

# THE PILLARS



**MINGO REVEALED!**  
**FIT FOR THE FUTURE**  
p. 59



*May marked the graduation of the first doctoral class from HBU. The University now offers three doctorate programs!*

**H**uman Wholeness - It is always a mistake to base your identity on some single aspect of who you are. Our identity, our selfhood as persons, is intended to be an integrated whole.

In fact, one of the features of the doctrine of the Fall is that persons – and indeed the entire creation – have become selfish, under the curse of corruption, and broken. Not content with being fully human and God's creatures, we as human beings try to become like gods, and thus we end up fragmenting and destroying our true humanity. Our physical identities need to be integrated with our psychological, sexual, mental and social selves.

It is not God's intention that we constantly divide ourselves into bits and pieces of our personality. Of course, we recognize something called multiple personality disorder. This kind of behavior expresses the fragmentation of the self in the extreme.

In a classic passage in Colossians 1:25-29 (see also Ephesians 4:13-16), Paul points to the goal of his ministry of preaching and teaching as presenting everyone complete in Christ. There is a oneness in the body of Christ – a oneness between peoples of different categories of ethnicity, economic status, education and gender. And within this unified body, each individual

aims by faith and moral obedience towards a oneness, or wholeness, of personhood. In other words, as we are forgiven and come to be in Christ by faith, we then begin to grow in all aspects into his likeness.

Again, it is a great mistake for people to separate their physical identities from their spiritual, psychological, sexual/gender and social selves. God intends for our wholeness – which can be related in Scripture to the words for health and salvation – to be restored in Christ. That is exactly what the resurrection from the dead will be: the full restoration of our total self, physically, spiritually, psychologically, and in every way.

This issue of *The Pillars* points to the things we are doing at HBU with respect to physical, mental, psychological and spiritual health.

I think you will be encouraged by reading it.

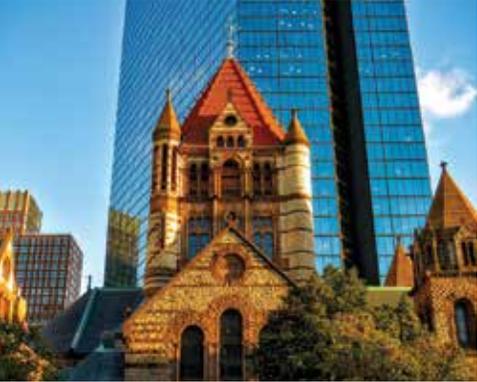
Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Sloan  
HBU President

  @DrRobertBSloan



# EXPLORE HISTORIC *Boston!*



Dr. Robert Sloan, on behalf of Houston Baptist University, is thrilled to invite you to our first-ever Boston Tour for friends of HBU. Visit important sites that are central to the United States' founding and independence.

Our special guide will be Dr. Chris Hammons, professor of Government and director of HBU's Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty. Fitting with the Center's values of upholding the Constitution and enabling free enterprise, the tour will highlight the significant historical locations that were formational in our modern republic.

## **HBU Boston Trip Itinerary**

### ○ **DAY 1 – SUNDAY, 9/29: Arrive in Boston**

Stay at Omni Parker House, a stately 1856 building (at 60 School Street, Boston) that is one of Omni's best with a storied past and a reputation for service and fine dining with parlors and sitting areas that blend 19th-century style with modern comfort



### ○ **DAY 2 – MONDAY, SEPT. 30**

Boston Freedom Trail, Boston's famous landmarks reflect the important part the city played in the history of the United States, The Paul Revere House Museum



### ○ **DAY 3 – TUESDAY, OCT. 1**

Lexington and Concord Sightseeing Program: Minute Man National Historical Park, The Old North Bridge, The Wayside Home of Authors

### ○ **DAY 4 – WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2**

USS Constitution Museum and Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum

### ○ **DAY 5 – THURSDAY, OCT. 3**

Visit Plimoth Plantation, a living museum of 17th-century Pilgrim life, 17th-Century Village, Wampanoag Homesite, Plimoth Grist Mill

### ○ **DAY 6 – FRIDAY, OCT. 4**

Free time & Depart

**Please consider joining us for this unique American heritage trip from**

**September 29 –  
October 4, 2019**

The cost is \$3,500 per person, including round-trip airfare from Houston, travel throughout the Boston area, and luxurious accommodations at the Omni Parker House. A \$1,000 nonrefundable deposit is due upon registration. Final payment due July 26, 2019. Insurance available.

**Call 281-468-2874 or email  
CPorter@HBU.edu for more  
information.**

**Visit [HBU.edu/Boston2019](http://HBU.edu/Boston2019).**



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**THE TEN PILLARS**  
*Faith & Reason in a Great City*

- I *Build On The Classics*
- II *Recruit For National Influence*
- III *Embrace The Challenge Of Christian Graduate Education*
- IV *Establish A Residential Society Of Learning*
- V *Increase Our Cultural Impact Through Our Faculty*
- VI *Renew Our Campus, Renew Our Community*
- VII *Bring Athens And Jerusalem Together*
- VIII *Expand Our Commitment To The Creative Arts: Visual, Music And Literary*
- IX *Cultivate A Strong Global Focus*
- X *Move To The Next Level As An Institution*

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# FIT for the FUTURE

*An HBU Education Holistically  
Prepares Students*

## *Learning how to Follow God Individually*

"HBU was my first choice mainly because of the **spiritual** aspect of the school. I've built a strong foundation in my faith and learned here how to have alone time with God and to do devotionals."

— *Lesly Sandoval*

*Medical Humanities major and Psychology minor*

## *Growing in Responsibility*

"Learning how to be responsible and taking care of business has been a big part of my HBU experience. It's allowed me to **mature**."

— *Addison Jacobs*

*Biology major and  
Spanish minor*

**W**hen asked to pinpoint the greatest commandment, Jesus' answer was summative and yet multifaceted: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). In one statement, Jesus encompassed the engagement of a whole person in living obediently to God. Similarly, an effective education does more than impart knowledge and prepare a person for a vocation. Houston Baptist University seeks to help students grow holistically, and with their participation, make graduates fit for a career and for the many aspects of their future.

**Dr. Robert Sloan**, HBU president, said HBU's Christian principles are foundational in shaping young men and women. "We are all made by God and distinctively gifted for His purposes," he said. "The Christian mission of HBU facilitates God's work in the lives of our students by pointing them to faith and trust in the living God. Preparing for the future begins with submission to Him."

HBU addresses students' spiritual needs through Christian teaching, one-on-one and small group discipleship, worship, spiritual formation opportunities, missions and service. **Colette Cross**, HBU director of Discipleship, said, "Our hope and belief is that students will look back at their HBU experience, inside and outside the classroom, and see intentional growth in their cognitive, social and spiritual development, which will allow them to be people who know Christ and make Him known."

In establishing and growing their foundation of faith, students are prepared for a life and career in which moral underpinnings and integrity will be called upon. A

Christian education is truly a complete education.

The University continues to be known for challenging students academically, preparing them for career roles and graduate school. Coursework is rigorous, and an HBU education carries value for years to come.

"The curriculum of HBU is both varied and foundational," Sloan said. "The central, core elements are those basic disciplines needed by everyone to be a productive citizen who works faithfully with and for others – with knowledge, discipline, intelligence and moral integrity. The variety in our curriculum reflects the many opportunities available in the workplace, and thereby prepares students not only to learn the content of disciplines, but also to be creative, entrepreneurial and adaptive, ready to meet the rapid changes in our world."

**Dr. Michael Rosato**, HBU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, emphasized the HBU faculty's role in providing the highest-quality educational programs that incorporate faith with scholarship. "Our academic programs are strong," he said. "We continue to support our excellent faculty members and to attract outstanding faculty. The people make the difference. The education students receive here is a qualitative, value-added experience that's centered on Christ. That shows up very clearly in the standard of our programs we offer and in the love of Jesus that we share. We really care about students."

Outside of the classroom, college is a time in which students develop into more of who they are. Student life involvement helps them grow in their confidence and leadership abilities, and expands their interests. HBU has

*Dr. Robert Sloan*



*Colette Cross*



*Dr. Michael Rosato*





more than 50 student clubs and organizations, and the opportunity for students to form new groups.

