and the West generally, to their children and themselves. College graduates must be capable of explaining how society arrived at this particular historical moment. What were the milestones? What were the major choices?

It has been clear since the 1980s that U.S. colleges are failing. They spend more every year to finance their growing administrations and pass the bill to students, while indulging their penchant for being sinister and ludicrous at the same time. Over 90% of U.S. colleges will be gone within the next generation, as the higher-education world inevitably flips over and sinks. Top schools will remain, because they sell a valuable commodity: not education but prestige.

Many colleges do well teaching technical topics like mathematics, engineering, science. In the first phase of the big sink, local colleges will likely make a pitch for smart students by strengthening their tech sides, throwing out their arts and humanities departments—and offering better online-education options instead. A group of smaller schools might hire some big-name scholars who are good onstage, and produce a shared suite of internet courses in arts and humanities.

Students will need digital guides or mentors who are experts in online education and the rapidly growing range of online offerings. They would hire such a guide for the duration of an online college education. Bachelor's degrees will gradually be replaced by certified transcripts. A student presents his final transcript to some admired authority with whom he has chatted occasionally throughout his studies. By signing it the big shot says, in effect: You rate a degree in my book.

Think tanks and major newspapers also make natural certifiers. If I saw a candidate for a job or graduate school whose college education was vouched for by the American Enterprise Institute or the Manhattan Institute, I'd be impressed. Then there's the big world of tech-intensive companies, research hospitals and drug companies. Museums, industrial research labs, publishers, major libraries and symphony orchestras might be interested in running small "certification" departments—in effect, granting

degrees. A local church or synagogue might get into mentoring or degree certification. The old colleges themselves, with time on their hands, might do well in these new businesses.

Face-to-face teaching is incomparably best. To compensate for its built-in disadvantages, internet teaching must do something new. Freely available software templates ought to make it simple for students to get a quick overview of the whole course and to navigate through the course however they like.

Students should be able to stop at any point to ask a question, or to join a running conversation among students around the

world who are taking the same course. Students ask questions in writing. A written answer comes back, and question and answer become part of the online "course commentary." Thus the course grows better and deeper each time someone ventures through it. Popular courses will have someone on call, too, to answer phoned-in questions around the clock. Wherever they live, English-speaking teaching assistants contribute an hour or two when they have the time.

When the course is done, it folds up into a neat little square on your desktop or in a file system, as a reference forever. It becomes a "valuable digital object." Such objects don't exist now, but they will be the basis of lots of interesting things—such as sustainable digital publishing, and an actual market in digital art—once they have been standardized. Federal agencies that have led major tech projects in the past would do well here, too.

Investors will build net-campuses that supply living space, food, internet access, security and basic supervision. The rest will be up to the mentors, the certifiers and the students themselves. Students can move from a net-campus in Paris to Sydney, as the mood takes them, and their campuses might be part of their educations. Closed-down colleges might be revamped as internet campuses—with sports and labs thrown in. Even libraries!

This is only a bare outline of the educational future. The Trump administration could change the world of higher education using not much money but bold ideas and serious leadership.

Mr. Gelernter, a professor of computer science at Yale University, is the author of *Tides of Mind: Uncovering the Spectrum of Human Consciousness* (Norton, 2016).

Over 90% of U.S. colleges will be gone within the next generation





HBU's 20,000th GRADUATE

*Fulfilling a dream
50 years in the making*

Houston Baptist University is at a defining moment in our unique history. By the grace of God, we have passed a notable and strategic milestone of 20,000 graduates.

Every organization makes a conscious decision whether it will rest on its laurels or make the arduous decisions, after careful and methodical research and prayer, if it will innovate and artistically grow.

HBU has decidedly made the decision to push forward. Our history proves our spiritual stability. We are committed to core Christian convictions in all the academic disciplines, which makes us unique and sorely needed in our culture of shifting morals and tantamount problems.

But, there is something more to the secret of our future success. God has positioned HBU in one of the great mega cities of the United States. Our faculty are distinguished as scholars as well as committed Christians. A diploma from HBU is much more than a signed certificate. Our Board of Trustees represent keen minds and consecrated, respected leaders.

HBU is now ready to embrace the digital technology to dramatically expand our reach, in time, even globally. We will continue to attract distinct academics who will attract students. In the long-respected entrepreneurial spirit of Houston, HBU will move forward and fulfill Dr. Sloan's vision to be a truly comprehensive Christian university in one of America's greatest cities.

While we look back with the deepest gratitude, we look forward and invite you to find your place in our quest to change the world one life at a time.

Continued on page 24

COLLEGE IN THE CLOUD

**WORLD-CLASS HBU ONLINE PROGRAMS
MASSIVE EXPANSION TO CONNECT TO
STUDENTS WORLDWIDE!**

HBU student Michael DeVito understands firsthand what it takes to become a leader in the field. The former NFL lineman spent nearly a decade playing for the New York Jets and Kansas City Chiefs. After retiring from pro-football last year, he felt God call him to attend graduate school and study apologetics at HBU.

"To say that some were surprised by this decision is an understatement," DeVito said. "Here's this guy who slams his head against metal for a living seeking a graduate degree in Christian theology."

DeVito says he came to Christ in 2007 and read Timothy Keller's book *The Reason for God - Belief in the Age of Skepticism*. The *New York Times* bestseller explores how literature, philosophy, and reasoning support faith in a Christian God as a rational belief. "I was inspired, deciding that whatever Keller is exploring in this book, I want to study."

DeVito resides in Bangor, Maine, with wife Jessie, and sons Rocco, 3, and Sal, 6 months, so an online degree program seemed his best option. He was searching nationwide for top online programs when a friend suggested he look into HBU.

"When I saw the philosophical track, I was drooling. Here I am in one-on-one discussions with the best professors worldwide and brilliant students who inspire me," DeVito added. "It's certainly challenging; it has also exceeded my expectations."

Continued on page 34



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST GRAD

HBU SPIRIT: 1967'S PIONEER GRADUATES

"The freshman class of 1963 was a remarkable group of students. They had wide-ranging choices of colleges ... there was no visible campus ... no faculty nor curriculum. Their decision to enroll in Houston Baptist College was an act of faith."

Excerpted from *An Act of Providence, A History of Houston Baptist University* by Dr. Don Looser, HBU Vice President Emeritus.

Four years later, on May 29, 1967, 59 of the 190 enrolled in that first class graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from then-named Houston Baptist College. Another 30 completed their degree in subsequent years including Frances Vargas Velasco who, in 1998, shared the accomplishment with her family present.



Two members of that first class, Lynda DeLoach and Philip K. Ruthstrom, Jr., (right) last month celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. This spring, the two chaired their 50th college reunion. Amazingly, almost half the 59 graduates attended.

ACADEMIC RIGOR

From the beginning, the school strove for the highest academic standards and Christian training. Students benefited from top-notch faculty who were recruited from prestigious and academically rigorous institutions, themselves making a leap of faith to a virtually unknown institution. Still, the promise of developing a new academic venture in a city of explosive growth and entrepreneurial spirit was attractive.

DeLoach reinforced the academic rigor existing from the University's founding. "The most fortunate academic aspect was the interdisciplinary core course at the heart of our curriculum. Where else would a small group of college freshmen sit in a lecture hall three mornings a week under the tutelage of a team of five professors, three of whom were PhDs?"

In a 1996 essay, Professor Elysee Peavy recalled how faculty and students continued discussions well after classes adjourned. "These students acknowledge to this day that the core curriculum has been invaluable in their personal and professional lives."

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

In his book on the history of HBU, Dr. Looser discusses an extraordinarily close bond among students, faculty and staff – sharing "in the pioneering task of institutional establishment." "I was 24 when I joined the faculty; my students were scarcely five or six years my junior. Today, these same students are among my best lifelong friends—because of the road we traveled and victories we shared."

"President Hinton could call every student by name and knew their hometowns as well. I remember trustee Rex Baker treating my roommate and me to dinner at the Petroleum Club," DeLoach shared. "The secretaries kept tabs on our problems and love lives; I still use Judy Babb's carrot cake recipe. It was that special nurturing that made my years at HBC so rich, so memorable and so significant to my adult life."



UATING CLASS

BUILDING A FULL COLLEGIATE EXPERIENCE

And what about the other aspects of a collegiate experience? "Our small first class struggled to establish the traditions, rituals and organizations for our new college. Choosing a school mascot, for one. Someone paraded a live alligator across the stage, another an armadillo. I'm sure Dr. (William) Hinton (HBC president) chuckled when we voted in a long-haired Alaskan sled dog, Toby, as the mascot for our southeast Texas college," DeLoach recalls.

"Some of us felt we justly earned at least a minor in constitution writing. Every time we came up with a great idea for a club, someone had to draft bylaws. The first I helped to pen was for the student government. In that first year, we chartered about 14 organizations."

Perhaps one could have predicted that Houston Baptist's first alumni still are among its most active alumni.

ACCOMPLISHING GREAT THINGS

Many members of that small, dedicated group of pioneering students went on to great accomplishments. Some earned PhDs; others raised strong, Christian families; several became corporate titans; others were professional musicians, pastors, physicians and healthcare administrators in the renowned Texas Medical Center. There even was a professional golfer!

DeLoach worked as an educator for 45 years; her husband served in Vietnam, worked in professional theater, earned a doctorate and taught at the University of Houston for 10 years.

"These first students had extra grit and initiative or they might have chosen an established college to attend. It was the pioneering experience that made the successes sweeter," Dr. Looser added. "As President Robert B. Sloan voiced, 'these are they on whose shoulders all succeeding generations of HBU students stand.'"

The HBU Alumni Association was honored to be a part of a monumental graduation in Houston Baptist University's history. On May 13, 2017, HBU celebrated 50 years of Houston Baptist University graduation ceremonies and awarded HBU's 20,000th diploma. To God be the glory for all that this school has accomplished. As demonstrated in the love and friendship displayed between the members of our founding classes through all of our 20,000 alumni, alumni will have a lifelong family. As graduates walked out of McNair Hall, the Alumni Relations team was there to hand them license plate frames to proudly display their status as welcomed new members of the HBU Alumni Association.

2017 AUTHOR CELEBRATION

The end of the spring semester always brings celebrations – some traditional and some new. This year, Houston Baptist University hosted an official celebration to honor faculty members who have recently published books. HBU faculty authors have published more than 30 books in the last 18 months. In April in the M.D. Anderson Student Center, faculty authors sold and signed their books for students, colleagues, and visitors. From the School of Christian Thought to the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences to the School of Humanities, nearly every college and school was represented.

This year's faculty authors were Lee Strobel, Mark Mittelberg, Garry Poole, Dr. Robert B. Sloan, Dr. Katie Alaniz, Dr. Ben Blackwell, Dr. Matt Boyleston, Dr. Timothy Brookins, Dr. Jennifer Butcher, Dr. Craig Evans, Dr. Joshua Farris, Dr. Jeremiah Johnston, Dr. Steven Jones, Dr. Jason Maston, Nancy Pearcey, Dr. Diana Severance, Mary Jo Sharp, Joshua Sikora, Dr. Philip Tallon, Dr. Jerry Walls, Dr. Michael Ward and Dr. Dawn Wilson.

The event brought many visitors to campus and highlighted the achievements of HBU's exceptional faculty. We hope to make this celebration an annual event. Congratulations to our faculty members on a great year of teaching and writing!





LIST OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

Today's Moment of Truth: Devotions to Deepen Your Faith in Christ; The Case for Christ (Movie Edition)

— Lee Strobel, Mark Mittelberg, Garry Poole

Hamelin Stoop: The Eagle, the Cave, and the Footbridge; Hamelin Stoop: The Lost Princess and the Jewel of Periluna

— Dr. Robert B. Sloan

Naturalizing Digital Immigrants: The Power of Collegial Coaching for Technology Integration

— Dr. Katie Alaniz, Dr. Dawn Wilson

Digital Media in Today's Classrooms: The Potential for Meaningful Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

— Dr. Katie Alaniz, Dr. Dawn Wilson, Joshua Sikora

Christosis: Engaging Paul's Soteriology with His Patristic Interpreters

— Dr. Ben C. Blackwell

Paul and the Apocalyptic Imagination

— Dr. Ben C. Blackwell, Dr. Jason Maston

Viewed from the Keel of a Canoe — Dr. Matt Boyleston

1 Corinthians 1-9: A Handbook on the Greek Text; 1 Corinthians 10-16: A Handbook on the Greek Text

— Dr. Timothy A. Brookins

Going to College with Autism — Dr. Jennifer Butcher

Earliest Christianity within the Boundaries of Judaism: Essays in the Honor of Bruce Chilton; The Language and Literature of the New Testament: Essays in Honor of Stanley E. Porter's 60th Birthday

— Dr. Craig Evans

Jesus and the Jihadis: Confronting the Rage of ISIS: The Theology Driving the Ideology

— Dr. Craig Evans, Dr. Jeremiah Johnston

The Soul of Theological Anthropology: A Cartesian Exploration; Routledge Companion to Theological Anthropology; Idealism and Christian Theology — Dr. Joshua Farris

Unanswered Bible Study book — Dr. Jeremiah Johnston

Medical Language Accelerated; Colossians: In Christ Alone; The Answer: A Study in the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus; An Unexpected Christmas; Free: 6 Studies in the Book of Romans — Dr. Steven Jones

Finding Truth: Five Principles for Unmasking Atheism, Secularism & Other God Substitutes — Nancy Pearcey

Her Story: 366 Devotions from 21 Centuries of the Christian Church — Dr. Diana Severance

Living in Truth — Mary Jo Sharp

The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith — Dr. Philip Tallon

God and Cosmos (with David Baggett); Does God Love Everyone? The Heart of What is Wrong with Calvinism; Heaven, Hell and Purgatory — Dr. Jerry Walls

C.S. Lewis at Poets' Corner — Dr. Michael Ward



[HBU.edu/p53-HBUauthors](https://www.hbu.edu/p53-HBUauthors)

The Measure of a Man

*By Dr. Christopher Hammons
Center for Law & Liberty
School of Humanities*

Ben Franklin coined a saying that “nothing is certain in life but death and taxes.” In higher education, a variation of Franklin’s wisdom might be that nothing is certain but death and assessment.

Assessment – quantitative, measurable outcomes of student learning – is an important part of any educational endeavor. College professors have been doing it for centuries through exams and course grades. Current assessment trends, however, require professors to use measures other than grades to gauge student learning.

For example, a professor might require her science students to write essays on an ethical dilemma and how they would resolve it. A government professor might ask his students to explain why

the Constitution is important. In both cases the exercises require a quantitative score using a standardized rubric. A lot of us feel like we’ve been turned into behavioral scientists and the students into lab rats.

My struggle with assessment is that it overlooks the most important aspect of a college education – one that is entirely unquantifiable.

Having been in higher education now for 20 years, I’ve taught several thousand students across a variety of classes. Many of the students whose names I once knew, I have forgotten. These were the ones who came to class, took the exams, and moved on. Then there are the students who remain indelibly marked in my memory.



Sometimes these memories are quite joyful, like the numerous graduation parties I've been invited to over the years. Our diverse student body looks much like the city of Houston. As a result, parties and celebrations take on an international flavor complete with food, songs and ceremonies from the students' cultural home countries. I've been to parties that had Tango dancers and wine. I've been to parties that had belly dancers and wine. And I've been to parties where there was

who was going to drop out due to lack of finances. I asked about her family, inquiring if maybe they could help her out a bit. She responded that she didn't have a family. She spent the rest of the conversation staring at the floor. I had the fleeting and ridiculous thought of adopting her. After all, we already have two children. How much more difficult could it be to add a third?

I had lunch with a former student who went through a tough divorce and whose

victories, and helping them through their failures. And sometimes we rescue them when they have nowhere else to turn.

The ancient Greeks had multiple words for what we simply call love, sort of like the Eskimos have words for different types of snow. Agape is a type of love where one person is dedicated to the well-being of another. Aristotle referred to agape as "a love which wishes good to someone." And this is really what it means to be a teacher – to want better for someone than they sometimes want for themselves. To see someone as they could be, rather than who they are, and to mold them into a better human being. This is what teachers do.

I remember teachers like Mrs. Flournoy, the most feared 6th grade math teacher in my middle school. She was ruthless and had zero tolerance for laziness or sloppiness. I learned years later that her daughter had severe Down Syndrome. Mrs. Flournoy didn't want us to waste our opportunities. Teachers like my late mentor Ross Lence who, at the bedside of a student's parent who was dying from cancer, held a week-long crash course on Greek philosophy. The deathbed sessions were just as much for the student as for the parent. The student never forgot Lence's lesson in the true, the good and the beautiful. And teachers like my father, who rescued one of his high school students from a phone booth on a rainy Saturday night in our small town. She had been beaten by her adult boyfriend and didn't have anyone else to call. She spent the night on our family sofa, under a borrowed blanket, beneath a roof that belonged to her teacher.

Assessment is a tricky thing. We want our students to learn the material. We want them to be educated men and women. We want them to lead productive lives and make a difference in the world. But we also want more for them. We want them to realize their own value, to have a sense of dignity, and a moral compass. Sometimes it takes time. Often it doesn't happen until after they graduate.

I'll continue with my assessment reports and finding creative ways to measure student learning in my classes. But for me, the greatest indicator of my success as a teacher is when a former student shows up unexpectedly at my door with their spouse and children in tow and says "Hey professor, remember me?"