"Student Life is an integral part of higher education development, and specifically, HBU success. As we (Student Life staff) continue to integrate faith with learning in all aspects of what we do, we are amazed at how our students rise up and lead through participation in all the many things we implement to help them persist, succeed and love their school," said **Mon'Sher Spencer**, HBU director of Student Involvement and Student Leadership Programs. "From the events we plan to the student organizations we help develop, to the spiritual opportunities we provide, to the physical and mental health opportunities, to the living and community spaces, to the general support our initiatives bring to the learning experience; Student Life rounds the ends – so to speak – of the great wisdom our students are encountering within the classroom."

Students have the chance at HBU to become stronger physically, as well. Campus Recreation serves students by providing access to an 80,000-square-foot gym, the Bradshaw Fitness Center. They can participate in Intramural Sports, Club Sports, and in Epic Adventures.

"In terms of physical wellness, the students have a plethora of options that range from IMS Flag Football to Dragon Boat. Also, they have access to the Bradshaw Fitness Center seven days per week," said **Joshua Dunn**, HBU director of Campus Recreation. "In addition to the physical benefits offered by sports and exercise, the students nurture their social well-being. We encourage them to optimize their time and invest in experiences

and friendships because it will yield a lifelong return on investment. They forge friendships and memories that will last for the remainder of their lives. And, this opportunity presents itself even before their first day of college with our four-day outdoor adventure camp, The Odyssey, hosted by Camp Eagle in Rocksprings, Texas. Whether it's the gymnasium court, the field, or on a three-hour trail, they all learn how to work together as a team for the purpose of reaching a common goal. Consequently, this includes how to resolve conflicts in a productive, efficient manner among a diverse group of peers. All of these opportunities are readily available to any student who chooses to invest in their present and future health."

Providing help to make important transitions, the HBU Office of Career & Calling readies students for the next phase of life. The office delivers career counseling, resume help, mock interview sessions, career connections, help with attire, job fairs and more. Students at any stage, as well as alumni, may seek assistance at any time.

"We engage students and help them find God's calling for them," **Aaron Swarts**, HBU assistant director of Career & Calling, said.

HBU graduates are fit for what lies ahead. "We prepare our students to be impactful in their future through encouraging community focus, critical thinking, leadership growth, discipleship necessity, physical and mental well-being, and empowerment over entitlement – all through the lens of a Gospel-centric/Jesus-focused love that we impart to students," Spencer said. "There is not a day that goes by that I am not encouraged and hopeful for the future of our HBU students."

*Mon'Sher Spencer*



*Joshua Dunn*



*Aaron Swarts*

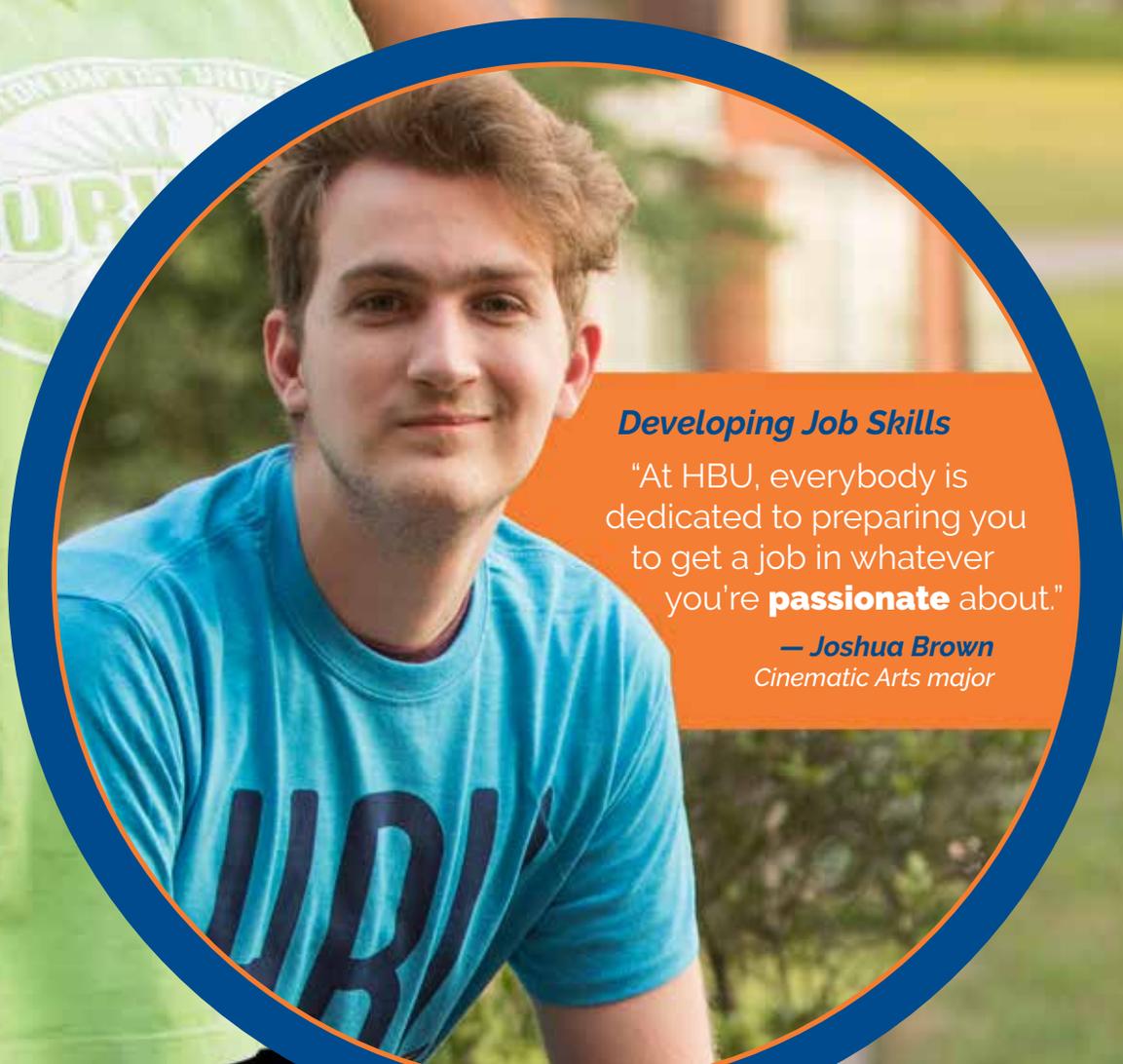




### *Discovering One's Calling*

"HBU is where I truly discovered my calling for **counseling**. It's preparing me."