Ultimately, teaching is really about love. Love for the material. Love of learning. Love of the school. Love of the student.

no dancing or wine allowed whatsoever.

I've also attended numerous weddings. I always marvel at how wonderful the young people look when they clean themselves up, whether they're wearing a tuxedo, wedding dress or some traditional ceremonial clothing from a different country. I've been to weddings with little fanfare that took 30 minutes. I've been to weddings that started at sundown and lasted until the sun came up. I've been to weddings I didn't understand, but that left me with the impression of having witnessed something spectacular.

I've been to baby christenings and baptisms. I've celebrated with students who got a first job. I've gone to housewarming parties. I've been to celebratory dinners for a big promotion. I'm always touched to be included in the merriment.

Then there are the other memories. The harder ones. The ones that break your heart. I remember a young woman coming to my office during my first or second year of teaching. She wanted my advice on how to tell her parents she was in trouble, and asked what she should do about college. Her hands shook the whole time.

I remember another young woman

life wasn't turning out the way he had envisioned. His eyes weren't as bright as they used to be.

I attended the funeral of a student's mother. Her mother had been murdered during a home-invasion in a quiet and affluent neighborhood. When the student saw me waiting in line to give my condolences, she burst into tears and apologized for not studying harder for my classes. It was an odd response. I did the only thing I could, which was to hug her tight and kiss the top of her head.

And I've been on a Monday to the funeral of a young man who was in class on the previous Friday. He was killed over the weekend in a car accident. I sat in the back of the church and couldn't bring myself to approach the open casket. It was too hard. I wanted to remember him as he was in class – laughing, studious and always present in the top row, farthest chair on the left. A chair that remained empty for the rest of the semester.

Ultimately, teaching is really about love. Love for the material. Love of learning. Love of the school. Love of the student. Part of that love is sharing in students' joys and sorrows, celebrating their

There is a God...



INTERVIEW WITH RICHARD SWINBURNE

By Dr. Jerry Johnston,
Vice President for
Innovation;
Professor of Theology in
the School of Christian
Thought at Houston
Baptist University

Cristie Johnston and I had two interesting days in England ... one filming with Richard Dawkins and the next day filming with Richard Swinburne. The noted philosopher wrote the classic book, *The Existence of God* in 1979. He told me every questioning believer should read his popular book, *Is There A God?* (1996) He has a remarkable intellect and received us warmly in his home. Yes, there has been a revolution in Christian philosophy.

The catalyst of the movement evident in the finest universities in the country – Richard Swinburne, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oxford. Over the last 50 years, Swinburne has been an influential proponent of philosophical arguments for the existence of God. Swinburne made a dramatic impact on Antony Flew who set the agenda for modern atheism with his 1950 essay, “Theology and Falsification.” Antony Flew shocked the academic world when he renounced the atheism he had both embraced and espoused and became a believer in God as Creator. He then wrote, *There Is A God: How the World’s Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind*.

America’s equivalent to Swinburne, undoubtedly, is the renowned Alvin Plantinga at the University of Notre Dame who recently was awarded the 2017 Templeton Prize. Swinburne’s emphasis to me was on the necessity

of critical thinking. Atheists have told Cristie Johnston and me that Christians do not know how to critically think. J.P. Moreland, named one of the 50 most influential philosophers alive today in America, said the condition of the church makes him “sad.”

Cristie and I, with the help of Pew Research and their extensive data tracking on the “nones,” are producing multiple digital media resources, including curricula, to train students and leaders on what may be the most serious issue of our day – the massive exodus from the church. The most alarming demographic are millennials – tomorrow’s leaders who consequently have our undivided attention. Further, we have explored the future impact of the developing virtual reality technology and artificial intelligence on religion and have filmed with some of the finest intellects on how this will affect religious behavior. Our filmed interview with Jonathan Lanman, anthropologist at Queen’s University in Belfast, Ireland, was a virtual mind-bender. The digital era brings great opportunities and great challenges.

We are honored that such an esteemed group of international leaders and nones, themselves, are participating in our documentary and future digital resources. For more information go to JerryJohnston.com.





INTERVIEW WITH RICHARD DAWKINS

Richard Dawkins rode his bike to meet Jerry Johnston and me at the Mailmason Hotel. Near Oxford's city centre, the thick walls of this former prison offer guests the chance to sleep in a converted cell complete with barred windows and iron doors. I came to England for the fourth time in two years to interview the world's most well-known atheist, author of many books including the bestseller, *The God Delusion*. Sleeping at the Malimason reminded me of the theme of the most ambitious project we have ever attempted – many people are locked in cells of unbelief and confusion.

My mind has been focused for nearly three years on a documentary Jerry and I are diligently at work researching – the undeniable sociological and spiritual causes in America of the “nones.” Religious disaffiliations of a documented 50-70 million adults in the last few decades, a staggering one in four Americans, one-third of which are millennials, represent the demographic

known as nones. From the inception of our media project, we have drilled down to get to the facts of why the nones have proliferated from two percent in 1950 to in excess of 21 percent in 2014, according to Pew Research based in Washington, DC.

It has been an exhaustive journey. We have now filmed with 102 of the most influential atheists, agnostics, sociologists, secularists, philosophers, Christian apologists, nones, donees, and de-conversions internationally (including self-prescribed atheist Frank Schaeffer, son of the late Francis Schaeffer). Jerry and I were embedded in the American Atheist Convention in Memphis and the Reason Rally held at the Lincoln Mall in Washington, DC with thousands of skeptics and activists in attendance.

Every interview is carefully transcribed and we have planned a minimum of three upcoming published books with our original research. The marquee media

By Dr. Cristie Jo Johnston
Professor of Theology in the School of Christian Thought
at Houston Baptist University

The “nones” documentary is a legacy project for us as a couple and far more intensive. It will penetrate the viewer emotionally, too, as we meet nones individually, follow their thinking and respective journeys, and hear their personal stories.



HBU.edu/p53-Dawkins



HOW CAN A GENERATION BE **BIBLICALLY** SHAPED IN ITS UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN SEXUALITY WHEN IT BELIEVES **SODOM** AND **GOMORRAH** WERE A MARRIED COUPLE?

project will be an intricate, fast-moving, transcontinental post-edited documentary. In addition, we plan to release 48 television shows that will air on Christian networks globally, and feature a cadre of resources that will both prescribe the problems and cure. In addition we will conduct an international tour entitled, BRIEFINGS, in cities coast to coast.

Nearly 40 of our experts live in the United Kingdom, and we have given careful analysis to the demise of Christianity in Britain through interviews and research with statisticians, anthropologists, and the four primary scholars who are investigating the phenomenon in a \$2.8 million Templeton Foundation grant that will conclude in 2019 after our project releases. We theorize England is a precursor to America's seismic religious change – a grim predictor for the future apart from spiritual renewal and a cognitive response to the problem facing the church and illiterate believers.

It has been my job to executive produce, script and schedule the interviews of the 17 documentaries that Jerry and I have produced for publishing companies and broadcasting networks throughout our 35-year ministry careers. These creative media productions have aired globally and been used by thousands of churches and schools.

The “nones” documentary is a legacy project for us as a couple and far more intensive. It will penetrate the viewer emotionally, too, as we meet nones individually, follow their thinking and respective journeys, and hear their personal stories. Many were raised in church and disaffiliated, others were survivors of Christian leaders who died by suicide. The viewing audience will

be introduced to the disguised ‘unbelieving believers’ seeded in many churches, who have serious doubts about faith and spiritual absolutes. We have approximately 40 more key leaders and people to film with as our investigative journey continues. The following is a brief clip of my interview with Richard Dawkins.

CRISTIE JOHNSTON: The Bible says that anyone that says in their heart there is no God, they are a fool. What do you think about that?

RICHARD DAWKINS: That’s ridiculous obviously. I mean you’ve taken a verse from the Bible. The fool is upset in his heart there is no God. What am I supposed to say? This is a random text written by some random scribe at some point, a few centuries ago. So what?

To view video clips of the documentary filming go to JerryJohnston.com.



THINK ABOUT IT ...

HBU PODCASTS AVAILABLE FREE ON iTUNES

3/29/17 DR. ROBERT B. SLOAN

University President

Dr. Sloan shares details on his young-adult series, *Hamelin Stoop*, considered a work in the tradition of C.S. Lewis.

4/5/17 STEVE MONIACI

Director of Athletics

Steve Moniaci shares details on the athletics programs available at the University.

4/10/17 MICHAEL PLAYER

McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise

Michael Player, speaks on entrepreneurship in his own life and the experiences that brought him to HBU.

4/17/17 DR. CHARLOTTE FONTENOT

Graduate Programs in Education

Dr. Charlotte Fontenot shares her experience and successes on this episode while also speaking to the importance of prayer.

4/24/17 DR. JOHN SPOEDE, JR

Center for Research/Doctoral Studies

Dr. Spoele talks about his work in psychological counseling and the role of faith and religion in the healing process.

5/1/17 DR. KATIE ALANIZ

Online Programs/Education

Dr. Alaniz talks about her book, *Naturalizing Digital Immigrants*, written with co-author and HBU Professor Dr. Dawn Wilson.

5/5/17 LEE STROEBEL and MARK

MITTELBERG, *Christian Thought*

Renowned theologians Lee Stroebel and Mark Mittelberg discuss the Center for Strategic Evangelism. These gentlemen spoke about their backgrounds, books and plans for the future of the center.

5/8/17 DR. DAWN WILSON

College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Dawn Wilson discusses her battle with cancer and her books *Naturalizing Digital Immigrants* and *Digital Media in Today's Classrooms: The Potential for Meaningful Teaching, Learning, and Assessment* written in conjunction with Dr. Katie Alaniz.

5/15 & DR. STEVEN PETERSON and

22/17 DR. JAY SPENCER, *Digital/Online Learning-Pampell Online Division*

They spoke about their experience and success in building one the largest online educational institutions and the opportunity presented by HBU.

5/29/17 DR. N.T. WRIGHT

British New Testament Scholar

N.T. Wright discusses many New Testament topics including the death and resurrection and Jesus.

6/5/17 RITA TAUER

Academic Operations

Rita Tauer shared many of her thoughts on the state of academics at HBU and the bright future ahead.

6/12/17 TIM SMITH

Museum of the Bible

Tim Smith discuss his experiences as a fundraiser and his journey from raising one thousand to one billion dollars and shares some of the upcoming features at The Museum of the Bible and talks about his new book.

6/19/17 DR. ERIC VAN CAEMELBECKE

College of Science and Mathematics

Tim Smith discuss his experiences as a fundraiser and his journey from raising one thousand to one billion dollars and shares some of the upcoming features at The Museum of the Bible and talks about his new book.

6/26/17 JAMES MABLE

Career and Calling

James Mable speaks on how he centralized career resources for all students and alumni of HBU.

SCHEDULED PODCASTS

7/3/17 PHILLIP RENNER

Phillip Renner Ministries

7/10/17 DR. COLIN GARBARINO

School of Humanities

7/17/17 DR. BEN BLACKWELL

School of Christian Thought

7/24/17 DR. JOHN FEA, *Messiah College*

7/31/17 DR. DORIS WARREN

College of Science and Mathematics

8/7/17 DR. LOUIS MARKOS

School of Humanities

8/14/17 JEREMY BURTON

Museum of the Bible

8/21/17 DR. RENAE SCHUMANN

School of Nursing and Allied Health

9/4/17 JOSHUA DUNN, *Student Life*

9/11/17 MICHAEL MCAFEE &

LAUREN MCAFEE

Museum of the Bible

9/18/17 JAMES STEEN

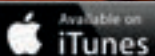
Enrollment Management

9/25/17 DR. JEFFREY GREEN

School of Christian Thought

10/2/17 DR. MICHAEL ROSATO

College of Education and Behavioral Sciences



HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

FOR THE FAMILY RUNNING HOUSTON'S OLDEST CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, THERE'S NO SECRET RECIPE

BY CARA SMITH | CARASMITH@BIZJOURNALS.COM

There's a comforting statistic for people who run a family-owned business – a whopping 88 percent of family business owners believe their family will continue to own the company in the next five years. That's according to the Family Business Institute, a consulting and professional services firm.

That statistic doesn't account for succession, though. Only 30 percent of family-owned businesses survive long enough to be passed onto the second generation. Roughly 12 percent of those businesses survive to the third generation, and just 4 percent will make it into the fourth generation.

In 2018, Tellepsen is poised to become a part of that 4 percent.

The construction company's longtime CEO and chairman, Howard Tellepsen Jr., will pass the reins to his son, Tadd, who currently serves as Tellepsen's president.

"To have four children ... and they all be interested in coming into the family business is unusual," Howard said.

Tadd has three younger brothers: Trent, Tellef and Trevor.

"I'm very proud that it started with my grandfather, and then went on to my father, and then to me and the boys," Howard said.

'Projects that impact peoples' lives'

Tellepsen is an industry outlier in more ways than one. The company, which was founded in Houston in 1909 by Tom Tellepsen, has resolved to not expand outside Harris County and the surrounding counties. In fact, the company's last project outside of Houston wrapped up in 2006.

It's not that Tellepsen hasn't had the opportunity to work outside of Houston. Instead, the family simply decided to keep work at home.



HOWARD TELLEPSEN, JR.

Age: 72

Education: Georgia Tech

Family: Wife, Carolyn; four sons

Hobbies: Spending time with his 10 grandchildren, hunting

Boards and affiliations: St. Luke's Foundation, YMCA of Greater Houston, Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scouts of America

TADD TELLEPSEN

Age: 49

Education: Southern Methodist University, MBA from Houston Baptist University

Family: Wife, Jennifer; three daughters

Hobbies: Outdoor adventures and photography

Boards and affiliations: YMCA of Greater Houston, Houston Baptist University, Associated General Contractors

"It was a risk-management decision and a quality-of-life decision," Tadd said. "We could perform better in our backyard and the family didn't really want to travel."

Tadd talks about how blessed the family has been by Houston; Howard jokes about what would've happened to Tellepsen had Tom founded the company in Detroit.

The company has always remained a Bayou City stalwart. Tellepsen boasts a rich depth of experience in Houston. In 2005, Tellepsen transformed the Compaq Center into Lake-wood Church, which is home to the larg-

est church congregation in the country. Tellepsen built the historic Shamrock Hotel in Houston, which was the largest hotel in the U.S. when it opened in 1949. It also worked on the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Tellepsen has signed on as the contractor for Schlumberger's North American headquarters facility in Sugar Land. The project, which hasn't broken ground, will include a 250,000-square-foot Class A office building and a 100,000-square-foot amenities building at an existing campus.

Overall, the company largely focuses on

HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

construction in the nonprofit, education and health care sectors.

"The nature of our work is we get opportunities to build projects of significance," Tadd said. "These are projects that impact people's lives."

The company has been able to remain sustainable in part because of its diversification. Tellepsen comprises four companies that focus on different services and types of construction: Tellepsen Builders, the general contracting arm; Tellepsen Industrial LLC, which focuses on refinery and industrial work; Building Concrete Solutions, a concrete subcontractor, and a fourth company that focuses on corporate and medical interiors.

Should activity dip for Tellepsen Industrial LLC one year, for example, Building Concrete Solutions might be able to pick up the slack.

"It's very common to see construction companies grow and diversify geographically, in Austin or San Antonio and Oklahoma and Louisiana, but we've chosen a different approach and strategy to (diversification and growth)," Tadd said.

'We need the immigrant workforce'

Countless construction companies across the U.S., including Tellepsen, are facing two interconnected threats. A national skilled labor shortage has the construction industry scrambling to recruit the kind of workers you normally picture on a construction site: helmet-clad laborers swinging hammers and operating machinery.

As of September 2016, roughly 200,000 construction jobs have gone unfilled in the U.S., which is an 81 percent increase over the

past two years, per the National Association of Homebuilders. In August, nearly 80 percent of Houston companies reported having a difficult time filling some hourly trade and craft positions, particularly carpenters and concrete workers, according to an Associated General Contractors of America survey.

Combine that with the overhang of uncertainty regarding the U.S.'s immigration policy, and a precarious situation for construction companies is revealed.

Tadd and Howard don't express support for one immigration policy or another. But whether America's immigrant population impacts the construction industry isn't up for debate.

"We need the immigrant workforce," Tadd said.

As far as combatting the skilled labor shortage, Tellepsen sits on the board of C3 – the Construction Career Collaborative – as well as the Greater Houston Partnership's UpSkill Houston initiative. Part of the job that Upskill Houston and C3 are tasked with is making the industry more attractive to men and women.

'He's always going to be my dad'

As CEO, Tadd will no doubt have his fair share of industry challenges to navigate. There's a lot changing within commercial real estate, after all. Part of the reason Howard decided to retire is his sons' collective ability to effectively lead Millennial employees and adapt to changing workplace needs. Currently, Tellef serves as vice president, Trent serves as president of Building Concrete Solutions, and Trevor serves as general superintendent. The companies that Tellepsen caters to are

innovating the way they use space, and that shift in philosophy will no doubt impact construction companies.

Houston's coming off of a white-hot commercial construction pipeline, too, and local companies are learning to navigate a building environment that isn't inundated with energy work.

"The economy affects our revenue year to year," Howard said. "We've been awarded some large projects in the oil service industry, and with what's happened the past couple of years, they've hit the pause button."

Howard will still be involved in the company, if only tangentially. He'll remain chairman of Tellepsen.

Though the Tellepsen family will continue to lead its namesake company, Howard and Tadd no doubt will have different leadership styles, if only slightly. Howard and Tadd's different communication styles are put on full display during the interview. The amiable Tadd's speech is measured, steady, and he seems to speak every sentence with conscious deliberation. Howard's speech meanders a bit, but it's filled with truisms and lessons he's learned over the years.

"He's very outspoken about how he feels about things," Tadd said of his father.

When asked if there's a question they've wanted to ask one another, Tadd says there isn't anything he thinks they don't already talk about, personally or professionally. Family and business have always been intertwined for the Tellepsens.

"When you're in a parent-child mode, you can get a little bit of friction," Tadd said. "He's 72. I'm 49. I'm an adult – but, he's still my dad. He's always going to be my dad."

TELLEPSSEN THROUGH THE YEARS

1909	1922	1923	1940	1949	1951	1954	1977	1979	1995	2004	2011	2014
Tellepsen is founded by Tom Tellepsen in Houston. Tom emigrated to the U.S. from Norway.	Tellepsen builds the Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park.	Tellepsen constructs the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.	Howard Tellepsen Sr. becomes president of Tellepsen. He is 27 years old.	Tellepsen builds the Shamrock Hotel, a 1,100-room hotel near today's medical center. At the time, the Shamrock Hotel was the biggest hotel in the U.S.	Tellepsen builds the Sakowitz Bros. department store in what's known today as the Uptown/Galleria area.	Tellepsen builds Texas Children's Hospital in the Texas Medical Center.	Howard Tellepsen Jr. becomes president of Tellepsen. He is 33 years old.	Tellepsen builds the Port of Houston Barbour's Cut Terminal.	Howard Tellepsen Jr. becomes CEO of Tellepsen. Tadd Tellepsen becomes president, and his three brothers – Tellef, Trent and Trevor – assume various executive leadership roles.	Tellepsen builds St. Martin's Episcopal Church.	Tellepsen builds the Houston Food Bank's new facility.	Tellepsen builds the University of Houston Student Center.

SOURCE: TELLEPSSEN



DR. PAUL SLOAN-GOSPEL OF MARK

Young Man with a Future

THE PILLARS: Dr. Paul Sloan, the assistant professor of Theology at Houston Baptist University, PhD graduate, St. Andrews, PhD thesis on the Gospel of Mark, a young man with lots of future. And I look at you and I think about all that God has planned for you and I get really excited because it's young men like you that I really believe are the future hope of the church. So how old are you?

PAUL SLOAN: I just turned 30.

THE PILLARS: Unbelievable, 30 and a PhD from St. Andrews. That is hard stuff. I mean, really the Gospel of Mark. So why Mark?

PAUL SLOAN: It presented a lot of fun textual stuff to work on and there was some work I thought yet to be done, particularly Mark 13 so there's just a couple of interpretive issues that remain hotly debated by scholars.

THE PILLARS: Okay so give us a synopsis of that.

PAUL SLOAN: Sure, in Mark 13 it's the discourse often called by a few different things, the *Olivet discourse*, the *eschatological discourse*, but whatever you want to call it, it's when Jesus leaves the temple and predicts the destruction of the temple, and the disciples can't believe it, and they ask, "When is that going to be and what are you talking about? And what will be the sign when all these things are going to happen?" And Jesus proceeds

to give a long answer that includes wars and earthquakes and international disasters and the testing, I think, of the people of God, then this thing called the abomination of desolation and then eventually the coming of the son of man with angels to gather the elect, etc. There's a debate on all of it. You might think that that's straight forward to be interpreted as just Jesus' second coming, but some people don't take it to be a reference to Jesus' second coming. Some take it to be a metaphor for the vindication of all the things that Jesus has said, such that the manifestation of that vindication would be the destruction of the temple itself. So there's a debate as to what is he even referring to when he says, "the son of man will come on clouds." I take it to be a reference to Jesus' return from heaven to earth, but that in itself is one of the debates, so it was just putting that all out on the table and giving all interpretive options.

THE PILLARS: Now tell me about your viva defense. What was that like? Did you sleep a good nine hours the night before?

PAUL SLOAN: I don't know what that says about me, but I was terrified the night before my viva. And you know, obviously, I did it in Scotland so the night before you add in the tension plus the jet lag and, no, I didn't sleep well. But you know what can you do? They're supposed to last between 60 and 90 minutes. Mine lasted three plus hours.

THE PILLARS: I remember one night we talked and you were down

in Central America, and the Lord just seemed to really direct you when you were thinking maybe you might be an actor, or had some interest in the media.

PAUL SLOAN: That's right, at one point I had the ticket in hand to either move to California to try my hand at screenwriting, comedy and acting, etc. or to go and continue in theological education. For whatever reason, I chose obviously to go the theological education route.

THE PILLARS: So you did your masters where?

PAUL SLOAN: I did a masters in theological studies here at HBU and then a master in scripture and theology at St. Andrews before doing the PhD. During my masters I got to take great courses from Scott Hoffmann and N.T. Wright. Then under the PhD of course you work under one guy or one mentor, and the first couple of years it was Professor Grant Macaskill and then under Dr. David Moffett – both really great teachers.

THE PILLARS: The most watched You Tube video on HBU is you and Jerry Walls talking about Calvinism. The other day I said to your father, Dr. Robert Sloan, that you and Paul need to co-author a book on Calvinism because it's so desperately needed today. I do want to say to you that in contemporary Christianity we have a movement that's very strong among certain groups of what I would call five-point or hyper-, whatever prefix you want to put on it, Calvinist.

PAUL SLOAN: You're right, that the label that now gets applied is kind of Calvinism so it's either hyper-Calvinism or neo-Calvinism, but whatever you call it, there is a certain brand of Calvinism out there that accentuates the idea in particular that God has chosen, before the foundation of the world, individuals who would be saved and that election was unconditional. If the person is saying that God chose some individuals before the foundation of the world for salvation it's a purposeful election. It would imply, and some say this, that He also brought people into existence for the purpose of condemning them because their condemnation demonstrates God's just wrath, etc., and would be the theological buttressing as to why He would choose to create people for the sake of condemning them. So that's what is being debated and what is being declared to be the scriptural case by many in the kind of neo-Calvinists or hyper-reformed category. And to be fair again, not all Calvinists think precisely that, but a lot do, and it seems to get a lot of air time with many popular preachers and probably a lot of listeners. They get it from a handful of passages. Probably Romans 9 is a prominent go-to text there. Ephesians 1 probably, some passages in Acts where it seems that the authors are talking about God's sovereign choice, and that human will has absolutely nothing to do with anything about your eternal outcome. And what we talked about in those videos is, in my humble opinion, a misreading of some of those passages. The big one goes in tandem, the fact that Romans 9 is so often the kind of proof text for that idea. It actually is quite a misreading of Romans 9. Romans 9, of course, should be read with the rest of the passages, Romans 9, 10 and 11 and what seems to be driving Paul's logic is the idea that he just is so devastated. He begins Romans 9 with his devastation about the fact that ethnic Israel hasn't believed the gospel, and the gospel is God's faithfulness to

his people Israel, and if it was announced in the Jewish scriptures and if this is Israel's Messiah for Israel and for the world, then how come Israel hasn't believed it? And this is the thing that sets Paul's grief aflame and that's why he opens Romans 9 that way with, "I tell the truth, I'm not lying, I promise I have unending, unceasing grief in my heart because Israel according to flesh hasn't believed the gospel."

THE PILLARS: And the rebuttal of this particular extreme form of Calvinism.

PAUL SLOAN: Yeah, whatever this form is right to emphasize that we have to be immersed in the scriptural text and when we're talking about God and talking about God's purpose for the world, it has to be based on scripture and that's what they are so good

There is a certain brand of Calvinism out there that accentuates the idea in particular that God has chosen before the foundation of the world individuals who would be saved and that election was unconditional.

at. But not all grids of interpretation are the same, and we're all reading scripture, but there can be different grids of interpretation to produce different outcomes. And this hyper-Calvinistic or whatever that label is, that reading tends toward a certain grid of interpretation, which I think tends to read individual salvation as the basic content of every passage. That's probably an overstatement, but the idea is that not every passage is about God's one-on-one goal with you, the reader. Sometimes it has to do with God's purposeful election of Israel in this particular situation for this particular purpose. So I think to maybe zoom out and see what purpose that language of election is serving and to again not to say that they're not interpreting it in context because everyone would claim to interpret in context, but to pay a little more attention to the rhetorical context in which that language occurs because no one is denying that the language of pre-destination and election occurs.

THE PILLARS: What kind of vision do you have for the future? What's on your mind as you continue now at this particular phase? You got a beautiful wife and she's awesome and great family and I'm sure kids will be coming at some point.

PAUL SLOAN: My own goals professionally are to honestly just keep doing exactly what I'm doing, which is teaching, writing when I have the time, writing on a lot of these issues that we talked about, you know, election or Romans 9 to 11 or gospel issues. And I think that's what's on the horizon for now.



HBU.edu/p53-Sloan

HBU'S 20,000TH GRADUATE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

From a marsh-like campus of five buildings and a location considered distant from downtown Houston to a 100-acre campus in the heart of the fourth largest city with state-of-the-art facilities and a nationally renowned reputation, HBU reached a significant milestone during last month's commencement - its 20,000th graduate.

While the first graduating class of 1967 might barely recognize the campus, the mission remains: provide a world-class academic experience with a Christian approach that "instills a passion for academic, spiritual and professional excellence."



Nursing assistant Michelle Mathew may personify that mission. A May graduate, she believes God called her to attend HBU. "I was ecstatic that a school would unapologetically worship God and lift up His name in everything that it did. HBU is a community, and I feel I joined a family that I can depend on for years to come."

Mathew also believes her education was second to none. "I chose HBU for its well-known and rigorous pre-health professions program, which would best prepare me spiritually and academically to become the kind of health professional I seek to be." Mathew plans to continue her education to become a physician's assistant.

RECENT FIRSTS

The evolution of that collegiate experience has resulted in a number of recent firsts. In 2016, HBU introduced its first doctoral program in Executive Educational Leadership, dedicated the Doris and Terry Looper Learning Commons, launched the Houston Theological Seminary, and the women's soccer team won the Southland Conference tournament. Already this year, HBU earned a designation as a Military Friendly School, faculty member Lee Strobel's book *The Case for Christ* was released as a motion picture, and the women's golf team won the Southland Conference championship.

THE EVOLUTION CONTINUES

The school is not planning to rest on its laurels. Dr. Jerry Johnston, vice president for innovation and strategic marketing, says the institution continues to innovate and artistically grow.

That innovation and focus is a key reason for HBU's rise in stature and academic rigor over its half-century existence. The blessing of being in the fourth-largest city in the country - a rarity among Christian institutions of higher learning - allows for unique and noteworthy collaborations. Corporate and community leaders, world-renowned pastors, and civic officials aid HBU in its goal to provide a world-class education in a Christian setting.

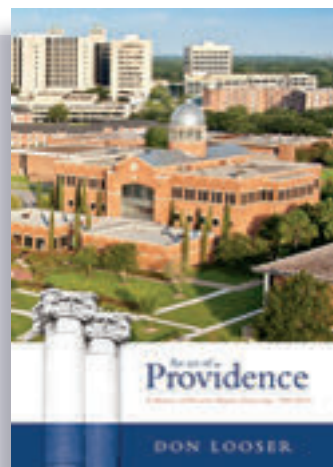
HBU now is dramatically expanding its digital technology learning, which will expand its reach - even globally. The school recruited two individuals to develop the program, Dr. Steve Peterson and Dr. Jay Spencer, who helped build Liberty University's program, which many consider the nation's leading, Christian-based online educational program.

MILESTONE

Dr. Don Looser, who began his tenure at HBU in the mid-1960s, reflected on the milestone. "The great reward for any teacher is to watch one's students soar. I knew the pioneers of that first graduating class. I well remember the 10,000th graduate and how at each commencement ceremony we announced the new cumulative number of graduates. Now, 50 years and 20,000 graduates later HBU today is the fulfillment of a dream the founders were convinced would become reality."

Dr. Looser is author of *An Act of Providence*, the phenomenal story of Houston Baptist University.

The book is for sale and can be found on the HBU website: HBU.edu/50yearsbook or Amazon Books: HBU.edu/buy50yearsbook



THE VISIONARY

97-year-old Dr. Stewart Morris Sr. - Founding Father

Interviewed by Dr. Jerry Johnston

He is 97-years-young, spry, alert, and when the topic of HBU is discussed there are tears in the eyes of Stewart Morris Sr. At the invitation of Dr. Morris, Billy Graham responded to come and presented the Dedication sermon of Houston Baptist College in 1963. Every 12th grade student from the public schools in Houston enjoyed the bus ride to the new campus on this notable, historic day. HBU celebrated its 20,000 graduate in May, 2017!

Stewart Morris Sr. is inimitable and an encyclopedia of both the history of HBU and Houston. As a Founding Father who was instrumental in establishing and supporting the Christian mission of HBU, Dr. Stewart Morris Sr. received the inaugural Founders Medal at the biannual Spirit of Excellence Gala in November 2016. Dr. Morris remains a visionary today, and his continued involvement is visible in every area of the University.

The University expresses our thanks to Dr. Morris. HBU is poised for dramatic, strategic growth, uniquely, in the mega city of Houston where 12 million people live within a 200-mile radius. There is no place in America quite like Houston - the largest philanthropic city of America.

What did Dr. Morris do after our 52-minute filmed interview? On a golf cart, ice cream in hand, he cruised throughout the campus envisioning the growth of HBU in the days to come!



[HBU.edu/p53-Graham](https://www.hbu.edu/p53-Graham)

JERRY JOHNSTON: Fifty years at Houston Baptist University, (Houston Baptist College back then) 20,000 graduates - and today we have the honor to sit with Dr. Stewart Morris, one of HBU's Founding Fathers.

I read the preamble to the by-laws that the early Trustees established, and it says very clearly that Houston Baptist College is a Christian liberal arts college. Its purpose is to offer curriculum of studies and program, of student activities dedicated to the development of moral character, the enrichment of spiritual lives, and the perpetuation of growth in Christian ideas. And as Trustees, you later adopted the confessional statement that Jesus Christ is Lord. How important has Jesus Christ been to Houston Baptist University?

STEWART MORRIS: Well, Mr. Rex Baker, Sr., who was general counsel, wrote up a preamble. And in there he had written that all the Trustees will be Christians. And that's when we added the word 'Jesus Christ.' You gotta believe that. By the way, in the very beginning I made it a point to interview every professor, asking their beliefs. And one said, "Did you want a dissertation?" I said, "No, you got a little statement right there. Do you accept it, or not? Just give me a yes or no. That's all I want to know. I don't want a two-hour discussion." You gotta get something down in black and white where people can understand it. That's the beginning of that.

JERRY JOHNSTON: I want to go back to the dedication ceremony. Billy Graham came. What was that day like?

STEWART MORRIS: Well, it was a big deal to me because I went home to supper one night and learned a good lesson - you better listen to your kids. I sat down to dinner, and I said, "We've got land; we've got the first building up; we've got faculty; we've got staff ... but we can't get students. We can't even get them to come out and look." I said, "How in the world can you get kids to come look?" My daughter, Carlotta, who was in high school, says, "Get them out of school during class hours and they'll show." — after that was arranged, we had 5,000 high school students show up on the campus. That's the origin of getting Billy Graham. I called him and told him what the dream was and he accepted.

JERRY JOHNSTON: We're going to show you that YouTube video that's preserved, of Billy Graham at the campus of Houston Baptist College, in 1963. Take me back to

that service when Billy was here. What was it like for you? What was that service like, when you saw those 5,000 high school kids.

STEWART MORRIS: Well, it was the answer to prayer to me. And it was an exciting time, to say the least. And main thing, all I could do is think of seeing students out of high school, at HBC - Houston Baptist College. But at any rate, it's been everything to me. That was the fruition of the beginning.

JERRY JOHNSTON: As I read through the book by Dr. Looser, *An Act of Providence*. It's the story of Houston Baptist University (see pg. 24). It is a phenomenal, gripping story. And all throughout it is the name of Stewart Morris, Sr., who along with his family, has been such a catalyst to the growth of HBU. You know, many universities have lost their Christian premise. HBU has not, it compassionately accepts students from all backgrounds, without changing any of its core beliefs. What does that mean to you?

STEWART MORRIS: I've traveled a lot. I went all across the United States, even attending Harvard for a little while. I went to all of these schools and all of them seemed to have been started off by some church group. And now they're the furthest thing from it. They lost the direction. And to me, that's why I was such a nut on the subject of establishing what you can be to serve students. You've got to be a Christian. You've got to be a Bible-believing, a Christ-accepted person, or you're not qualified to be on the payroll.

JERRY JOHNSTON: I must say that when I think about HBU, it's a unique Christian university in that there's a lot of firepower behind it - Stewart Morris, Sr.; Bob McNair, owner of the Texans; Archie Dunham. I mean the names that just are replete throughout this campus, that have built buildings, or they have sponsored all kinds of different programs. There's no Christian university in America that has that kind of backing. So reflect on those men for me.