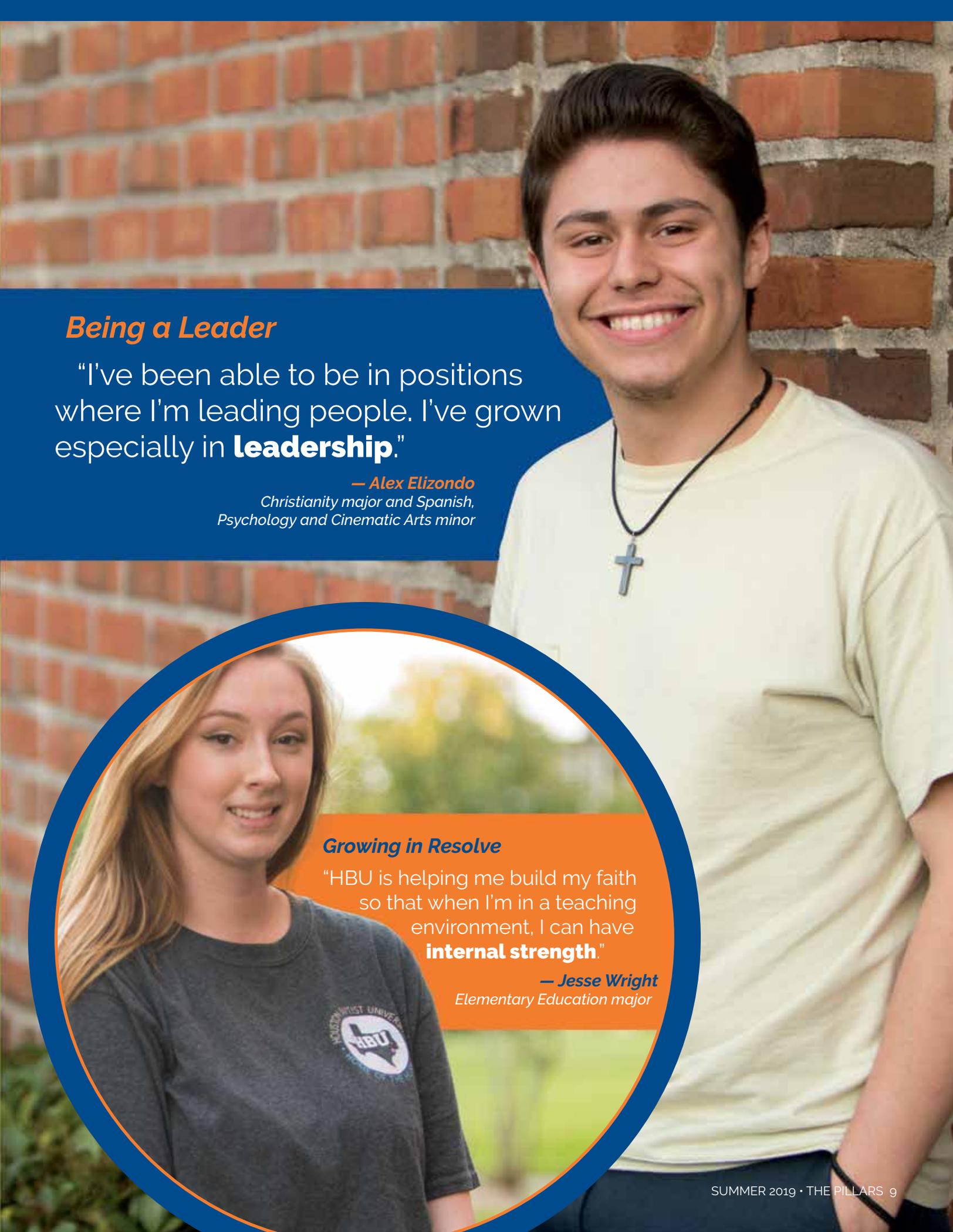
— *Ja'Lynn Manson*  
Psychology and Christianity major



### *Developing Job Skills*

"At HBU, everybody is dedicated to preparing you to get a job in whatever you're **passionate** about."

— *Joshua Brown*  
Cinematic Arts major



## *Being a Leader*

"I've been able to be in positions where I'm leading people. I've grown especially in **leadership.**"

— *Alex Elizondo*

*Christianity major and Spanish, Psychology and Cinematic Arts minor*



## *Growing in Resolve*

"HBU is helping me build my faith so that when I'm in a teaching environment, I can have **internal strength.**"

— *Jesse Wright*

*Elementary Education major*



## HBU Introduces New Mascot Suit

**M**ingo" as he is known, is HBU's recognizable Husky-suit mascot, appearing at games and University events. The name "Mingo" harkens to the first four-legged, Samoyed dog who served as the HBU mascot from 1969 until the early 80s. Today, like Mingo's canine counterpart, Kiza, the huskies are iconic symbols of HBU pride and spirit.

Page Butera Hernandez '05, director of HBU Alumni Relations, remembers how special it was to serve as the University mascot in 2004 and 2005. "I cherished the opportunity to give back to HBU and to be part of the atmosphere of Athletics and carrying out the school traditions of pride in the orange and blue," she said. "I felt like, being at a game and being in the suit, when the pep band would play and I would do my dance moves across the court, it was a way to entertain the students, families, and everyone there, and to show what a great place HBU is."

The beloved mascot has lately shown its decades-old age. The HBU Alumni Office launched an initiative in 2018 to help raise funds for a quality, new mascot suit that would continue to represent HBU well. Hernandez and other former students who served as HBU mascots, including Judi Pyburn '94 and Nicci Byrd '03, along with cheerleaders, Randy Garbs '76 and Cary Dunham '93, put their efforts behind the fundraising initiative.

Thanks to the generous gifts of alumni, faculty/staff and friends, a new and improved Mingo suit was ordered. The upgraded Mingo mascot made his debut amidst cheers and celebration during Honors Convocation on May 1. Students lined up to take photos with the new University representative.

The new costume has a glossy, silver and white coat, large blue eyes, a muscular build, and a competitive, but friendly, face. Unlike the old suit, this one has a built-in cooling fan, a cooling vest, ventilation, a larger viewing area, flexibility in movement, more agile hands, and less clunky pawed feet.

Although mascots can't speak, they communicate a great deal through their body language, and even through their presence. "Whether it's in professional sports, college or high school, you see mascots really make a difference at events," Hernandez said. "This will be something to help grow school spirit. There are lots

of events on campus that the mascot can be part of and help welcome people to campus."

Mon'Sher Spencer '08, director of Student Involvement and Student Leadership Programs, said, "Mingo is important to HBU because of the legacy he represents. HBU is a great place and everything from our great academics to our spirited mascot speak to the wonderful place HBU is."

Ron Cottrell, the James Sears Bryant head men's basketball coach and associate director of HBU Athletics, came to HBU in 1990. With nearly three decades invested in HBU, Cottrell was a big supporter of the initiative to bring in a fresh mascot.

"HBU's school pride and spirit is visible in many ways, but none better than Mingo's presence at games and events on campus and around the Houston area. The rich tradition of Mingo resonates with HBU faithful across the generations," Cottrell said. "Memories range from those of the first live dogs who were so lovingly cared for by Ms. Virginia Crosno and later by Ms. Mildred Boone. And then, on to the many HBU students who have proudly worn the suit to pose for countless pictures, entertain and encourage school spirit."

To alumni who have given and continue to give to HBU, Hernandez said, "Thank you for your support as alumni, and also being willing to give to something that impacted your life while you were a student here, which in turn makes more memories for other students who are Huskies," she said. "We're excited."



# Mascot Memories

"I have so many fond memories of being an HBU mascot. Just a few of my favorites are representing HBU as Mingo all over the great city of Houston, riding along in the lead car for the **inaugural Husky Hustle**, and being on the court as my roommate was crowned homecoming queen."

— Nicci Niedenthal Byrd '03

"Mascots can't talk but I found myself laughing and smiling inside the suit as people would take my picture. Sometimes I would have to squat down to see small kids. My favorite memory was basketball season in 2004. I remember arriving to each game and the crowd getting a little more loud and proud. **That energy pushed me.**"

— Page Butera Hernandez '05

"HBU was playing University of the Incarnate Word in basketball in the Sharp Gym. It was a tough game and was coming down to the wire. After an HBU player fouled, an Incarnate Word player went to the free-throw line. I went down and got on the stage that was located under their basket. Mingo was waving his arms frantically to distract our opponent. All of the sudden, the entire piece of Velcro came loose and detached. Mingo went crashing to the floor, nose-first. Mingo was down, but he got up. Incarnate Word did not score. **The Huskies won the game!** The fans went crazy! The best part was the San Antonio Express-News wrote an article about the game the next day. The title was something like, 'HBU Mascot Goes to Great Lengths to Help Defeat Incarnate Word.'"

— Judi Vogel Pyburn '94

Watch how Mingo gets "Fit For Life" and Mingo Reveal here:

[HBU.edu/p56-Mingo](http://HBU.edu/p56-Mingo)

# THE REDDINGS GIVEBIG



*Rick '83 and Susan Redding are providing a \$50,000 matching gift for donors on Huskies Give Big, to be held Friday, August 30, 2019. The Reddings are enthusiastic supporters of HBU, and gave for the Robert Griswold Finance & Analytics Lab in the Hinton Center; the lab opened in the fall of 2018.*

# Q&A with Rick Redding

## **1 You graduated in 1983 with a BS in Economics and Finance. What led you to attend HBU?**

It is a long story, but at the last minute, I enrolled at HBU. At the time I was not sure why, but in hindsight, I can say it was God who intervened. I had scholarship opportunities at much larger universities, housing, and was even going to pursue a different major. The HBU experience of having smaller classes with caring professors was what I needed. HBU also provided me athletic (tennis) and academic scholarships, for which I will always be grateful.