STEWART MORRIS: Well, the reflection I would say - there are going to be a lot more names on those buildings. My three children all attended, and now I have grandchildren. And thanks to the Lord - doors are opening. And I even say he shoved us through - and assuredly HBU will continue to blossom and produce leaders. You know, it doesn't take a whole lot of salt to make a good meal, but it sure is a miserable meal if there ain't no salt.

JERRY JOHNSTON: And we might also reflect on Dr. Sloan's leadership to have a task

force assembled that started over - nearly two years ago - to take HBU digital, to allow us to replicate the courses online. They are creating what will be hundreds and hundreds of courses from HBU, where students will be not just in Texas, not just in the 50 states - but Dr. Morris, in short order this University will be educating people all over the world, through the technology of the internet.

STEWART MORRIS: HBU is going to be a driving force, even more than it is today, because of the online.

JERRY JOHNSTON: And you, Dr. Morris, are watching the 20,000th graduate in a 50-year history. It's got to be a special moment for you.

STEWART MORRIS: I know it is - I believe the Lord still controls the world. And I just stand on the side. But it is exciting to me, of what could be - and things can happen.

JERRY JOHNSTON: Dr. Morris, you have vision, and you have faith, and Dr. Sloan has so beautifully articulated the position of a comprehensive Christian university. Those 10 pillars out there - we've got to say a word about that before we close. Your father caused those pillars to be preserved from Galveston's horrific hurricane, the worst natural disaster of all time. Can you summarize the story?

STEWART MORRIS: When they tore down the Galveston courthouse - the only thing left was 16 columns. My father ran during the 1900 storm, when 6,000 people died. So we transported 10 of them here, symbolic of the lasting Word of God, the Bible.

JERRY JOHNSTON: And Dr. Robert Sloan collected colleagues, and put together a vision statement of Houston Baptist University - "The Ten Pillars Vision." John 14:6 is inscribed in the seal: Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me.'

Dr. Stewart Morris- along with your wife, Joella, who's now in Heaven - have had such an incredible impact on Houston Baptist University. And we are well aware that this University is poised for unprecedented growth - both residentially, and now through the expanded online, where we will take HBU to every student throughout America's 50 states, and internationally. Only God knows what's going to happen in the next five years, 10 years, at HBU.

STEWART MORRIS: Hundred years!



by **DR. LOUIS MARKOS**
School of Humanities



When I arrived at Houston Baptist University in August of 1991, I was a 27 year-old Yankee from New Jersey who had spent the last five years of his life in the cold climes of Ann Arbor, Michigan. As I applied to universities across the country, I left myself open to God's leading. However, I did inform God that, though I was prepared to move to wherever he wanted me, I was quite sure that he would not send me down South, that he would not ask me to live in a big city, and that he would surely direct me toward a secular school. In the end, he led me to a Christian school in a big southern city!

Well, he is God, and he does know best, and the last 26 years have been truly marvelous. The Lord has planted something in Houston that has born and will continue to bear much fruit. As a professor here, I have had the privilege of using all the gifts the Lord has given me to minister to students from all over the world. The media loves to present our country as one riven with racial, ethnic, religious, and class tensions. I only wish these naysayers and fear mongers could spend a week on our campus; if they did, and if they were willing to see it, they would behold a spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect that is wonderfully contagious.

We stand firmly on the bedrock of our founding verse: that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one comes to the father but through him (John 14:6). And it is precisely because of that firmness, rather than in spite of it, that we can reach out our arms to students from all different cultures and faith traditions. We know who we are, and we are thus empowered to share who we are with others. We do not fear the writings of non-Christians but teach them freely and boldly, because we have a touchstone (Christ and the Bible) against which to measure all things. The academic freedom I have found at

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By SHARON SAUNDERS
Advancement & University Relations

In 1994, following a 31-year University career where he served in a number of roles, Dr. Mayfield retired as Vice President for Planned Giving. Today the walls of the Brown Administrative Complex bear numerous plaques recognizing generous donors who have invested in the lives of so many students, past and current, thanks to the diligence of Dr. Mayfield.

In 2016, the Endowed Scholarship program, a legacy of Dr. Mayfield's leadership, can proudly claim:

- 275 Endowed Scholarship Recipients
- 153 Endowed Scholarship families
- Approximately \$1,524,568 awarded to students from Endowed Scholarships.

When I count my blessings, I am thankful for Houston Baptist University ... for the students, the faculty, staff, alumni, The Guild, American Museum Society and so many other friends I have met during my journey on this very special campus. Through our time together, we all share in the enterprise of "a higher education." At HBU, we have the privilege of changing lives – and in the process of impacting the lives of others – special relationships are formed. My prayer is that we will be salt and light in the world and that we will impact our HBU community in an exceptional way.

First impressions are lasting impressions! There have been phenomenal colleagues on this campus who have invested in me; and through our shared relationships we have experienced the fun, the privilege, and truly the joy of working together. One colleague, in particular, who made a significant impact on my life was Dr. Ray Mayfield, Jr. As a friend and mentor he will always have a special place in my heart!

Dr. Mayfield was a university athlete, a scholar and a World War II veteran who served as a pastor to Baptist churches across our state and community. He responded to a calling when he served as a Founding Trustee for the new Baptist college founded in the early 1960s. Houston Baptist College soon became home to Dr. Mayfield and his wife Nita when he joined the staff in 1963. Dr. Mayfield was a Christian leader who recognized what it meant to give back to others ... a hero for our faith and the shepherd for our highly acclaimed Endowed Scholarship Program.

In recognition of Dr. Mayfield's contributions to the University, in 1997 HBU named its most prestigious staff award in his honor. The Mayfield Staff Award is presented annually to staff who demonstrate excellence and Christian service in their work. To date, 44 staff members from various campus-wide areas proudly wear the title of Mayfield Award Recipient. But for those of us who knew Dr. Mayfield, it means so much more. It is hard to describe the intangibles that make someone special, but I have felt the desire to go above and beyond in my work because of his quiet inspiration.

There are many special relationships that have made an indelible impression on my HBU memories ... George Hine, Linda Shook '83, Vivian Camacho Winslow '91 ... and so many others that a list would do an injustice to many colleagues who are lifetime friends. And, I have had the honor of serving during the leadership of all three presidents of this amazing University. Today, through The Ten Pillars and the visionary leadership of President Robert Sloan, HBU has far exceeded our dreams.

The future of our University offers amazing opportunities, and every day is a new day! As we respond to our calling at HBU, we stand taller because of the mentors who have invested in our lives. May we always treasure our history!

THE MAYFIELD AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING STAFF MEMBER

Each year, this award (one male and one female) will recognize outstanding job performance, service to the University, and service to the community. Recipients of this award are:

2016-2017

Carl Harris Jr. &
Rita Tauer '85

2015-2016

Michael Dei &
Sarah Holland

2014-2015

Jeffery Richie &
Kristy Wright

2013-2014

Steve Moniaci &
Candace Desrosiers '94

2012-2013

Damen Britt &
Colette Cross

2011-2012

David Moss &
Sandra Mooney

2010-2011

Reginald Coleman &
Jennifer Delsanter '16

2009-2010

Clay Porter &
Patricia Evans

2008-2009

Isaac Simpson &
Debora Burnett '06

2007-2008

Bill Sisk &
Frances Curtis

2006-2007

Eduardo Borges '12 MLA
& Ann Noble

2005-2006

Roger Willhite &
Elaine Higginbotham

2004-2005

Dr. Don Byrnes &
Linda Clark '87

2003-2004

Dr. Don Looser &
Mary Ellen Spore

2002-2003

Charles Miller &
Mary Purcell

2001-2002

Hugh McClung &
Cynthia Young

2000-2001

David Melton &
Maydene Wells

1999-2000

Anthony Martin &
Loree Watson '80

1998-1999

Dick Parker &
Judy Ferguson '67

1997-1998

Jack Purcell &
Sharon Saunders

1996-1997

Saleim Kahleh '84
& Barbara Owens

1995-1996

Ken Rogers &
Dr. Lou Shields

MARKOS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

HBU far surpasses that which I would have encountered at a secular school, whether it was located in the North or the South, in a big city or a small town.

These strengths were already evident in HBU when I arrived in 1991, and yet, over the last quarter century, I have seen changes and developments that have transformed us into a university poised to fulfill the high calling of our Ten Pillars Vision. Here are some of the most exciting changes that I have witnessed during my years on the faculty:

- Although HBU has always been a Christian school staffed by Christian faculty, we have increasingly integrated faith and learning so that no area of our curriculum is untouched by the historical reality of the Incarnation and Resurrection. We are not just Christians on Sunday or in our Christianity classes; the Christian worldview permeates all areas of campus and curricular life.
- Even as we have increased the reach and ubiquity of the Judeo-Christian worldview, we have committed ourselves anew and with greater vigor to teaching the Greco-Roman classics. We are truly a place where Athens and Jerusalem meet and embrace.
- The percentage of our students that live on campus has increased several fold, transforming HBU into a vibrant center of dialogue where the Great Conversation begun in our classrooms spills out into our dorms, our sports fields, our

commons, our library, and our cafeteria. As believers in the Incarnation, our school has become intentionally incarnational in the education it provides.

- We have grown from an undergraduate college into a comprehensive university with the ability to extend the Christian worldview into the realm of graduate studies, thus allowing us to impact our culture in a fuller way. While we used to be one of Houston's best kept secrets, our reputation in the sciences, in education and business, in philosophy and apologetics, and in music and the arts has expanded and is making significant waves that are being felt across the country.
- With the help of football and other innovations, we have greatly increased our alumni base and our networking: a feat which, beyond the practical benefits it has brought us, has allowed us to brand ourselves as a community that spans half a century.

These and many other exciting changes I have witnessed first hand, filling me with the hope and the promise that our best days are truly ahead of us. As Houston becomes the paradigm for what American cities will look like over the coming decades, so I believe that HBU is fast-becoming a model of what a Christian university dedicated to our classical-Christian legacy and to the confession that Jesus is Lord can accomplish. I look forward with anticipation to what the next twenty-six years will bring to me and the school I so love.



BY CLAY PORTER
Innovation and Strategic Marketing

In 1962, I was with my mother in her 1956 black and white Chevrolet Bel Air station wagon (with three on the tree) on our way to check out Houston's newest and first air conditioned mall, Sharpstown Center. We left Robindell neighborhood and traveled down Beechnut, passing the A&P grocery store, McMahon Drugs, Wackers Five and Dime, and the Washateria. We were about half way to the mall when we passed a construction site. My mother pointed to a sign and said, "Look, they are getting ready to open a Baptist College soon, maybe you'll go there." The unenthusiastic reply from me, a grumpy six year old, "I'm never leaving home."

I first stepped foot on campus via bicycle in 1969 to play basketball in Sharp Gym with my neighborhood friends. I would later return via auto in 1974 for high school basketball practice with the Sharpstown Apollos. Our court had some issues and our coach was the brother of HBU Basketball coach Lonnie Richards, who with his white pants, white dress shoes and a dab of Brylcreem, let us practice there. He also invited our team to come out and watch some games.

The events were well attended by the students, and we saw some really good basketball games and players. Our favorite was Robert "Babyface" Page, who later went on to play for the Harlem Globetrotters.

In Sharp, there was a stage on one end of the gym that was about six feet away from the court. During Husky basketball games, you couldn't help but notice a man sitting in a

wingback chair on the very edge of the stage who seemed to use his proximity to the court to give the referees a hard time. I found out he was the president of the school, Dr. William H. Hinton.

I returned to campus in April of 1985 and interviewed with Dr. Joan DeRooy and Dr. Gerda Smith for a position with Advancement/Professional Development. My good friend Isaac Simpson had called me earlier in the week to inform me of an opening he thought I might be interested in. I was hired and he and I would work together for the next 29 years.

During that time we were broadcasting an MBA degree and I worked with some outstanding faculty members from the College of Business. Rusty Brooks, George Flowers, Robert Bush and Darlene and Tony Serrato were a few of the great people I met.

Robert Beauchamp, currently chairman of the board of directors of BMC Software, was one of our MBA students via television. Our sons played baseball together in Sugar Land. BMC Software would later donate a broadcast switcher to the TV Studio – an amazing gift for the students and the program.

As an adjunct professor in Mass Communications, I had the opportunity to work with some very creative students with great personalities. I always enjoyed my time spent working with them, even and after a phone call and a long conversation with the FBI asking about "suspicious characters claiming to be my students" recording in streets of Rice Village. I

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By **RITA TAUER**
Academic Operations

My first academic experience at HBU began in 1983 when I enrolled in the Master of Accountancy degree program. After an early career in merchandising and the birth of my first son, Tommy, I was only three years into my new role as a stay-at-home mom when I took my father up on a challenge. I wanted to return to school for a graduate degree but our budget was not giving me the OK. My dad, knowing me better than I knew myself, told me if I would study accounting, he would pay the tuition. Broke and hungry for the challenge, I began my studies at HBU. Only after looking back did I realize HBU was the only school I considered. I believed I wanted a possible future career in accounting and I knew I wanted education with a solid, ethical infusion. I chose HBU. I made certain assumptions about the HBU education I was about to receive with absolutely no basis, however my assumptions proved true. I believe God's hand was definitely guiding me and I would learn the whys later. While in my program I encountered the very best, most caring faculty I had known since my elementary education. My success in

the program was important to my faculty but that success meant I would become an ethical, knowledgeable accountant who was non-wavering in my faith. I learned accounting was a good deal more than debits and credits and a good deal more than serving the shareholder. My faculty taught me "the books" and the story those books better tell. HBU faculty were also

instrumental in my placement in a public accounting firm after graduation as well as preparing me to sit for the CPA exam. My passing the exam was a tribute to my faculty (and some tutoring from my dad). It should be noted when I graduated with my Master of Accountancy in 1985, my graduation brought the number of HBU graduates to 3,860.

I believe the two most important things in our lives are our faith and our family; in that order. After the birth of my second son, Charley, I decided the

pace of public accounting was too intrusive on my family, and I once again returned to the wonderful role of a stay-at-home mom. After just one year in this role, HBU stepped back into my life. I was invited to teach Intermediate Accounting; the one course that gave me the most grief in my own degree plan.

I feel so very fortunate to have had many "careers" here at HBU and each in its own, has allowed me the ability to continue to grow in my career and in my faith.

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still keep up with those graduates through the HBU Alumni Association and Facebook.

In 2011, thanks to Dr. Sloan, Steve Moniachi and others, we were welcomed back into the NCAA. Truly exciting. The possibility of football on campus began to float around the rumor mill. I was certainly in favor of it and would fuel the fire whenever possible. One day I received a call from Sharon Saunders with a request to stop by her office. Our departments had continuously crossed paths over the decades so this was not unusual. I stopped by her office and she said, "Dr. Sloan would like to speak with you." That was unusual. He and Mrs. Sloan always stopped and spoke on campus, but I had never been called into his office. As we crossed the doorway, Dr. Sloan was standing and tossed something to me. I caught it and saw it was a little plastic souvenir football with "HBU" printed on it. I looked up and said, "Really?" he was smiling and said, "That's right!"

Now to hear Sharon Saunders tell the story, I needed a Kleenex to wipe away the tears...I don't exactly recall that...but it was truly a very special moment for me, and more importantly, a big step for the University.

Over the 4.5 dog years I've been with HBU, I have had the opportunity to meet some really wonderful people. The interesting thing is, you could pull faculty, staff and students from any decade and plug them into another and not see a change in caring and commitment – a very special family.

If you have not had the opportunity to read our 12 year vision statement, "Ten Pillars: Faith & Reason in a Great City" check it out at HBU.edu/TenPillars.

Pillar Six is very special to me: "Renew our Campus, Renew our Community." Our campus is truly the icon of Southwest Houston. The Hinton Center, The Joella and Stewart Morris Cultural Arts Center, The Sadie and Doug Hodo Residence College, the University Academic Center, Husky Stadium, The Belin Tower, and currently, thanks to Dr. Sloan, Sandy Mooney and her team, The Pillars shopping development are all beautiful structures that stand out and signify economic growth. Our campus and its architecture is spurring the razing and rebuilding of nearby homes built in the 50s. It is exciting to see the advancement and redevelopment for our students and for the surrounding community in an area that will always be my home.

TAUER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

Although terrified at the thought of walking into a classroom, I was honored to be invited and knew I had already witnessed what the responsibilities of an HBU faculty included; I hoped I would be able to live up to what I had enjoyed first-hand. The College of Business and Economics was very supportive of my desire to be at home with my children while affording me the opportunity to have a career in academia. My schedule was flexible and my children and husband Thomas enjoyed many activities on the HBU campus over the years.

My teaching was modeled after the experience I had as a student at HBU. As faculty, I was totally comfortable modeling my faith in the classroom right alongside, and smack dab in the middle of, teaching accounting practice. I selfishly found myself wishing those students pursuing their Accounting education elsewhere would one day encounter my HBU students in workplace and realize what they had missed. I remained as a faculty member until June 2014 and during that time I was honored to assume various additional responsibilities which provided me exposure to graduate students, and afforded me leadership opportunities. I served as director of MBA Programs, associate dean for Graduate Programs and interim dean of the College of Business and Economics; those were some of my most memorable experiences. I thoroughly enjoyed the responsibility, and the relationships I built with the College faculty have become lifelong friendships.

I feel so very fortunate to have had many "careers" here at HBU and each in its own, has allowed me the ability to continue to grow in my career and in my faith. I have been fortunate to

serve in positions where I have the opportunity to influence the lives of students as well as faculty, and I pray I have had a positive influence on their lives and their faith.

In 2009, I had the privilege of working with our HBU Athletics leadership to prepare the certification report for NCAA Division-I membership. This was my first introduction to compliance and it served as yet another example of HBU always seeking what is best for our students. The return to NCAA Division I status has brought HBU athletics the exposure it so deserves.

For a brief interlude beginning June 2008, for 18 months, I had the special treat of launching and serving as the dean of a brand new College of Continuing Studies. This was genuinely a lot of fun. The first class offered was Dancing with OUR Stars and was attended by President and Mrs. Sloan, several Board of Trustee members, faculty and HBU friends. This was yet another example of the HBU family being so supportive of everything "HBU."

I began serving in my current role as associate provost for Academic Operations in June 2010. Prominent in my duties is serving as the SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison where one of the most rewarding responsibilities is the annual preparation of the assessment of the beautifully articulated Ten Pillars Vision. Each of the last eight years we have accomplished major milestones of the Vision.

I am about to begin my 30th year here at HBU, and this spring I had the privilege of seeing my son, Charley, teach his first course at HBU. The Tauer legacy lives on! God bless him!



By DR. DANIEL KRAMLICH
School of Fine Arts

Making a listing of memories and impressions is quite a broad-reaching task. I will limit things by selecting brief impressions in three areas: people, events and the campus.

Coming to the HBU campus for an interview in the summer of 1981 was one of the most important and memorable events in my life. (Many thanks to Dr. Ann Gebuhr!) I met many people on that day whose personalities made quite a first impression:

Dr. Robert Linder—strong sense of energy, expertise and candor.

Dr. Ed Tapscott—great warmth, clear Christian faith.

Dr. Robert Reid—wonderful openness and immediate friendship.

President William Hinton—During my interview, I felt an unusual awareness of a strong personality, a simultaneous gentle “gruffness” along with great kindness. He was not intimidating, but it was clear who was in charge. Afterward, I was left feeling honored that HBU would place faith in my abilities and personhood by hiring me.

In the following early years, I would meet many people who earned my respect and admiration. Among them: Dr. E.D. Hodo, Dr. Don Looser, Dr. Jim Taylor, Dr. John Alexander, Eloise Zapalac (who was succeeded by Anthony Martin in the bookstore) Dr. Jim Massey, Dr. Ruth DeHart, and many other wonderful people. Clearly, it has been a long line of excellent colleagues and students (past and present) who make HBU an institution of excellence. It has been a wonderful thing to serve as music professor for 35 years with such outstanding colleagues in my area, past and present.

Perhaps my most memorable events would be hurricanes. As a transplanted northerner, I had no experience with these storms. Hurricane Alicia in 1983 was a rude awakening. Allison (TS), Rita, and Katrina all caused major problems to the Gulf coast. Ike,

however, caused extensive damage to campus and necessitated the moving of the entire School of Music into both Atwood I and every nook and cranny of the Morris Cultural Arts Center. My office was a converted dressing room, and it stayed that way for several years until we were able to move back into the Brown building.

One significant area to me concerns the transformation of the HBU campus. It has been a treat to watch as, one after another, new buildings and facilities are added to our beautiful campus. I watched as Atwood II was constructed. I recall playing intramural flag football on the field surrounded by a running track which no longer exists. I remember Dr. Hodo promising to build the MCAC before he would retire, a promise which he kept. I recall President Sloan addressing the faculty shortly after his arrival about what needed to happen: “We need a new art building!” Shortly after that, the UAC was built.

The most important thing to mention here, however, is the students. My professional life at HBU is most fulfilling and meaningful when I meet graduates and former students who are now out working in the professional world, making a living with the skills and knowledge they gained here. I remember meeting a young student named Saleim Kahleh at intramural bowling and remain friends to this day. I remember a student named Dorothy Smith who worked so hard to get her degree; I almost burst with pride when she walked at commencement. Recently, I had a most enjoyable experience in my ongoing capacity as music director at Mission Bend UMC. We did a choral concert with a brass/percussion ensemble. I was able to assemble an all-HBU group of musicians, including graduates and students ranging from the 1980s to the present. It was quite a thrill. I have been blessed in my life to be able to do what I set as a goal for myself at the age of 15: to teach music in college. It is truly the students that make it all worthwhile.



HIGHER ED IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Few can argue that the digital arena has transformed our culture. Sites like Amazon and eBay have forced traditional retailers to adapt to the new digital age or close; Netflix and Smart TVs have led to a declining number of cable television subscribers; and many view a landline as redundant to a mobile phone.

Higher education is no different in its need to meet the demands of the 21st century individual. In 2014, entrepreneurial HBU President Dr. Robert B. Sloan, spearheaded an initiative to significantly expand HBU's online program and make it comparable in quality to its on-campus offerings. Thanks to several generous donors, \$7.5 million was raised to duplicate its more than 1,000 "residential" courses over the next decade

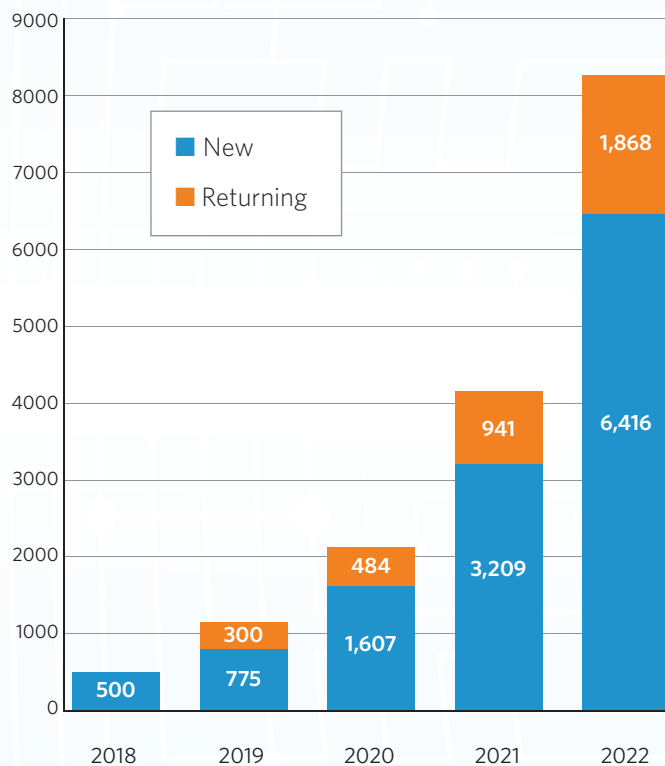
and significantly expand our reach to students, enhancing HBU's educational enrollment. HBU's online programs are expected to increase the number of students by 10,000 in less than 10 years.

Titled the Pinky Pampell Online Division, the program is named for a donor whose commitment to Jesus Christ inspired a \$5 million donation that makes the expansion possible. "HBU is investing heavily to take our world-class, Christian-based, university education and offer it outside the 152 acres of the campus in Houston," said Dr. Jerry Johnston, vice president of innovation and strategic marketing. "In five years, we hope to be among the world's finest online, Christian-based universities."

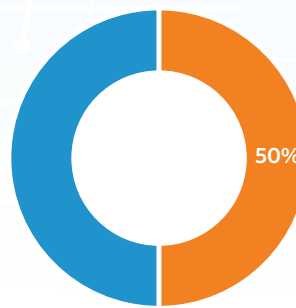
HBU PAMPELL ONLINE DIVISION 5-YEAR ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Fiscal Year	Total Headcount	NEW	Returning	Graduates	Inactives	New %	Returning %
2018	500	500	0	0	-	100%	0%
2019	1,075	775	300	108	500	72.1%	27.9%
2020	2,091	1,607	484	209	968	76.9%	23.1%
2021	4,150	3,209	941	415	1,882	77.3%	22.7%
2022	8,283	6,416	1,868	828	3,375	77.5%	22.5%

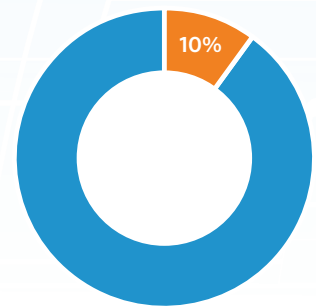
5-YEAR ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS



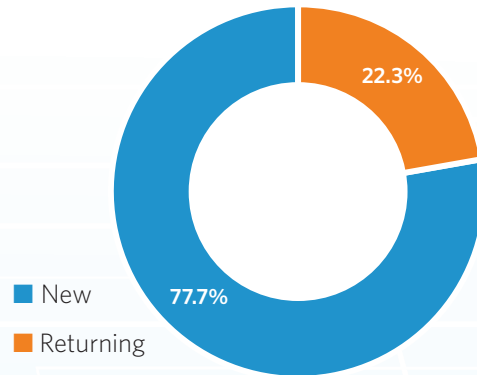
RETENTION TARGET



GRADUATION PROJECTION



5-YEAR STUDENT CLASSIFICATION



The vision does not stop there – future plans are being developed now for HBU online programs to be offered internationally.

Dr. Sloan's foresight about a cutting-edge online program is critical for HBU. Many experts believe, higher ed – as with other industries – must change or become obsolete in as little as two decades. In a January *Wall Street Journal* column, David Gelernter asserted that online education can provide a robust learning environment. (See Page 6)

As a computer science professor at Yale University, Gelernter emphasized that an online "course grows better and deeper each time someone ventures through it." Sophisticated software,

digital guides and online mentors, he asserted, can favorably alter the way a student can navigate a course. And when a student completes a class, Gelernter said it becomes a "valuable digital object," which the individual can later reference.

HBU Professor Sara Frear believes online courses can enhance a student's critical thinking. "I believe the greatest benefit is the opportunity for in-depth exploration of course content via online discussions. With the written format and in the absence of time constraints, students have the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the events they have studied and to exchange ideas with the instructor and with fellow students."



EXCELLENCE IN ITS FORMATION

HBU's online expansion plans began in October 2014 with a task force that worked 14 months gathering data from hundreds of people about the characteristics of quality online education and how the University's academics are perceived nationally. University leaders were exhilarated to hear that HBU is perceived as superior in its faculty, courses and approach to Christian education.

The task force's second charge: develop a business plan for a significant online expansion. HBU was blessed to receive recommendations from the nation's leading online educators. President Sloan led the group and the mutual conviction was the 12,000,000 people within a two hundred mile radius of Houston, the 2.7 million residents of Houston, in addition to the nation, provided HBU with a distinct advantage in digital higher education.

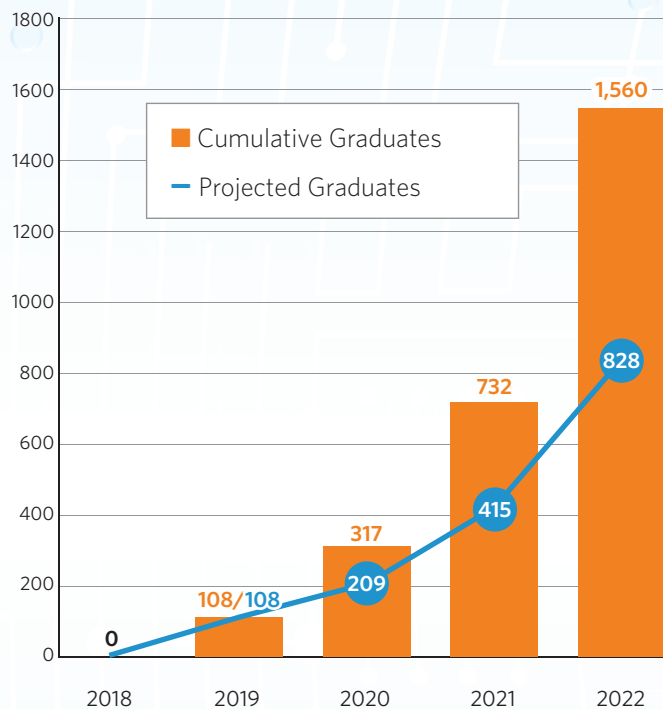
Dr. Steve Peterson led Liberty University's online expansion program, which grew to nearly 100,000 students. His colleague, Dr. Jay Spencer, developed a K-12 online program with more than 5,000 students in the U.S. and 25 countries. After meeting Dr. Sloan and other HBU leaders, the two men decided to join the HBU staff with one aim: create a world-class digital campus. "Dr. Sloan has great energy, spirit and commitment to quality, higher education," Peterson explained. "We also enjoyed interacting with the student body. There is a palpable campus spirit."

Now at HBU, Peterson's role as vice president for online/digital learning includes ensuring that the courses are packages that can be delivered effectively in an online format. As associate vice president for online/digital learning, Spencer is focused on connecting the online areas to those in residence, which also ensures continued University accreditation.

"HBU is the benchmark for a Christian-based, university education around the world. We will create online programs in the same approach as its on-campus counterpart – a university which cares about each student personally and academically."

–Jay Spencer, DMin

5-YEAR GRADUATE PROJECTIONS



PINKY PAMPELL PROGRAM PLANS

Action began in earnest after the team completed a comprehensive inventory of the University's programs and services as well as a competitive analysis. It became clear that developing a strong digital/online infrastructure is critical to program success.

The program will roll out its curricula, entitled "specialty centers," over time; its first include HBU's most distinctive and comprehensive programs in Apologetics, Law and Liberty, and Strategic Innovation. Other centers that follow that will be built around the scholarship of distinguished faculty. This fall, HBU will expand to 22 online programs and aims to increase its online student enrollment by 500 students its first year.

Meet HBU's Online Innovators

When HBU President Dr. Robert B. Sloan convened a task force to study and develop an online program of international influence, one of the group's firm convictions was to find experienced, successful Christian veterans to oversee the launch of the digital initiative once all the funds were raised. Enter: Dr. Steve Peterson and Dr. Jay Spencer.

Peterson and Spencer have a combined total of nearly 50 years experience in higher education, respected nationwide for their innovative approach in distance learning and online education. They grew an online program at Liberty University into one of the largest in the country with nearly 100,000 students.

The meeting with the task force was fortuitous and, clearly, the two embraced Dr. Sloan's vision. In February, Peterson and Spencer joined HBU in newly created roles as vice president and associate vice president for online/digital learning, respectively. Here's more about these innovators.



Jay Spencer, DMin

Pampell Online Division

Associate Vice President for Digital/
Online Operations

Dr. Jay Spencer is a strong proponent that the debate is settled that an online education offers comparable value to a bricks and mortar education. He asserts that the 21st century online model must be an option. "If we do not adapt to our students the way they wish to be communicated to, we are failing them."

Spencer provides much expertise in his new role – having spent 30 years in higher education leadership, 20 at Liberty University. He understands the importance of effective strategic planning, curriculum management and development, and emerging technologies that can support a digital/online learning institution. He also has served as a consultant for several nonprofit organizations and universities.

A father of four and grandfather "Poppy" to eight, Spencer has been married nearly 40 years to Freda, a neonatal nurse and an online adjunct instructor. He actively serves his church and community and enjoys time with his family, playing golf and reading.

Meet HBU's Online Innovators



Steve Peterson, EdD

Pampel Online Division

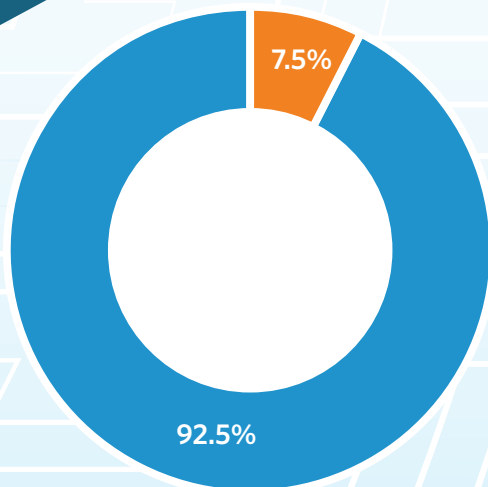
Vice President for Online/Digital Learning

A native of the Philadelphia area, Dr. Steve Peterson was raised in a single-parent home with six siblings. As a youngster, his mom emphasized education as a key that unlocks future opportunity. His pastor suggested attending a university with strong academics as well as scripture and theology. Peterson chose Liberty University.

He married his wife, Faith, during college, and they worked while pursuing bachelor's degrees. Several years later, he experienced online education firsthand, earning an MBA and a doctorate in educational leadership while working and raising five children. "Online education serves a market that, otherwise, couldn't attend a university."

Peterson worked for his alma mater for 22 years, serving in financial aid, followed by the chancellor's office, and internal marketing. In 2010, he was tasked with running a large admissions division for Liberty's growing online program.

Aside from his family, Peterson enjoys playing golf and volunteering in his church and community.