## **2 What affiliation does your wife, Susan, have with the University?**

Although Susan is not a native Houstonian, she had heard about the graduate scholarship program The Guild has provided throughout the years. The idea of a diverse group of Christian women, working together, to assist deserving HBU students and to help shape their tomorrows is vitally important to her, and something Susan wanted to be part of.

## **3 How was HBU instrumental in shaping you as a person and as a professional?**

There are many options to obtain a first-rate education, but very few offer one with a biblical worldview. In my years in business, I have seen so many brilliant graduates from top schools that lack a foundation. Many times, the university years are the last chance to provide that foundation. HBU provided me a technical education and a foundation that lasts throughout my life, and I hope to pass those principles along.

## **4 Why do you continue to support HBU today, and what have your roles been?**

HBU provided me a great education and reinforced a biblical world view that helped me through life. It is unique to find a truly Christian university in a major

metropolitan area. I have tried to give of my time and expertise to help the Archie W. Dunham College of Business continue to excel. I have had the privilege over the years to teach some classes, serve on the Business School Advisory Board, and on the Board of the Center for Christianity in Business.

## **5 Please tell us about your and Susan's decision to provide a \$50,000 matching gift for Huskies Give Big on August 30, 2019?**

Through our involvement with HBU, we continue to see the potential for today's students to receive a great education and make a difference in their vocation. HBU was there for me when I needed them, and we want to help those who can benefit in this generation. We are so impressed to see how many first-generation university students HBU attracts, and to see the potential to change families' lives for generations to come. We had supported the College of Business, but felt this is a great opportunity to promote HBU more broadly.

## **6 Please tell other alumni and supporters why they, too, should give to HBU, and especially take advantage of this opportunity for matching.**

We believe there are numerous ways to support HBU, wherever you are in life – mentoring a student, giving your time to help promote HBU and its activities, and ultimately supporting HBU financially if you are able. We know from our own giving that when someone matches a gift, the impact becomes more meaningful, no matter the gift. We have been blessed and want to come alongside others to make a difference in many lives. Whether HBU was there to provide your education or you are someone who wants to support changing lives via a great education with a biblical worldview, we wanted to partner with others to make a difference

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

**HUSKIES**  
**GIVEBIG** 8.30.19



## Doing Good in Texas and at HBU

Texas Baptists, also known as the Baptist General Convention of Texas, represents diverse congregations across a vast state with the purpose of advancing God's Kingdom in Texas. The Texas Baptists' (the BGCT) vision statement includes the meaningful declaration: "We are on a mission with God to continue Jesus' ministry of teaching, sharing the good news and meeting human needs through our churches, institutions and organizations. Our ministries reflect the heart of Jesus."

Texas Baptists encompasses about 5,300 member church congregations in Texas. At colleges and universities, the convention is carrying out the great commission through Baptist Student Ministry programs. Of the BSM programs, there are 115 Texas schools with resident BSM staff members.

At HBU, **Nathan Mahand** fills the role of BSM director. "I am a campus missionary from the BGCT," he explained.



"My job is to do collegiate ministry on our campus and surrounding campuses, including Bible studies, evangelism training, mission trips, leadership development and discipleship."

The HBU BSM works hand in hand with Kaleo, HBU's Spiritual Life discipleship program. "We are integrated and support one another," Mahand said. "We're very intentional with the way we do discipleship. We believe it's about how we relate to God, personal practices, faith community, and bearing witness in the world."

Partly because of HBU's location in a diverse, international city, there are many unreached students – even at a Christian school. Mahand is deliberate about shaping leaders and reaching students in ways that are consequential.

"During college, you're making decisions about who you're going to be for the rest of your life," he said. "I want to be part of that conversation, and have students be part of that discussion with other students."

In addition to weekly Bible studies and discipleship



opportunities, Mahand facilitates mission opportunities through the Texas Baptists sending organization, Go Now Missions, and oversees HBU's two worship bands, Focus and Refuge.

Beyond HBU, Mahand also supports the BSM programs on college campuses in the area. "HBU is a hub – 19 out of 51 college campuses in Houston have Christian ministry on a regular basis," he said. "There are 300,000 college students in Texas." Rice University and the University of Houston are nearby BSM centers.

Mahand emphasizes that students involved in BSM do not need to be Baptist. "People follow Jesus in different manners," he said. "The diversity makes it fun and a challenge."

In support of the Christian stance of HBU and other Baptist educational institutions around the state, Texas Baptists makes regular financial contributions to help fulfill their purpose of glorifying Jesus Christ as Lord. About one-third of the organization's budget is allocated to support institutions and partners such as HBU. For 2019, the organization has allocated \$282,000 to help HBU students obtain a faith-based education.

David Hardage, executive director of the Texas Baptists, said, "From the time the convention began, one of the primary reasons for it was education. Our people continue to believe in education and in providing a Christian foundation and a biblically based education for students from Texas and beyond. One of the newest areas of emphasis – and HBU is key in this – is the area of apologetics. We really want to teach and help our younger generation know how to contend for the faith."

The Texas mission field is truly vast, with a state population nearing 30 million. With shifting times,

churches and ministry leaders must reach people in new ways.

Hardage said, "The culture is more challenging than it's ever been. Society is changing. I'm in a different church every Sunday. As an example, not all, but many of them have the same mindset. It is, 'We need to reach the young families.' My response to that is, 'Yes, you do. I hope you reach every single one of them. And then when you do that, let's talk about the other 75 percent of the households of Texas.'"

Hardage sites statistics from a recent BGCT report which estimates approximately 25 percent of Texas households are unmarried people, 25 percent are empty-nesters, 25 percent are young families, and 25 percent are households of various compositions.

Churches and ministries, in many ways, no longer must travel in order to reach people of all cultures. Thousands of people have moved to Texas, bringing their cultures, religions and languages with them. Such factors make having a network like the Texas Baptists even more helpful.

In addition to assisting churches in reaching their local communities, the Texas Baptists supports evangelism, discipleship, missions, legislative advocacy, and offers counseling resources. In all the organization does, its purpose is summarized in its official missional stance: "Lives, families, communities and nations are transformed as ordinary Christians take extraordinary steps of faith in obedience to God."

**Visit [TexasBaptists.org](http://TexasBaptists.org).**

**Watch video here: [HBU.edu/p56-BGCT](http://HBU.edu/p56-BGCT)**



## HBU Students Learn to be Missional

**T**he Texas Baptists' (Baptist General Convention of Texas) outreach to college and university students, Baptist Student Ministry, is central in helping students come to faith and grow in their faith. A key component of the BSM's aim is to encourage students to live with purpose, and with the desire and ability to share the Gospel.

The organization helps foster the love of missions activities through facilitating mission trips through the BSM sending organization, Go Now Missions. Students can participate in short and long-term mission trips throughout the world centered around medical care, education, evangelism, community-building and

more. In 2018, 481 Go Now missionaries served around the world.

Nathan Mahand, HBU's BSM director, said the mission-mindedness starts at home first. BSM students regularly participate in outreaches on and around the HBU campus, asking questions and opening the door for the good news of Jesus Christ to be shared. "My job is to give leadership back to students and empower them," Mahand said. "If they're able to lead here, they'll be empowered in the world."

Outreaches in which HBU students participated recently include flood relief; "Beach Reach" at South Padre Island; and mission work in the United States, Greece and Haiti. In May, two students went on

mission to the Amazon rainforest, holding medical clinics from a riverboat.

The experiences often offer a change of perspective for participants. "I think being involved in something like this helps students to see with a view that is bigger than them and bigger than what they're going to do in terms of a career," Mahand said. "I hope students come away with the idea of missional living – to live on mission for the God who is on mission. I hope students begin to see that everything they do is a vehicle for relationships, because the Gospel is spread through relationships. We do things so the Jesus inside might be shown and shared."