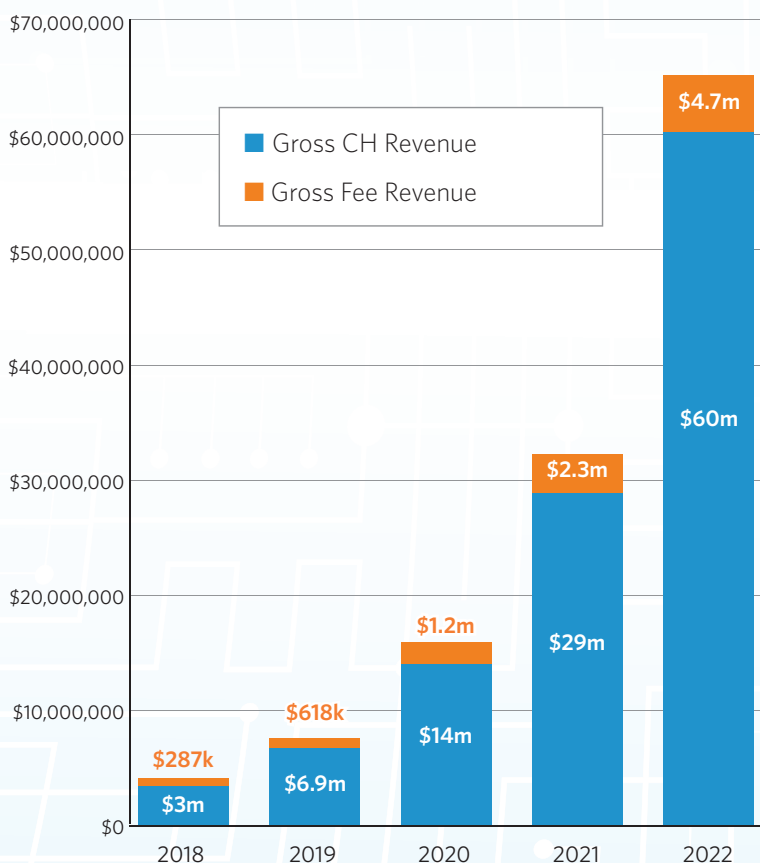


COLLEGE IN THE CLOUD CONT. FROM

5-YEAR GRO

	Total Students	New Students	Returning Students	New CH
2018	500	500	0	6,450
2019	1,075	775	300	9,998
2020	2,091	1,607	484	20,734
2021	4,150	3,209	941	41,397
2022	8,283	6,416	1,868	82,760
TOTAL	16,099	12,507	3,592	161,338

GROSS REVENUE BY SOURCE



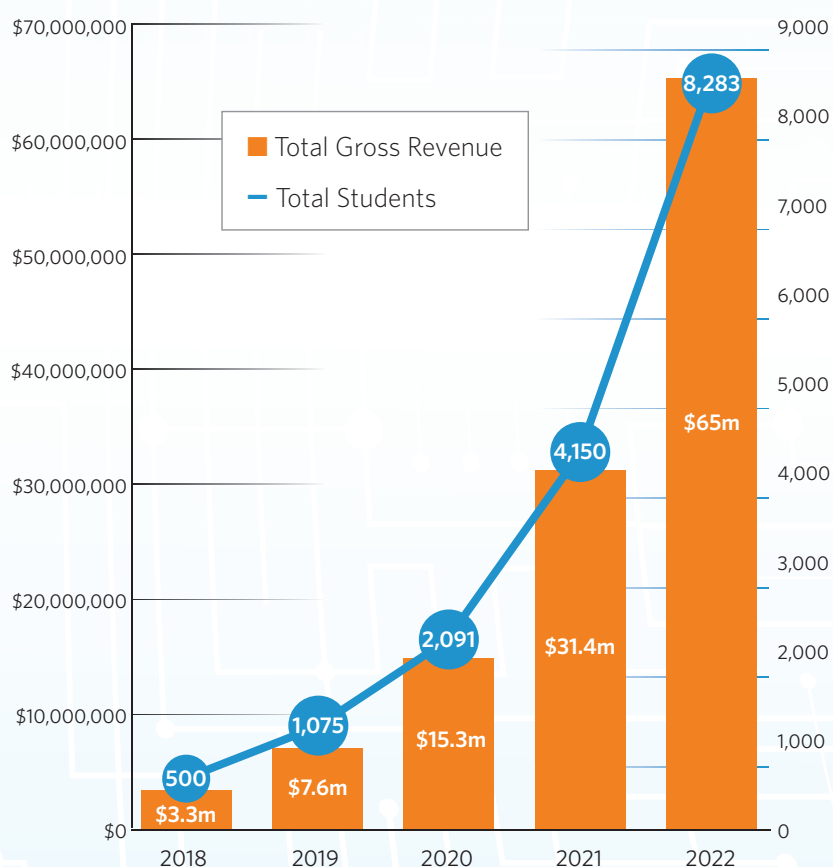
5-YEAR REVENUE BY SOURCE

■ CH Revenue %
■ Fee Revenue %

SS REVENUE & HEADCOUNT PROJECTIONS

Returning CH	Total CH Sold	Gross Smart #*	Gross CH Revenue	Gross Fee Revenue	Total Gross Revenue	CH Revenue	Fee Revenue %	\$/Student
0	6,450	\$473	\$3,050,850	\$287,500	\$3,338,350	91.4%	8.6%	\$6.677
4,200	14,198	\$492	\$6,984,034	\$618,125	\$7,602,159	91.9%	8.1%	\$7,072
6,773	27,506	\$512	\$14,071,994	\$1,202,325	\$15,274,319	92.1%	7.9%	\$7,305
13,173	54,570	\$532	\$29,034,575	\$2,386,250	\$31,420,825	92.4%	7.6%	\$7,571
26,145	108,905	\$553	\$60,261,803	\$4,762,725	\$65,024,528	92.7%	7.3%	\$7,850
50,291	211,629		\$113,403,256	\$9,256,925	\$122,660,181	92.5%	7.5%	\$6,619

5-YEAR PROJECTIONS



ANTICIPATED BLESSINGS

Accomplishing a mission to become the world's leading Christian online university rests on God's providence and, of course, inspiring individuals to embrace the effort. Positioned in Houston – one of the great cities – and with exceptional faculty, students, alumni, and supporters, HBU expects to succeed in this goal. Its leaders are aiming to raise an additional \$5 million to strategically digitally market the University's online offerings to the next level.

President Sloan's faith in the University's future is strong. "While we reflect on HBU's unique history with the deepest gratitude, we look forward and invite others to find their place in our quest to change the world one life at a time."



For more about getting involved in the online program mission, go to: HBUonline.com

Phone: 855-HBU-1960

Email: onlineadmissions@HBU.edu



INSPIRED LEADERSHIP GUIDES HBU...

Steve Peterson, EdD

"Online learning is not the next big thing, it is the NOW big thing," said author Donna J. Abernathy about higher education nearly 20 years ago. Thanks to the vision and guidance of HBU President Dr. Robert B. Sloan, HBU now is poised to become a leader in a world-class, Christian-based, online university education.

After three years research and planning, HBU hired the best online education developers in the field, Dr. Steve Peterson and Dr. Jay Spencer; the two joined HBU in February. The Pillars spoke to them to discuss the new HBU Pinky Pampell Online Division.

You spent 20 years building a leading online program at the nation's largest Christian university. What was attractive to you about building a program at HBU?

STEVE: Over the years, we've visited with many university presidents and provosts who are intrigued with online and digital learning and they want to move in that direction, but they don't know how. When we met with Dr. Sloan and the Executive Council, we could tell HBU had made the culture shift necessary to take a world-class education and expand it outside its campus through digital means. So, we were excited to join the HBU team.

JAY: HBU has a solid, academic reputation that we can build on. And the strong fundraising indicated the support within the HBU constituency to expand the online program.

Why is the expansion of online learning opportunities critical?

STEVE: HBU has a rich history and tradition. For more than 50 years, we have offered a quality education in a faith-based environment. Online education is no longer a separate track of the educational experience but a complementary one.

JAY: There are people throughout the country - perhaps the world - that would love to participate in a program on campus. For many with careers, families and other responsibilities, it's just not feasible. HBU Online offers them a quality education with world-class faculty and programs that will enrich their life and allow them to fit school into their schedule.

How do you respond to critics who question the quality of online education?

STEVE: I believe the debate has been settled whether



...INTO THE NEXT FRONTIER

Jay Spencer, DMin

online education is the same quality as a traditional bricks and mortar education. Distance education, in fact, has been taking place for hundreds of years in the U.S. What the internet has allowed us to do is simply change the delivery format. Universities must meet strict accreditation standards. So, an online program must be comparable to a residential curriculum. And you must prove it using metrics about the outcomes of our students in professional and academic progress.

JAY: The strength and quality of faculty and HBU's unique program specialties already exist in our online course offerings. We'll strive to make it more robust and tailored for each student.

Describe the challenges of building a program like this.

STEVE: Jay and I joke about being the old guys in Christian higher education, a fancy way of saying we have figured out all the ways to fail. You can't just jump into a new project with both feet: you must test and modify and then retest until you have a sound plan for moving forward. And, of course, you must also have faith.

JAY: We live in a society that is used to instant responses, especially online. So, adult learners expect a quick response to their questions, grading, etc., especially when taking courses online. Most institutions of higher education don't

move quickly enough to satisfy these expectations. HBU's culture already seeks first to meet its students' needs, and this is critical.

Will online learning, one day, replace the bricks and mortar higher education experience?

STEVE: I don't think so. A residential campus provides an environment for a traditional student, especially 18-22 year olds, that is more than about the classroom. Between on-campus activities, academic and career counseling, a convocation with world-renowned speakers, and Division I athletic teams, there is a maturation process that takes place on campus that can be vital to the development of young people. Of course, these same students may take online courses to accelerate their degree completion. The two go hand in hand.

JAY: To the contrary, the online program can help expand the mission and vision of HBU throughout Houston and beyond. We expect increased resident enrollment as the online program begins to expose many more prospective students to the quality of an HBU education.



HBU.edu/p53-Cloud

THE TRENDSETTER DAWN WILSON

Interviewed by The Pillars Magazine



THE PILLARS: Today we have the joy to speak with Dr. Dawn Wilson, MEd '99, professor of Education at Houston Baptist University and a real trendsetter. I mean Dawn, when I think about these two books that you were the catalyst to put together and with your wonderful colleague Dr. Katie Alaniz, *Digital Media in Today's Classroom*, one of the text books; the potential for meaningful teaching, learning and assessment. And then book number two, *Naturalizing Digital Immigrants, the Power of Collegial Coaching for Technology Integration*; this is the very cutting edge of what's happening today.

DAWN WILSON: It really is.

THE PILLARS: And you went and met Katie who is now serving with you when she was a teacher in a school and challenged her to do the MEd.

DAWN WILSON: Yes, teaching second grade.

THE PILLARS: And you did all of this while you were fighting the cancer battle.

DAWN WILSON: Well yes, I have had cancer now for about almost three years and I have been fortunate to have colleagues around me that have supported me and the University who has supported me, pray for me all of the time.

THE PILLARS: Let me tell you, it gives all the more significance to what you have done in the midst of such a challenge. So we will definitely keep praying for you to be cancer free. In the middle of it you've come up with these two books and you don't miss one class. How did you do it? Give me the genesis of inspiration for the creation of these two text books.

DAWN WILSON: Well in my *Masters Degree with Instructional Technology* that we offer here on campus, and online actually, one of the classes asks the students to work with teachers on their campus to integrate technology. I designed that course like an internship. We realized that look, I'm 55 so I'm an immigrant really, a digital immigrant — I don't speak the language, but I have adapted to it. Teachers don't make that transition easily and they need someone to stand beside them and help them integrate

technology. First of all, it's a scary thing. If you're not already using it, the technology can be a very scary thing - to stand in the front of a bunch of kids and then have something go wrong. They don't want to do that and lose face.

THE PILLARS: Or they almost challenge you with their own digital skills.

my class — she decided we should write a book about this. And we did. We worked together on it pretty consistently.

THE PILLARS: And that had to inspire you because you went to her school and challenged her to get in the program. And then you see this student just take off and go.

You are paying for an education, and the payoff is you're also creating things that, when used in class, tend to make you a star. People see it and then they share. They're so proud of what they're doing, it really makes you a leader on your campus.

DAWN WILSON: Right, well yes, the young ones do for sure, but they need help learning how to teach. Because they don't have the years of teaching. So it really matches people with technology experience and those with good pedagogical skills together and has them work as a team. They did things they never thought they would be able to do because they had support. We began to see — in their papers they wrote and in their reflections, in the one-on-one correspondence, and meeting with three teachers during the semester — that it just made a difference for the HBU students and the classroom teacher. So that's what the first book was.

THE PILLARS: So which book came first?

DAWN WILSON: I think *Digital Immigrant* came first. Dr. Katie Alaniz wrote the proposal for that book and then met with me and did the coaching one-on-one and the students wrote about it. When I met with Dr. Alaniz — she had already experienced being a student and remembers when she had to do that for

DAWN WILSON: She is a star student, I mean hands down, everyone who worked with her, even at the University of Houston, they were so impressed with her getting her doctorate. I wasn't surprised, you know. So the great thing that we did was to steal her back. They would have taken her in a heartbeat. But she really wanted to work at a Christian university. So that was our pull. It was a great experience for us to write this and to be able to share with people what we had seen first-hand in the classroom.

Both of us had experienced it — student, teacher, coach, all of that. We've had several school districts change their design model because of this. They realized how important it is, not just to have an Ed-Tech on campus, because they can't possibly reach everybody, but to put people in smaller groups and get a one-on-one contact. That book has really made a difference. So we're pleased.

THE PILLARS: Oh what an inspiring story Dawn. Book two comes and I see Joshua Sikora, who I have such a respect for on

Continued on page 44

there with you all, *Digital Media in Today's Classroom* and this is a weighty book. I mean I didn't realize it was this size. How did this come about?

DAWN WILSON: It has a little QR codes around so you can scan and see videos online so you don't have to imagine what it is, but you can really see.

THE PILLARS: Very cutting edge. So there are QR codes throughout the book that obviously allow that teaching to segue to video content. Is this going to be the future?

DAWN WILSON: Well I think so. And the power that we try to encourage here is geared for teachers to use the technology in the classroom to teach. It is much better if the teacher can design instruction for the student by creating multi-media projects or digital-media projects that demonstrate what they've learned. That has them hooked. They are the producers and they love that. So it makes all the difference. Both Dr. Alaniz and I really made a shift in our own classroom. We're not big into testing, but we assess a lot.

THE PILLARS: Right. Now these QR codes, I notice that on one page there's four QR codes to four different examples of cool tools for schools, cool apps for schools, *Kathy Schrock's Guide to Online Tools*, *Kathy Schrock's Guide to Bloomin' Apps*. I mean four QR codes, you know, so of course every kid today, every student, now they get this.

DAWN WILSON: Yes, they don't just read about it, but they get to see it.

THE PILLARS: Exactly. Rowman & Littlefield, published this in 2017 so it just came out. And then you were speaking in February at the Southwest Educational Research Conference in San Antonio. Tell us about that.

DAWN WILSON: Well I believe the first one we did was along the lines of our *Naturalizing Digital Immigrant and Coaching teachers* and the conference really wants to have research-based articles presented. And so we work hard. It's a little bit harder now to collect data because you've got to find schools that will work with you. You have to do all kinds of things that will let you collect some data off of their students, right? But we managed to do that with the teachers with our *Digital Immigrant* so it is research-based. We produce some of those articles for publication for that conference. And we're working on a couple of things trying to collect the data to be able to continue to do that.

THE PILLARS: Is this in the area of the MEd or is it Cinema New Media Arts or is it both?

DAWN WILSON: No, it's in the MEd. I ran into Josh Sikora a couple of years ago at HBU and so before we began writing this I talked to Dr. Alaniz about including Josh — he's a new media person, and we thought he could really help us be more cutting edge initially. Things that he sees that are not in the classroom yet we thought he could write that in with us and we'd take care of the pedagogy part. We worked well together. We did it all online of course; it was a great way to have someone from outside our area look at what we've written and think about it. We offer two degrees here on campus, the MEd and Course of Admin Instruction and the MEd in Educational Technology, with Master Technology Teacher Certification if they want it. So there's just the curriculum and instruction degree. That one seems to be very popular and it is also online. It has 18 hours of core course work to give the C&I, Curriculum and Instruction background. And it offers 18 hours of electives. Often students will hop around so they'll do a few more technology courses but also they might take English as a second language course, or maybe a bilingual course — there's all kinds of Special Ed kind of courses so they can mix and match to fill their own gaps. Some of those people in that degree plan are teachers and some are not. They have other aspirations. So it doesn't really matter what your aspirations are, this will really make you current and those are teaching and learning skills.

THE PILLARS: I think too it gives the teacher a distinction.

DAWN WILSON: It really does.

THE PILLARS: So before we wrap up I just want to ask you to, you know, education here at HBU is one of the growth engines and the graduate area of education is a growth engine. So what you are doing is indisputably working so give a plug to those prospective students and others who may be not just in the Houston area in Texas, but across the country either online or residential, they could come and become a part.

DAWN WILSON: Well what I hear from students all the time is that they love the rapport they're able to build with faculty online. And they love working with their classmates so a lot of assignments are product-based so you don't just create something or you don't just take a test. No, you can be creating something that you can use in three months. So you are paying for an education, and the payoff is you're also creating things that, when used in class, tend to make you a star. People see it and then they share. They're so proud of what they're doing, it really makes you a leader on your campus. That's what we're trying to do, build leaders in today's public schools and private schools. So I believe we do that very well here.

THE PILLARS: It's been a delight and we again express just a great deal of enthusiasm about the two text books, *New Digital Media in Today's Classroom* and *Naturalizing Digital Immigrants, the Power of Collegial Coaching for Technology Integration* by you and your associate Dr. Alaniz. Thank you so much for being with us.

HBU.edu/p53-Wilson



HBU.edu/p53-Alaniz



*Dr. Robert Sloan
and Jan Duncan*



Silver Tea Honoring Sue Sloan

In recognition of her tenth anniversary as HBU's First Lady, Sue Sloan was honored at The Guild's Silver Tea held in April at the home of Jan Duncan. This year's event not only set a new attendance record, but also a new record in raising more than \$136,000 for The Guild's mission. To date, The Guild has contributed more than \$1.8 million to HBU for graduate scholarships in the College of Education and the School of Christian Thought, special projects and The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies.



*Co-chair Kandy Brittain, Guild President
Ruth Alford, Co-Chair Judy Craig*



*Mary Ann Belin and Silver Tea
Honoree, First Lady Sue Sloan*

HBU MOVES TO THE NEXT LEVEL

HBU has received notification from SACSCOC that our request to Move to the Next Level – with the launching of HBU’s first doctoral program, the EdD in Executive Educational Leadership – was approved by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees on June 15, 2017. With this formal approval from SACSCOC, HBU is now recognized as a national, comprehensive university. We anticipate that additional doctoral degrees will be developed in the next few years.

Houston Baptist University submitted the application for the Move to the Next Level on July 2, 2015, and was approved on January 19, 2016, to launch the program in the fall of 2016. In the spring of 2017, the University hosted a SACSCOC Substantive Change Committee to review continued compliance with the Principles of Accreditation. The visiting review team then prepared a report, which was reviewed by the Compliance and Reports Committee (C&R) and presented to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees.

Although this effort obviously involved the entire campus, numerous faculty and staff were directly responsible for the preparation of the application and involved in the on-site visitation. A special thank you goes to Ritamarie Tauer, our SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison, for her outstanding leadership throughout the process. We also want to thank Dr. Teresa McIntyre, Dr. Dianne Reed, and the faculty and staff in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences; Dr. Cynthia Simpson, Dr. Michael Rosato, John Holmes, Lisa Covington, Todd Cockrell, and Victoria Means; Dr. Jeff Green and the Graduate Admissions staff; Dean Riley and the library staff; James Mable; Al DesHotel and Christina Garza; Bennie Gilbert and the Aramark staff; and Gary Dyke and Larry Blakley. We are truly grateful for the dedication and hard work of everyone involved!

This landmark decision represents a major step forward in our ongoing work to fulfill Pillar Ten of our strategic vision.



HBU BLESSED BY GOD'S PRESENCE

by Dr. Robert B. Sloan

The story of the Bible tells us that the presence of the Lord God in the midst of His people is the greatest of blessings. The presence of the Lord in the Garden with Adam and Eve, the presence of the Lord with the children of Israel (even after they sinned in the golden calf incident, Exodus 32-33), the presence of the Lord with them in the wilderness, in the tabernacle in the wilderness as they journeyed and wandered toward the Promised Land, and the presence of the Lord with them in the temple of Solomon—these were the greatest of blessings.

It is a blessing that was especially felt once they lost it. Because they rebelled against the Lord, His presence was taken away from them. The visions of Ezekiel regarding the Lord's departure in the chariot/throne that left not only the city but also the temple highlight the need of God's people for His presence and blessing (see especially Ezekiel 10-11).

The prophets declared that one day, after the punishment of the Exile, the Lord God, YAHWEH, according to the sacred name, would suddenly return to His temple (Malachi 3:1).

In the New Testament, Jesus re-interprets the temple prophecies and predicts the destruction of Herod's temple, declaring that in His own body and presence God has, in fulfillment of the ancient prophecies, suddenly come to His temple. **"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up again,"** said Jesus regarding the temple of His body (John 2:19-22). He transformed the place and character of the temple by referring it to Himself. And with that transformation comes not a lessening of the temple presence of the Lord, but an intensification of it. It is the presence of Christ that we need in our midst.

HBU has been blessed by the presence of the Lord "in His temple": that is, in our service, work, and worship, we have enjoyed the hand of God and the presence of Christ in our midst. As David prayed in 1 Chronicles 29:10-12, all of the greatness and power and glory in all of heaven and earth belong to the Lord. He rules over all and in His hand is power and might. And it lies within His hand **"to make great and to strengthen everyone"** (1 Chronicles 29:12).

We have been blessed at HBU. We were founded in 1960, began our first classes in 1963, graduated our first student 50

years ago in 1967, and in our commencement ceremonies of May 2017, graduated our 20,000th graduate.

Programs have been started, degrees granted, buildings built, and lives transformed. And there's still much to do, because the work is never finished. Even though David himself wanted to build the temple, all he could do was plan for it and provide for it, and it was up to Solomon to build it.

By analogy, all of us are continuously in the place of BOTH David and Solomon. We plan for the future, we experience the blessings of standing on the shoulders of those who've gone before us, and, like David, we hand things off to others, who will be like Solomon to us, to accomplish greater things than we have done. And, like Solomon to the Davids who have gone before us, we have much to do.

So all of us have to be part of both the planning and the implementation. And the opening verses of 1 Chronicles 29 tell us that the people gave generously to support the plans for the implementation of the vision.

The Lord God has been with us all of our 57 years at HBU. It is now up to all of us to give to HBU, our school, to see not just success for our University, but to experience for the sake of others and for the sake of the kingdom of God the blessings of the presence of God on this great institution.

Would you be a part of the generous, sacrificial giving that can make this great University what it was created to be? The kind of university that Billy Graham prayed for when he was

on our campus in October of 1963? One dedicated to the cause of Christ, the kind of university that is—unusually so now in the United States—committed BOTH to academic excellence and to moral and spiritual integrity? There are not many institutions like ours, and I truly believe God's blessing is on all of those who support a university like this.

Thank you for your prayers for HBU. Thank you for recommending students to this great University, a university that can transform their lives by the grace of God. And thank you for every gift, small and great, that can be part of the kingdom of God working through higher education to do the work of Christ in the world.





INNOVATIVE GEN 1 PROGRAM CELEBRATES FIRST GRADUATES

Driven by the need to support first-generation students, HBU created a mentor program in 2014. Over the course of four years what started out small has now become a full program of academic, social, spiritual and community support.

“As a First Generation college student coming from a small town, I didn’t really think I would have the opportunity to attend a small private college in a big city like Houston. The opportunity was huge! I obviously didn’t know all the details about college, but the Gen 1 staff were the first people there for me,” explained Victoria Simms ’17, who earned her BS in Nursing. “They introduced me to a mentor, helped me get acquainted with the University, and connected me with other organizations. Gen 1 is like a small family within the campus.”

The Department of Student Success was thrilled to congratulate the first graduating class of participants in HBU’s First-Generation Success Program (Gen 1). This Senior Celebration in May recognized students and their families who changed family histories by prioritizing a college education. At the dinner staff, alumni, and students shared their unforgettable experiences and memories of the Gen 1 Success program. Students fondly remembered early-college fears and doubts and proudly recognized the Husky community that walked with them all the way to the graduation stage.

Gen 1 assists in creating a college experience that includes attending cultural events, serving the community together, and receiving support and inspiration through individual mentoring. While honoring the graduates, President Robert B. Sloan acknowledged the work and dedication evident in the students and their families who set the pace for future family members. Dr. David Hao, dean of student success, and Mon’Sher Spencer ’08, director of student involvement and leadership programs, talked about HBU’s commitment to equip under-represented minority students with essential resources and skills during their undergraduate career. They recognized that partnerships and collaboration across campus made a positive impact on these students’ lives. Simms and her family enjoyed the Christ-centered celebration, and said that anything Gen 1 did to help her as a student also helped her parents not have to worry about her.

First-Year Success Coach and Co-Coordinator of the Gen 1 program Bethany Mayott loved the warmth and pride that emanated from the families. She noted, “Our students were able to persist and graduate, and it feels good to see the fruit of four years. We started from nothing, and with the hard work and dedication of students and the supportive HBU community, we have a lot to celebrate.”



“Gen 1 events connected me with campus administrators who had confidence in me, plus I was able to know other Gen 1 students around campus,” said Simms. “I received so much from Gen 1 that I felt like I had a lot to offer and served as a mentor too.”



ACADEMY

by Dr. JOSHUA FARRIS
Assistant Professor of Theology
Director, The Academy

HBU's Academy exists to offer Great Books courses for dual credit (i.e., high school and college credit), which is flexible for homeschool families and partner schools. Through the program, our HBU faculty strive to make our courses characteristically Christian by engaging with the Great Texts of the Western World with charity for the author and for one another. We interact with the Great Texts from a place of Christian knowledge on the authority of the Christian Scriptures, so that all students might confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Over the last year or so, we have experienced some significant, albeit, positive changes. With the hire of Dr. Tyler D. McNabb (PhD, University of Glasgow), we are developing an internationally recognized faculty in the Academy. We have grown as a team to offer first-rate training in the Great Books with experts in philosophy, theology, history and English. In our curriculum, we engage the Great Texts from both a generalist and specialist perspective, demonstrated in the classroom with lectures on the book's context and specialized lectures in philosophy, apologetics and theology, in addition to public lectures.

Over the last year, HBU's Academy sponsored five public lectures on a variety of topics from John Milton - the afterlife,

the art of reading and discussion and the nature of the University. We also offer a hands-on art course and summer art camps. Finally, general population University courses are now available to upper-level Academy students.

There are other noteworthy events this year from the Academy faculty. Thanks to the help of Kristen Burnette and with significant help from MLA student Margaret A. Garde, we had a successful and lively production of the play *Pygmalion*.

Spanning over the time period of summer of 2016 to early 2017, Dr. McNabb has participated in two debates/discussion with the well known atheist philosopher, Stephen Law. The first debate can be heard on *Unbelievable* with Justin Brierley. Finally, Dr. Farris has presented at several conferences throughout the year and published in several venues.

With a view to next year, we expect to continue the growth of HBU's Academy in two ways. First, we intend to strengthen our relationship with other departments and programs at HBU. Presently, we work closely with the Honors College, the Department of History, and the Department of English and Modern Languages. We look forward to maintaining those relationships and building new ones across the campus. We also intend to extend the training offered to other groups in the Houston area.

THE CENTER FOR LAW & LIBERTY

HBU Initiative to Teach Civic Education Receives Major Support

Houston Baptist University's Center for Law and Liberty received a \$600,000 grant from the Charles Koch foundation and Sherry Smith and Jim R. Smith to greatly expand its programmatic offerings. The Center is dedicated to promoting the principles of liberty, limited government, the rule of law, and free markets. With this gift, it will be able to offer more programs to our students, the HBU community, and the public.

"I am excited to partner with the Charles Koch Foundation and Houston Baptist University in its expansion of the Center for Law and Liberty," said Jim Smith, longtime friend and Advisory Trustee. "The principles of liberty and free markets are the most powerful concepts mankind has ever embraced to eliminate poverty, enhance prosperity, and enable the pursuit of happiness. We're proud to support this effort to educate the next generation about free market principles and the values associated with our nation's founding."

The gift will allow the Center to build on curriculum initiatives that were started in 2013 under the leadership of Dr. Chris Hammons, professor of government and director of the Center for Law and Liberty. Faculty affiliated with the Center engage HBU students and Houston-area educators in a conversation about how best to improve the human condition. Three primary questions are explored: What is the purpose of government? What is liberty? How do we improve the human condition? The Center offers extracurricular activities such as a reading group focusing on classical texts and current issues, workshops for teachers exploring great ideas and events in Western Civilization,

and an interdisciplinary campus lecture series that explores the human condition from the perspectives of literature, art, history, philosophy and other disciplines. The Center also works closely with the University's Legal Studies and Government programs and with HBU's award-winning Mock Trial team.

"We are excited to be able to build on our efforts to promote constitutionalism, the principles of the American republic,

and the values that stood at the core of the American founding," said Dr. Robert Sloan, President of Houston Baptist University. "We are thankful for the support of Sherry and Jim Smith and the Charles Koch Foundation, which will help the center achieve its vision to transform lives through education."

As part of the grant, the Center for Law and Liberty will induct its initial class of Smith Scholars - named after economist and political philosopher Adam Smith - in the fall of 2017. A group of 10 students will each be paired with a faculty member who will help the student with a year-long research project on a topic of mutual interest. The student will present a final

paper during a University-wide scholarship symposium at the end of the year.

"The grant will allow us to reach more students and bring them into this important conversation about the principles of liberty, limited government, the rule of law, and free markets," said Dr. Hammons. "I'm excited that this will create a really unique educational opportunity for students from a variety of backgrounds who can take what they learn here at HBU back to their homes and communities. Our goal is not just to educate, but also to transform lives."



Sherry Smith and Jim R. Smith

2016-17 HBU ATHLETICS HONORS

VARSITY ATHLETE ACADEMIC AWARD

Cecilia Bauer
Softball

Bryan Brody
Men's Soccer

Guillaume Chalancon
Men's Golf

Demi Janak
Softball

Amanda Johnson
Women's Basketball

Charlotte Vancura
Women's Soccer

ROBBIE ROBERTSON MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Reveal Chukwujekwu
Men's Basketball

Garrett Dolan
Football

JAN EDDS FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Allison Abendschein
Women's Soccer

Lexi Brooks
Women's Golf

FRANCIS CURTIS & MILDRED BOONE SPIRIT AWARD

Cody Ward

GALDINO LUCERO SERVICE AWARD

Gabe Byrd



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2017 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sept. 2	at Texas State	San Marcos, Texas	TBA
Sept. 7 (Thu.)	at Texas Southern	Houston (BBVA Compass Stadium)	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	*at Abilene Christian	Abilene, Texas	6 p.m.
Sept. 23	*at McNeese	Lake Charles, Louisiana	TBA
OCT. 7	*CENTRAL ARKANSAS (FAMILY WEEKEND)	HUSKY STADIUM	6 P.M.
OCT. 14	*SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	HUSKY STADIUM	6 P.M.
Oct. 21	*at Stephen F. Austin	Nacogdoches, Texas	3 p.m.
OCT. 28	*NORTHWESTERN STATE (HOMECOMING)	HUSKY STADIUM	6 P.M.
Nov. 4	*at Nicholls	Thibodaux, Louisiana	TBA
NOV. 11	*LAMAR (SENIOR DAY/MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY)	HUSKY STADIUM	2 P.M.
Nov. 18	*at Sam Houston State	Huntsville, Texas	TBA

*Southland Conference game. All Times Central and subject to change. Home game in BLUE CAPS.

WOMEN'S GOLF – SOUTHLAND CHAMPIONS

The HBU women's golf team captured its first Southland Conference Championship on April 19 at Woodforest Golf Club in Montgomery, Texas, and earned the league's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Regionals.

The Huskies, who took a nine-stroke lead into the final round, had to hold off a hard charge from Central Arkansas, to clinch the title by a single stroke.

"The emotions were pretty special, coming into a new conference it's been a little more of a challenge," head coach David Shuster said. "Coming down the stretch, no lead is good enough in this conference, because we have such good depth in the league. I wanted to make sure that once I saw the score posted, that I could feel the jubilation and my stomach almost come up into my throat. It was a such a fantastic tournament, the girls have worked so hard, Assistant Coach Jordan Jeffers has worked so hard, the time the kids and the coaching staff has put into it is enormous and to see it pay off with a Southland Conference championship means a lot."

Sophomore Lexi Brooks won the individual title as well, posting a tournament record 54-hole score of 3-under par 210 for a six-stroke victory. Freshman Alisa Chong, who was tied with

Brooks for the lead heading into the final round, finished third, while sophomore Kaity Cummings tied for 11th. Senior Charlotte Hartshorn tied for 31st and freshman Caylee Senn tied for 33rd.

"There's not really any other way to say it, but that it feels incredible," Brooks said. "It feels more incredible that my whole team gets to go to regionals and I'm so thankful for them, thankful we got to be here and have all of these wonderful opportunities and that we have a chance to advance even further. When you give it up to God, this is what happens."

HBU won its fifth women's golf championship since returning to Division I in 2008, capturing four-straight Great West Conference titles from 2010-13, but will be making its first-ever NCAA appearance, since those championships did not come with an automatic qualifier.

Brooks was selected to the Southland All-Conference First Team, while Cummings earned second-team honors. Each of them made the all-conference team for the second-straight year. Shuster was voted the league's Coach of the Year.

The Huskies competed at the NCAA Regional May 8-10 at the University of New Mexico South Championship Course in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Lexi Brooks

FRESHMAN TRIO REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

HBU freshmen Quillan Haughton, Samara Hodges and Iyanu Adeyeye are all high jumpers on the Husky track & field team. Competing in their first-ever collegiate track & field season, all three find their names on the program records lists.

All three entered the 2017 track & field season with lofty goals. In fact, when asked about their goals at the start of their freshman year, they all mentioned personal goals which, despite having their names on the indoor and outdoor high jump records, they have not yet attained.

Hodges, a Houston native, is tied for the record in indoor and holds the record outright in outdoor competition. She's tied with former Husky Ashley Johnson, who set the records in 2009, with an indoor mark of 1.65m/5-5 that she reached in January at the University of Houston Invitational. In outdoor, her record-breaking leap of 1.69m/5-6.59 came at the Southland Conference Outdoor Championships in May.

Looking forward to the rest of her collegiate career, Hodges' expectations are simple, with the freshman adding, "I want to set new records and just keep improving each year."