**Visit [GoNowMissions.com](http://GoNowMissions.com).**



## The Department of Student Success Provides Enhanced Active Learning Equipment Throughout Campus

**T**he Looper Learning Commons, named for the Doris and Terry Looper family, was dedicated in late 2016 in the Moody Library, and currently houses the majority of the team members in the Department of Student Success and Advising (Student Success). Since then, the space has become a hub for individual and group study, as well as a center for student support services.

Utilizing funds from a federal grant, Student Success has recently added new technology and learning equipment in the learning commons. Similar equipment was also added to the study areas of the Women's Residence College, Men's Residence College, and the Collegium, which serves as the commuter student lounge.

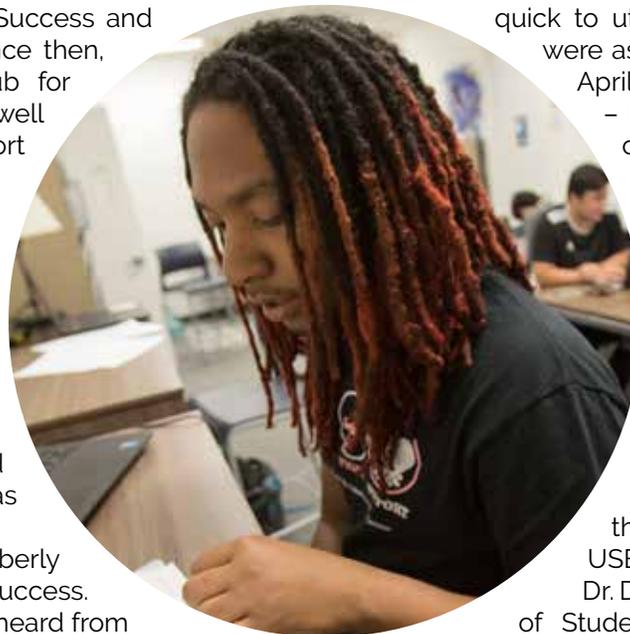
The project was led by Kimberly Ramos, director of First-Year Success. "One of the common things we heard from our students was the need for more outlets. Hence, when we ordered the new pieces, we made sure the equipment had built-in plugs, electrical cords, and USB ports."

The active learning equipment includes café-height tables and chairs, standard tables and chairs, and single lounging stations that include soft benches with movable tables. Just in time for finals season, students were quick to utilize the new pieces when they were assembled and put in place in late April. "Day one, hour one, minute one – before the installation crew even cleaned and packed everything up – students were already moving in to use the new tables," Ramos said.

Senior Collin Harvey said of the new pieces in the Collegium, "There is more space to study and eat. A lot of people work on their laptop while they eat lunch, so having the tables with the plugs is really helpful."

Rachel Knight, a junior, said of the new equipment, "I love it. The USB ports make things a lot easier."

Dr. David Hao, dean of the Department of Student Success and Advising, said the reconfigurable furniture is ideal. "We are facilitating opportunities for student engagement and learning," he said. "We know that matters for student satisfaction and student success."





## Husky Hoops Brings Students Together Through Basketball

On Friday afternoons, a group of students make their way across campus to the Bradshaw Fitness Center Gym for two hours of pick-up basketball from 4 to 6 p.m. Each of them look forward to the competition and camaraderie that closes out the school week.

Husky Hoops, as it is known, was started by Luke Humphreys, an HBU First-Year Success Coach, in 2017. Humphreys and a former co-worker, Michael Giro, talked about incorporating their love of the Bible with their passion for basketball. They realized many students relished basketball too – whether they played for years or just liked the game. Together, the HBU employees began the weekly pick-up game program for male and female students and Bradshaw members as a partnership between HBU Spiritual Life's Kaleo and Student Success. The creative outlet for discipleship and mentorship began.

At first, there were only enough participants to play five-on-five with no substitutes. "I was out on the gym fitness floor recruiting," Humphreys said of the early days. Nearly two years later, players are plentiful.

Student Kameron Thomas is a regular. He appreciates the chance to play the game after being a combo guard in high school. "The gym is my habitat so (Husky Hoops) is just like therapy," he said. "I look forward to it. Also, it helps me get closer to God and build my faith."

Each week, players huddle together at the start of Husky Hoops for prayer. Then the first 10 people to make a three-point shot commence the game. When Husky Hoops first began, Humphreys led a devotional at the end of the two-hour scrimmage. But he found that players were tired and some left. Now, he or one of the students he mentors leads a devotional at "halftime," one hour into play.

A.J. Richardson is one of the players and leaders. He led a devotional about the biblical story of Jonah on a recent Friday. "Basketball is my favorite sport. Being in Husky Hoops has taught me that Christ comes first in all things," Richardson said. "It's grown me a lot as a person."

Although faith isn't a requirement for participants, those who come find there is a high level of welcome and sportsmanship on the court. Cade Hill enjoys playing each week. "Having God in the center of all of it here – it leads to a community where there's not any bad blood," he said. "We just have fun playing."

Humphreys makes devotions applicable to real-life issues. "We talk about relationships, temptations, struggles, doubt, belief, despair – a lot of things that I feel college students face on a daily basis," he said. "We try to engage those issues head-on." Relationships and leadership development are a natural outgrowth of the program. "I've seen our leaders improve so much over the last two years," Humphreys said. "I could not be more proud of them."

The words of the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 9:19-23 come to Humphreys' mind when he thinks about meeting students where they are: "I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings" (I Corinthians 9:23). "We all need Jesus. We want to incorporate truth into everyday life," he said. "We want to create a community where people belong and feel welcome."

Even Husky Hoops fans who come to watch are invited to be part of the group and the devotional. Richardson said, "God is for everyone and not just for a specific set of people – that's the main point of this whole ministry. Even people who won't come to a Bible study or church, they can come do something they love and get God with that. We're not church, but we're the steps in between that can open their hearts to God."





## HBU Offers Two New MFA Programs

**B**eginning in January 2020, the HBU School of Fine Arts will offer two new Master of Fine Arts degrees. The MFA in Creative Writing and the MFA in Screenwriting will provide training for writers. The creative writing degree shapes writers of fiction or poetry, while the screenwriting emphasis prepares students to craft scripts for platforms including film, television and video games. Both degrees expand on HBU's commitment to offering exceptional arts programs at the graduate level.

"The MFAs were created to capitalize on the success of our undergraduate creative writing and cinematic arts programs," said Dr. J. Matthew Boyleston, HBU professor of English and Writing. "We also believe that they fulfill several parts of the University's Ten Pillars Vision, including embracing the challenge of Christian higher education (Pillar Three) and expanding our commitment to the creative arts (Pillar Eight). We have faculty members who have published books, worked on films and are known professionals in their fields. These programs allow us to draw from their experiences."

The two new MFA degrees will be offered in an accelerated, low-residency model, designed to meet the needs of today's students, while emphasizing a strong commitment to excellence in craft, analysis and instruction. Each January and May, students and faculty will gather either at HBU's campus or for a writers' retreat in cities like Galveston or San Antonio. Each of the residencies will feature workshops and extensive interaction with notable professional writers serving as guest instructors, as well as ongoing mentorship from HBU's exceptional full-time

writing faculty. Between residencies, students will work from home, maintaining connections with their cohort through online workshops and ongoing coursework.

The specially developed, accelerated schedule will allow students to complete either MFA degree in just one-and-a-half years, beginning in January and finishing the summer of the following year. For professional writers, the Master of Fine Arts serves as a terminally qualifying degree, allowing successful graduates to teach at the university level.

"An MFA in Screenwriting is a professional standard for those who want to write movies for Hollywood or for independent films. The MFA is a credential that allows writers access to the many professional organizations for writing such as the Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference, which is the largest conference for writers in America. However, the skills learned in an MFA are transferable to many other careers," Boyleston said. "Many industries love to hire writing students who are creative and experts at written communication. I know lawyers who have MFAs, doctors who have MFAs, and people who work in the energy industry who have MFAs. However, the most important reason to pursue an MFA is to carve out a bit of life to really focus on learning how to write in an intensive environment and in a creative community. We hope that our students will go on to influence the world for Christ through a variety of creative media."

Applications for the inaugural class, beginning January 2020, are due by September 1, 2019.

**Visit [HBU.edu/FineArts](http://HBU.edu/FineArts).**



# Q&A with Dr. Michael Rosato

## HBU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Please tell us about your personal, academic and professional background.**

I got involved in track and cross country in high school, which led me to attend Carson-Newman College in East Tennessee on an athletic scholarship. Carson-Newman is a Christian college, similar in mission to HBU. However, the only thing that mattered to me at the time was getting an athletic scholarship. While I was a very moral person and was raised in church, I never gave serious consideration to the claims of Christ. However, through a variety of circumstances (chapel services, Bible studies, etc.), I accepted Christ as my savior my junior year and began my junior year and began down a path of really trying to figure out what my faith in Christ meant. I graduated with a history degree and teacher certification and began searching for a teaching position. Through the prompting of a friend from Carson-Newman, I ended up applying for and accepting a graduate assistantship at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth. I earned a MEd in Teaching and Learning, and it was at Texas Wesleyan that I also met my wife, Kim. She was not raised in the church, yet had accepted Christ through Young Life about the same time I accepted the Lord; we found we were on a very similar spiritual growth path. We attended a church where David Naugle was one of the pastors. Kim and I got involved in the college ministry at the church, which Dave led. It was under his leadership that I was introduced to the concept of a biblical worldview. It was transformational. My faith in Christ moved from a list of "dos and don'ts" to a vibrant relationship with Christ. Simply put, I learned that all of life matters to God and that all is redeemable through Christ. With my master's degree, I also completed another teaching certification which enabled me to get hired by the Arlington Independent School District to teach computer literacy classes. I also coached track and cross country.

It was during that time when I had a sense that God was calling me to full-time work in some capacity in higher education. Through much prayer, I pursued my doctorate at Indiana University-Bloomington in the higher education

administration program. I found myself in classes with individuals who had significantly more higher education work experience than I. As such, I decided I needed to get more experience. I ended up getting a position at Butler University in Indianapolis in student services. This allowed me to continue working on my doctorate part-time at IU while working full-time and gaining additional experience in student services – residence life, in particular. I initially ran a co-ed residence hall for 200 students and then later a residential college housing 470 students and four faculty members. It was during our time in Indianapolis that we had our first two of five children. When I got close to finishing my doctorate, we moved back to Bloomington so I could concentrate on finishing my coursework and writing my dissertation. I graduated with my EdD in Higher Education Administration in 1993.



At that point, we were willing to go wherever God led. However, as Kim and I again prayed about our next move, we literally prayed that God would provide a place for me to work near one of our parents for our children to be near grandparents. God answered those prayers. I was offered a position at Dallas Baptist University and Kim's parents lived in the DFW area. At DBU, I was hired as a faculty member and academic counselor in the degree completion program. Within a short time, I moved into the associate dean's role in the college of adult education, and later I was offered the dean's position in the college of education at DBU where I served until 2003. I then moved to a state university in Arkansas, the University of Arkansas

at Monticello, where I served as the dean of the school of education. While this move was certainly positive in regard to professional growth, I sensed God calling me back to Christian higher education. I began prayerfully seeking where God would have us next serve when the dean of the school of education from Howard Payne University, Robert Peters, contacted me. Dr. Peters and I were colleagues when I was at DBU as we both were active in the professional deans of education organizations. Dr. Peters was retiring and asked if I would consider applying for the dean position, which I did. I served as dean at Howard Payne for 10 years before coming to HBU.

The provost at HBU at the time, Cindy Simpson, and I were also colleagues as professional deans of education organizations. She invited me to consider applying for the associate provost for academic affairs position at HBU. I was quite content in my role at Howard Payne and we had one of our children in high school. Still, I made it a matter of prayer and sensed God leading me to apply. I began at HBU in 2015 as the associate provost for academic affairs.

### ***Please tell us about your roles at HBU.***

The associate provost for Academic Affairs at HBU oversees the Registrar's Office, Moody Library, Academic Success Center, Office of Career and Calling, curriculum matters, the scheduling of courses, helps with the hiring of faculty and adjuncts, and faculty professional development. I also served as the interim dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences during the fall of 2016 and later as acting vice president for Academic Affairs, becoming the HBU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs last year.

I was honored when Dr. Sloan asked me to consider the position of provost. As mentioned earlier, my faith compels me to seek the Lord ideally in all things, but certainly in significant matters of life – I really need to have a sense of calling. The provost position at HBU is very rewarding professionally and appropriately challenging – no two days are alike. The position additionally encompasses Student Life and Residence Life. I like the opportunity to interact with faculty and staff, literally across the campus with the areas represented by the other vice presidents. I try to make decisions based on how the outcomes impact the University. That is, I try to think not only about my unit(s), but how decisions affect the University as a whole.

### ***What is unique about HBU compared to other colleges and universities?***

One of the reasons I was attracted to come to HBU was the Ten Pillars and the visionary leadership of Dr. Sloan. What we are doing at HBU is unique – very few Protestant, Christian institutes of higher education are located in major metropolitan areas. That fact is even more profound when considering HBU is located in one of the largest metropolitan areas in the US. The prospect of offering a curriculum taught from a biblical worldview at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels holds the possibility of impacting the culture for Christ – of advancing the Gospel.

There are some basic biblical principles that I trust all of our faculty and staff recognize, appreciate and internalize, from which they think and act. The Bible is clear: when one accepts Christ as savior, they are a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). As believers in Christ, we are also instructed to grow in our faith (2 Pet. 3:18 and Heb. 6:1, for example). We are also literally commanded to tell others about our faith in Christ (Matt. 28, 18-20, and others). Finally, the Bible is clear that we are to love God and love others (Mark 12:30-31, and others). So, my hope and prayer is the central way in which HBU is unique is that each member of the HBU faculty and staff take these, and other biblical principles to heart such that our love and devotion for Christ is undeniably obvious. Synergistically, when each individual is introspectively honest with him or



herself about one's own soul care is when HBU as a whole is the most effective in advancing the Kingdom.

### ***How is HBU fulfilling its mission?***

There is no way anyone can read our mission and vision statements and not understand that we are a Christian college – I feel a commitment and a deep sense of responsibility to our mission and vision. The idea is that we really take seriously the notion of the preeminence of Christ: "For by him all things were created...all things were created through him and for him (Col. 1:15-17)," – the inscription on Belin Tower.

The goal is to graduate students who are the very best prepared academically, professionally and spiritually, again, to impact the culture for Christ. I have been extremely pleased with the progress we are making in our ongoing pursuit of fulfilling the mission of the institution. We are now a comprehensive university with 70 undergraduate programs, 40 master's programs and three doctoral programs. Our residence halls are going to be nearly full this fall, and a number programs through Student Life are faithfully pointing students to Christ.

We have faculty and staff who love the Lord Jesus and who are committed to sharing that love with students. It that sense, we are focusing on the things that really matter – at the end of the day, we seek to do everything with excellence and to advance the Kingdom. That is how HBU is fulfilling its mission.

## COSM/COE Reorganization



To leverage synergies and collaboration between science and engineering programs, the College of Science and Engineering was established in 2019 from the merger of the College of Science and Mathematics, and the College of Engineering. The primary purpose of this change is to enhance the learning environment for our students and to position us to be on the leading edge of science and engineering education. This college offers an environment where there are strong interdisciplinary interactions between faculty in engineering, mathematics and the sciences. These faculty members work together seeking areas for improvement in curricula, assessment, research, learning, advising and the many other processes that impact the quality of the educational experience.

The administrative structure of the College of Science and Engineering is dynamic, breaking down traditional barriers to innovation and effective resource use. Its essential elements are multidisciplinary teams and interactions, faculty involvement, data-driven decision making, and development of and commitment to a long-term strategic plan. The most strategic opportunity for the new College is the planning and development of a new building for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs at HBU.