Haughton, who hails from Sugar Land, got started with his record-setting in indoor at his first collegiate meet, the 2017 Aggie Invitational. His height of 2.04m/6-8.25 was a new mark for the program. He bettered that height twice during the indoor season, saving his best for last. Haughton found himself on the podium at the 2017 Southland Indoor Championships with a program-best 2.10m/6-10.75.

In the second meet of the outdoor season, Haughton cleared a height of 2.03m/6-8 at the Victor Lopez Classic to pair with Hodges in notching record heights at the same meet. One month later, at the J. Fred Duckett Twilight meet at Rice, it was Adeyeye's turn to match the men's record mark of 2.03m/6-8.

The three enjoy a friendly rivalry, pushing one another to new heights. As Adeyeye put it, "We want to keep setting new records, getting better, encouraging each other and showing that HBU is a school to pay attention to."

Haughton added, "We're trying to make some noise for HBU. As a team, we have a young group and if we keep working hard and developing, and if we keep pushing each other, the sky's the limit."

HBU re-started its track & field program in 2008 with the announcement of the school's transition back to the NCAA Division I ranks after fielding a men's team in the 1970s and 1980s. The current program records include all outdoor competition since the program was re-started. The all-time school record belongs to Ricky Thompson, who cleared a height of 2.30m/7-6.5 in 1983. That same year, Thompson became the NCAA champion in the high jump at the NCAA Championships, held in Houston at Robertson Stadium.



Quillan Haughton



Samara Hodges



Iyanu Adeyeye



AERIEL HORTON

Horton partnered for the second-straight year with senior Jessica Wooten as the Huskies' No. 1 duo. They compiled an 18-8 record competing in the top spot and are planning on playing in some tournaments this summer, so they don't lose what they've built when Wooten returns to indoor in the fall.

"We've grown a lot, our dialogue has gotten more mature as we grown," Horton said. "We've grown as a unit and as teammates quite a bit in one year and I'm excited to see next year's development. We've talked about it and our strategy is developing as we get older, so I think the future is promising."

Two years ago, being on the top tandem of an up-and-coming beach volleyball program might have been the furthest thing from Horton's mind. She was committed to play indoor as a libero for UT Rio Grande Valley, but a coaching change threw her future up in the air.

"I really didn't play much beach before I came to HBU," Horton

said. "When things fell through, Associate Head Coach Cameron Sitler gave me a call and said he had a beach position. Since I was still wondering where I am going to go to school, I agreed to do it. I'm excited to see where I develop as a player and I loved re-learning the sport. This year, I learned a lot more and I think the next few years I'll have really good insight into the game."

"She's a great ball-control player to begin with," Sitler said. "She played on this undersized team – there was three of them – they had a big middle, a setter and her and they would win all the time. They didn't look like they belonged, but they would win. She's got the instinct for winning and she's got the ball control."

"I knew she was going to be great at whatever sport she played. She was a phenomenal soccer player, too – the kid has found ways to excel at every sport she's played and her skill set allowed her to be a quick transition into an elite beach player."

Sitler has also taken notice of how Horton balances her personal life with her sport.

“Coming from a big family puts a different strain than maybe another kid would have coming into college, so her finding ways to get things done on the court and in the classroom, also finding ways to work a job here or there, is the most impressive part,” Sitler said. “At no point does she ever complain about it. She wants to win at everything she does, the work she puts in away from the game and with her family.

“Her family is really invested in her, too. I can’t tell you how many times she had no idea they were coming and here comes the support system – all seven of them, plus her parents – sitting there watching her play. She lights up, because she didn’t expect it, and she values it.”



The classic 1980s sitcom *Eight is Enough* had nothing on Aerial Horton, a sophomore on HBU beach volleyball team, and her family. Horton is the second-oldest of the eight children by her parents, Darrell and Amanda.

She has four sisters – Chasity (22), Lael (10), Kyleigh (9) and Adelaide (1) – and three brothers – Thaddeus (14), Xavier (12) and Ezekiel (3). During her freshman year, Horton would often travel back home to Waxahachie to see her family and help out, but has tried to cut back as her school commitments have grown.

“When I grew up and was in high school, I would babysit them, jump on the trampoline with them and they would think that was the greatest thing ever,” Horton said. “They’re getting older now, it’s kind of sad that I’m in college and my younger siblings don’t really understand where I am. They Facetime me everyday, which is cool, and they come to my tournaments as often as they can. I miss them and can’t wait to see them in the summer.”

Horton says her parents handle the family really well. They were strict for the most part, which they had to be with eight children, but she says they were also lenient on some things.

“They put up with a lot of screaming and fighting, obviously,

but there are some good times that come with that,” Horton said. “Dinner time is awesome, as we’re all sitting around the table, and they’ll make us all laugh. They’re very strong and can put up with a lot – they put up with me, so that says a lot.”

Over the past year, Horton has seen her close-knit clan grow even closer as her youngest sister, Adelaide, was born prematurely and spent two months in the NICU.

“When Adelaide was born, she was four pounds,” Horton said. “At that moment, our family came together and prayed and had hope that she made it. Now she’s a happy baby. We believe in miracles and it’s just awesome. We definitely grew as a family when that happened.”

The more joyful times Horton has with her family centers around the dinner table, where it is never quiet.

“Whenever someone does speak up, it’s usually funny, because my dad has a very big sense of humor and I guess we all got it, too,” Horton said. “Lael is 10 years-old and has cerebral palsy, so she is a little slower, but man, I tell you she is funny. She is the light of our family. When we’re feeling down, Lael will have something to say to bring us right back up.”

Horton’s ability to adapt has been a key to her success over the last two years and feels like HBU is where she was meant to be.

“I definitely think coming to HBU worked out for me,” Horton said. “I had doubts at first, but everyone does. The longer I’m here, the more I realize this was God’s plan for me. This was the right plan.”



INSTITUTIONAL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AWARD

HBU Athletics were awarded the 2016-17 Southland Conference Institutional Academic Performance Award. The Huskies claimed 67.4 percent of its possible points (61.33 of 91 available) in the scoring system devised by the schools’ NCAA Faculty Athletic Representatives in 2013.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi was the runner-up, claiming 47.3 percent of its possible points (43 of 91). The award was presented to President Robert B. Sloan Jr. in May.

A L U M - A - G R A M S

1960s

David Collier '67 retired in 1998 and has since moved to a mountain top in Fredericksburg, Texas to retire with his wife Henry Etta.

1990s

Demetre Grivas MBA '90 is the President & CEO for The Chemical Company. He has also published the book *Hellenism and Global Politics The Artist's View*. In his book, Demetre has included photos of 26 of his paintings explaining his emotions and including political, social and economic issues affecting Greece over the last 4,000 years and especially the 2009 financial crisis.

Joey Serralta '93 is a fleet sales manager for Pep Boys.

Sandra Hernandez '95 is a campus counselor for Fort Bend ISD and an active member and a sustainer for six years.

Tammie Smith '95 works for Fort Bend ISD as a campus compliance coordinator.

Gracie Soriano '96 is a reading and math specialist for Katy ISD.

Gilbert Legaspi '98 and his wife Karol have announced their new USA swimming approved club, Swim Houston Aquatics Center (SHAC). Legaspi was awarded the Gulf Swimming LSC Coach-of-the-Year in 2015, and has been coaching since 1988. Throughout his career, he has led his team to many elite meets including the Junior Nationals (NCSA) and the National Championships along with the Olympics.

2000s

Becah Butler '02 is an educational consultant.

Nicci Byrd '03 is a volunteer coordinator at a Richmond state-supported living center.



Ibore Udoh MHA '03 is founder of The VIP Initiative, Very Impactful Person (VIP). Through this organization, she was inspired to author her first book, *IGNITE*, published in 2017 in order to share her insight on how to be effective for others. *IGNITE* inspires and challenges all of us to channel our time, talents and treasures to effect change and to live beyond ourselves.

Ibore is currently in the doctoral program-cohort 11 in Executive Educational Leadership at HBU.

Beth Abaye '04 recently joined the The Siegfried Group, LLP in the Denver market as a senior manager. Most recently, Beth was a senior manager at SolomonEdwards Group in Houston.

Natascha Petra Rivas '04 is a physician assistant at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Jaime Thomas '04 is a student support services coordinator for Concordia International School Shanghai.

Jessica Smith '05 works for Harris County Technology as the project manager.

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

Katharine Prestridge Rostek '05 is a Math Teacher with Rapides Parish School Board.

Pamela Carter-Theis '05 is employed by STPNOC as an instructional technologist.

Karon Padgett '06 works for Daiichi Sankyo as a Sr. Striker account representative.

2010s

Emilie Saldana '10 is a teacher with Pearland ISD.

Tristin Sylvester '10 is a teacher for La Porte ISD.

Adrienne Bell '12 is a teacher in Houston ISD.

Erika Silva '12 is a teacher in Katy ISD.

Lakisha Hardy Mitchell '12 is the culinarian and owner of Epiphanies Desserts LLC.

Jessica Harper Williams '12 and her husband Beau finalized the adoption of of their two children from foster care. Delaney (7) and Kaden (2).

Deana McDougal Bradshaw '14 is a Healthy Living & Aquatics director at the YMCA.

Leslie M. Guzmán '14 had her artwork selected to be in the Visual Arts Alliance 11th Invitational Art Exhibit juried by collector Lester Marks. The reception took place in January. Her artwork titled *Colorful Traditions* from her *Fragments* series took the first place award.

Destiny Bellamy '15 works for Pasadena ISD as a 3rd grade teacher.

Carissa Concepcion '15 is a registered nurse at Memorial Hermann.

William Nix '15 works for EWKS.

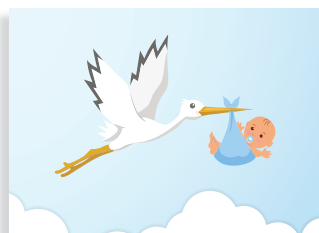
Megan Shields '15 is a student at Penn State Law.

Katherine O'Neale '15 is a teacher at Home Education Partnership.

Samantha Solis '16 works at Lupe Tortilla in HR data entry.

Let us hear from you! You are encouraged to submit your news items about yourself — promotions, marriages, births, travels and other bits of news — HI-RESOLUTION PHOTOS WELCOME.

Contact: HBU.edu/AlumniUpdate

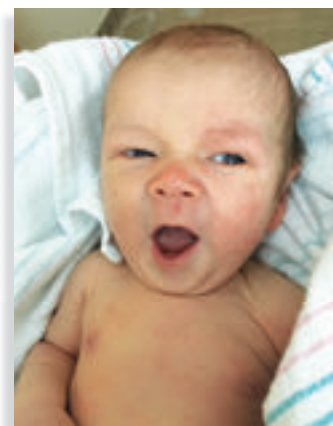


*Alicia Whitehead-Breaux '00
and TJ Breaux welcomed
their baby boy, Joseph Alexander
Breaux, on January 20, 2017.*



◀ Number 21 has arrived! Our prayers rejoice with the Sloan family on the birth of **Jude Thomas Holt**. Jude is the grandson of **President Robert and First Lady Sue Sloan**, son of Alatheia and Justin Holt. He is welcomed by his brothers Henry and Ben and sister Ruthie. Jude was born on June 6.

Benjamin Foster Gant was born to **Lauren and Wesley '11 Gant** on June 3.



ALUMNI RELATIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

President Robert Sloan and Sharon Saunders, Vice President for Advancement and University Relations, are announcing appointments in the Offices of Alumni Relations and University Events and Conferences.

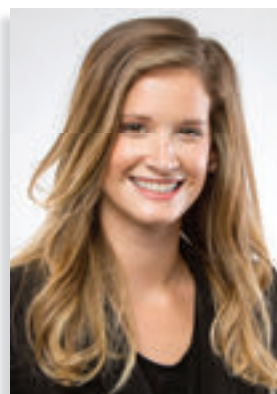
Candace Desrosiers '94 has been named Associate Vice President for Alumni and University Relations, and Christa Langolf '11 has been named Director of Alumni Relations. Sarah Holland '18 MBA will continue in her role as Director of University Events and Conferences. Combining the talent and resources of Alumni Relations and University Events & Conferences will create a dynamic partnership between the two departments, continuing to strengthen relationships with alumni, University friends and community patrons.

"As we merge these two areas, I think back – even to my time as a student – of the alumni leadership I have known through the years, and it is certain we stand on a great foundation that we will continue to build upon. I'm beyond grateful for this opportunity to take two amazing departments, filled with great staff and utilize the talents within each to take us to the next level," said Desrosiers. "The directorships of Sarah and Christa, with their energy, enthusiasm and dedication, will certainly continue to drive excellence in their respective areas.

"I know our alumni and the entire University community will benefit from this restructuring," said Saunders. "We have a great team!"



Candace Desrosiers



Christa Langolf



Sarah Holland

You can reach Candace Desrosiers Associate Vice President for Alumni and University Relations at cdesrosiers@HBU.edu, or Christa Langolf, Director of Alumni Relations at clangolf@HBU.edu.

In Memoriam

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Thomas J. Williams passed away May 8. Tom served in many Texas Baptist churches and was administrative pastor of the First Baptist Church in Houston for 19 years. The last 15 years of his ministry was with South Main Baptist Church in Houston.



Charlie Howard, Former State Representative and well-known businessman, passed away on May 2. As a Christian leader, Charlie made a difference in his community, at Houston Baptist University as a former Trustee, and throughout the state of Texas. Charlie and his

wife Jo were founding members of Living Water International, a world-wide organization that provides safe drinking water to the world.



Robert Leroy Parker of Miami, passed away at home on April 9. Musician, scholar, teacher, traveler and author of the *HBU* fight song, *Get up and Go, You Mighty Huskies*.

FORMER STAFF

Dr. Bill Borgers, passed away in April. He was former dean of Education and Behavioral Sciences. He retired on Aug. 31, 2001.

FORMER STUDENTS

Dr. Mahwish Munir Shakir '04 passed away after her battle with cancer. Mahwish was a bright star with a warm and generous spirit who will be deeply missed. We remember her young family during this tragic season.

Jordan Hook '08 passed away on March 13, 2017, he was 32 years old. Jordan was a former HBU Men's Baseball player and pitcher from 2006 through 2008. He was a true friend of the Huskies, actively attending HBU Baseball games, participating with the HBU Baseball Golf Tournament and returning for alumni gatherings over the past few years. March 25, before the HBU vs. Southeastern Louisiana game, there was a Memorial at Husky Field celebrating Jordan's life with friends and former teammates, many wearing blue and orange, along with Jordan's number, "23."



James Roscoe Hutton, passed away on April 8. Jim was a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the highest distinction any Mechanical Engineer can achieve, and authored "How to Sell Technical Equipment and Services" published in 2005.

Jim and his children Heather Hutton Namendorf and James Earl Hutton established the Margaret Berry Hutton Scholarship, named after his deceased wife Margaret Berry Hutton, to support nursing students at Houston Baptist University.



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Full payment is due February 1, 2018.

Still have questions? Please contact Clay Porter at cporter@hbu.edu, 281-649-3467 or 281-468-2874.

DAY 1 – SATURDAY, JUNE 9: DEPART U.S.A.

Tour members depart North America for our flight to Israel.

DAY 2 – SUNDAY, JUNE 10: ARRIVE TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM

Arrive Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, drive to our hotel in Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

DAY 3 – MONDAY, JUNE 11: JERUSALEM, BETHLEHEM

After breakfast, drive to the Mt. of Olives to visit the Chapel of Ascension. Visit Pater Nostre, view the city of Jerusalem, descend to the Garden of Gethsemane, visit the Church of All Nations. Drive to Mt. Zion for a visit to the Tomb of King David and the Room of the Last Supper. Proceed to Bethlehem, visit the Church of the Nativity. We stop for shopping in Bethlehem then return to Jerusalem and our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4 – TUESDAY, JUNE 12: DEAD SEA, MASADA, JERUSALEM

Visit the Dead Sea, Masada, Ein Gedi, the Qumran and understand the notable discovery corroborating the biblical narrative of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Dinner and overnight are at our hotel in Jerusalem.

DAY 5 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13: JERUSALEM

Enter the Old City again to visit the Southern Steps, ascend to the Temple Mount, walk the streets of the Old City, visit the Pool of Bethesda, proceed to the Western (Wailing) Wall, walk through the Rabbinical Tunnel. Drive to the City of David to visit the ruins of that famous city from the time of King David and the kings of Judah. We continue to Hezekiah's Tunnel Pool of Siloam.

DAY 6 – THURSDAY, JUNE 14: JERUSALEM, GARDEN TOMB

Drive to Ein Karem to visit the place where John the Baptist was born. Afterwards, drive to the Israeli Museum, visit the Shrine of the Book, the Valley of Elah, where David killed Goliath. We return to Jerusalem and drive to the Garden Tomb for a visit and communion.

DAY 7 – FRIDAY, JUNE 15: CAESAREA MARITIMA, MEGIDDO, MT. CARMEL, NAZARETH, CANA, TIBERIAS

Drive to Caesarea and visit the Roman Theater and the Crusader ruins. Proceed to Mt. Carmel, drive by and view Nazareth, drive via Cana to Tiberias.

DAY 8 – SATURDAY, JUNE 16: MT. OF BEATITUDES, CAPERNAUM, TABGHA

See where Jesus walked on water and take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Visit Capernaum and the Jordan River.

DAY 9 – SUNDAY, JUNE 17: ARRIVE IN U.S.A.

Early morning transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for your return flight back home.

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