I am honored to be asked to serve as the dean of the College of Science and Engineering. I hope I can apply experiences learned in prior university employment to lead this College to achieve great standards of excellence. I am attracted to and committed to the central confession of HBU, that "Jesus Christ is Lord," and pray that this new College will honor Him, advance the Kingdom of God, and help achieve the vision of The Ten Pillars.

***Dr. Stan Napper, Dean | College of Science and Engineering***

# Top Reasons to Live on Campus



# 5

## No Commute

The average one-way commute time for Houstonians is 27.3 minutes. No drive means more time for study and University involvement.

*(HomeArea data)*



# 4

## Comfortable Living

Thanks to modern dorms and renovations to existing dormitory spaces, living on campus has never been nicer.



# 3

## Close to it all

On-campus students don't miss campus happenings or important traditions, and have easy access to resources such as the Academic Success Center.



# 2

## Community

Living on campus means student organizations, spiritual life activities, study groups, sports, intramurals, and more are in your backyard!



# 1

## Better Academic Performance

Students who live on campus have a higher average GPA and are more likely to graduate on time. *(American Council on Education and HBU data)*

[HBU.edu/ResLife](http://HBU.edu/ResLife)

Watch video here: [HBU.edu/p56-ResLife](http://HBU.edu/p56-ResLife)

# HBU Student Shares Love for God & Ministry

**A**manda Finnigan didn't see the need for a four-year degree as she grew close to high school graduation. "I thought I would just do ministry and maybe get an associate's degree," she remembers.

However, in November 2017, during her senior year of high school, Finnigan visited HBU. She was surprised to find that she was eligible for the Founders Scholarship, a music scholarship, and a Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) scholarship. A university education was very attainable after all.

"That day I remember being on campus and thinking, 'I could see myself here.' I went from not wanting to go to college to falling in love with HBU," Finnigan said. "I put in my deposit and then went to Spring Preview and registered for classes. Every time I came to campus, God was affirming in different ways why I was here."

As a Psychology major and Music minor, Finnigan is preparing for her life's work. "I want to do counseling or social work. For that, school is necessary," she said. "Through HBU and being able to come to a place I love, God gave me a peace about going through school."

Finnigan's on-campus involvements include Baptist Student Ministries and the University Singers. After a year at HBU, Finnigan is thrilled to be a Husky. "It's been really awesome. I love the faculty and the professors. I've developed relationships with some of them. When I have problems or things I need wisdom on, I love that they treat me with respect," she said. Finnigan

also benefits from a faculty mentor through the Spiritual Life Kaleo Discipleship program.

Between the two semesters of her freshman year, Finnigan traveled with Go Now Missions to Lesvos, Greece, where she worked at a refugee camp. She reflected on her experiences in an article for the Baptist Standard. She wrote, "It is funny, because God spent all of this past semester teaching me to trust when I do not understand. Right now, I do not understand how God can be faithful to those people. I do not understand how God can use my service and the service of others to help them. I do not understand why the Lord chose me, of all people, to experience that. But I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that my understanding is not necessary in order for God's Kingdom to be triumphant. God is faithful."

Her time at HBU has expanded Finnigan's definition of ministry. "The community has been good for me to grow in how I handle relationships and how I handle people," she said. "I see my everyday life as a ministry, and not just ministry as a job I go into at a church."

This summer, Finnigan is serving as a youth intern with Champion Forest Baptist Church. Finnigan is confident she made the best decision to get the best of both worlds – practical experience and a solid educational foundation. "I've seen the insight that professors have. Being in psychology classes and getting to hear from people who share my beliefs, but also practice professionally, has been really helpful and awesome," she said. "I'm excited to dive further in."



“The community has been good for me to grow in how I handle **relationships** and how I handle people. I see my everyday life as a ministry, and not just ministry as a job I go into at a church.”

— *Amanda Finnigan*

# John Bisagno Leaves Legacy In Houston and Beyond

*Professorship at HBU Honors Bisagno*



**F**rank Minton, a former pastor, remembers meeting the man who would become his best friend, John Bisagno, in 1957. "It was when I played pro-ball with the Brooklyn Dodgers. We met in a café in Shawnee, Oklahoma," he said. Minton and his wife, Joyce, hit it off with Bisagno and his wife, Uldine. "The reason we became good friends is John said, 'I always wanted to be a baseball pitcher and you always wanted to be a Baptist preacher.'"

Only four months apart, the two men forged a close bond. The most memorable aspect of John's character was his love for Jesus Christ. Minton vividly recalls how Bisagno was once introduced when he spoke before the Rev. Billy Graham at an evangelistic conference for the Texas Baptists in Dallas. The speaker simply quoted John 1:6: "There was a man sent from God whose name was John."

While pastoring in Del City, Oklahoma, Bisagno was invited to pastor Houston's First Baptist Church. Bisagno talked over the idea with Minton. "I said, 'Whoever heard of Del City? But the world has heard of Houston. It's one of the fastest growing cities in the South. I believe it's of the Lord,'" Minton said of the opportunity.

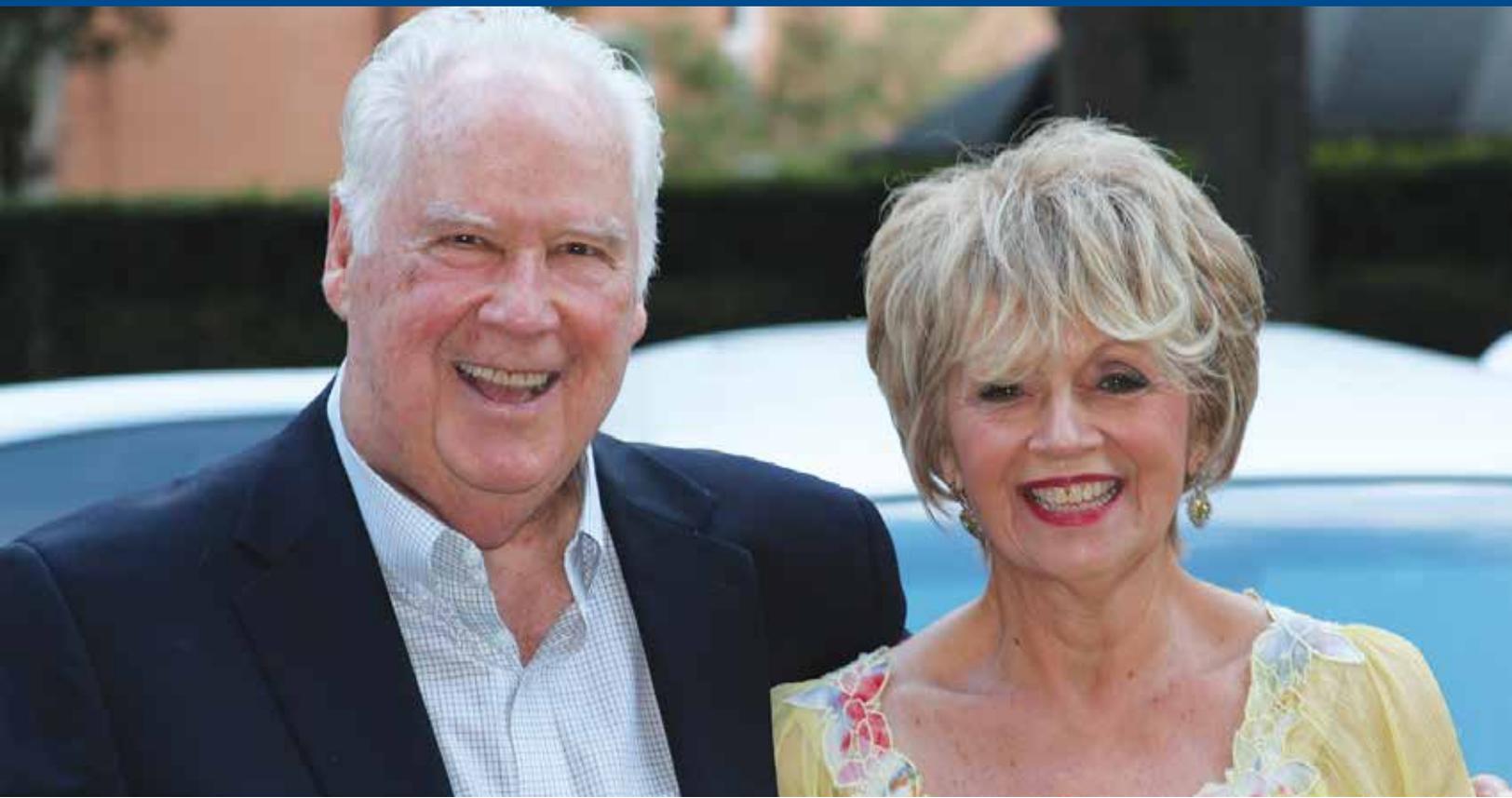
From 1970 through the next three decades, Bisagno faithfully pastored Houston's First Baptist, helping grow it from 400 to 22,000 members, according to a 1999 Baptist Press report. He also proudly guided the establishment of the church's new home, the Loop Campus. Throughout the years, Bisagno preferred to be known simply as "Brother John."

Although the jazz musician-turned pastor never graduated from seminary, he was a believer in Christian education and seminary instruction. He supported Houston Baptist University, serving on the HBU Board of Trustees from 1973-79, from 1988-94, and from 2007-10.

Jan Bennett and her husband, Don, became close friends of John and Uldine's. "When he taught, you needed your Bible, pen and a notepad, and it would help if you knew shorthand," Jan Bennett remembers. "He didn't compromise the Word. He was a humble man with a servant's heart. He always signed letters, 'The shepherd loves his sheep.'"

Especially toward the end of his life, Bisagno poured himself into preparing the next generation of pastors, teaching part-time and writing pieces directed toward developing ministerial leaders.

In his honor, the John Bisagno Distinguished Professorship in Christian Origins was established at HBU.



Following Uldine and John's passing in 2017 and 2018, respectively, the Bisagno name is synonymous with fidelity to Scripture and love for people.

Dr. Craig Evans, a world-renowned scholar of the New Testament and an expert in the Bible's historical and archeological roots, currently holds the John Bisagno Distinguished Professorship in Christian Origins. The professorship supports Dr. Evans' teaching and research in the Houston Theological Seminary of Houston Baptist University.

The important professorship honors the faithful ministry of Brother John, develops young ministers, and promotes Christian scholarship and devotion to Scripture. Financially endowing the Bisagno Professorship helps support biblical instruction and the work of future ministers.



*Gregg Matte, pastor of Houston's First Baptist Church and a trustee on the HBU Board of Trustees, said, "Houston Baptist University is a natural catalyst in this endeavor, with its firm commitment to the authority of Scripture and to educating students to become leaders in both career and community."*



## Giving Information

**HBU Office of Advancement and University Relations**  
**Tommy Bambrick, Director of Gift Planning and Stewardship**  
**281.649.3407**  
**TBambrick@HBU.edu**  
**HBU.edu/Bisagno**

# HBU Alumni Serve as Student Bar Association Presidents

**H**BU alumna, Abbe Adams '16, was attending the American Bar Association Annual Convention with the Student Bar Association of The University of Oklahoma in August 2018 when someone sitting at her roundtable caught her eye. There were students representing universities throughout the United States, so she didn't expect to see someone she knew in such a niche group.

"I kept looking at him," Adams said. "Finally, I said, 'Did you go to HBU?'"

It turns out he did. Femi Aborisade '14, graduated shortly after Adams entered HBU in 2013. Adams was serving as the president of the OU Student Bar Association, and Aborisade was serving as the president of The University of Texas Student Bar Association.

"I think the odds are pretty low that two students from HBU would run into each other in Chicago and be doing the same thing," Aborisade said.

Each of them reflects on their time at HBU with appreciation for the preparation the University provided. Adams came from Farmersville, Texas, and was a

high jumper on the Track team and a business major. Additionally, she was on the Sled Team that cared for the Husky mascot, Kiza, was a Husky Ambassador, was director of public relations for the Student Government Association, and was president of the business honors society, Delta Mu Delta. In 2016, she was named "Miss HBU."

Aborisade came to HBU by way of Sugar Land. He was a political science major with a minor in Latin. He was a member of Beta Upsilon Chi and was involved in the student publication, named The Collegian at the time. There he served as an assistant entertainment editor, then as entertainment editor, before becoming managing editor.

"That was a formative experience for me," Aborisade said of his role with the publication. "Working with a team and having the courage to interview people and put my opinion out there, I felt like I grew a lot and got more comfortable letting people know how I feel on paper."

Aborisade remembers turning in a paper in a writing class his freshman year and being challenged: "I turned it in and felt really good about it, and I got a 'C.' It was a good



"Working with a team and having the courage to interview people and put my opinion out there, I felt like I grew a lot and got more **comfortable** letting people know how I feel on paper."

— Femi Aborisade

wakeup call. I realized you can't turn in the same work as high school. You have to grow."

Adams was influenced by the Center for Christianity in Business, HBU Spiritual Life, and the community HBU offered in academics and athletics. She landed a human resources internship during her college years with Briggs & Veselka Co. by attending an on-campus job fair. She was encouraged into law in part through a business law class taught by Dr. Jodey Hinze.

"In general, I'm just so thankful for my time at HBU," Adams said. "It completely molded and shaped who I am and where I'm at. God wanted me there and He set me up many times along the way."

Both students agree that HBU prepared them for the next step.

"I think the best thing about HBU is the dedication to the liberal arts and critical thinking," Aborisade said. "It's very similar to a classical education. You're going to read a text and have a light debate. That's very similar to what we do as graduate students. It's discussion rather than indoctrination."

Classes at HBU helped ready her for law school, Adams said. "My business courses were relatively difficult. I don't think it was easy at any point," she said. "HBU is academically very impressive. We had an open conversation in all of my classes. You could expect to be called on and contribute. Law school is cold call. I was never that nervous because we had such a fantastic community. At HBU, every one of my classes had some sort of presentation, so I was comfortable being prepared. That was something I probably would not have gotten if I had gone to a larger university."

Both Adams and Aborisade have jobs lined up in Houston. She will be in the in-house legal team of Boardwalk Pipeline Partners and he will do corporate transactional work for Sidley Austin LLP.

Aborisade gives a word of advice to current HBU students: "They should really stick true to what they want to do in terms of their career. There are so many career paths out there. They should seek out people who are engaged in the careers they want to be in and make mentors out of them."



"I'm just so **thankful** for my time at HBU," Adams said. "It completely molded and shaped who I am and where I'm at. God wanted me there and He set me up many times along the way."

— *Abbe Adams*



## Mock Trial Participants Gain Transferable Skills

“The students develop public speaking skills that **go beyond** being able to stand up and recite a memorized speech – they must think on their feet, be able to receive criticism and adapt quickly. The students also participate as a team. While one student may perform very well, the **success of the team** depends on everyone meeting their obligations.”

— *Crystal Dang*

**P**articipants in HBU's Mock Trial team have a noticeable poise and warm demeanor. In Mock Trial, they must be prepared, professional and unflappable – those qualities have stuck.

Team president, Michael Dooley, has been on the team for two years. “Ultimately, our goal in mock trial is to be as prepared as possible. It's very time-intensive. You want to be the best you possibly can be,” he said. “It forces you to push yourself more and more, and you see the dividends.”

Mock trial, as the name suggests, involves an imitation trial involving a plausible scenario. Students take on the roles of witnesses or attorneys on opposing sides. Court case players must be believable and ready with an assertion or an opposing probe.

Students on HBU's team practice in the evenings twice per week under the guidance of Crystal Dang '12, an adjunct professor of HBU who teaches Forensics Communication. She is an associate at Dow Golub Remels & Gilbreath, PLLC. She, with the assistance of Kelsey Leiper, another local practicing attorney, has coached the team since 2016.

“The students learn analytical skills to digest a mock trial problem and develop a working case theory,” Dang said. “They choose what witnesses they want to call and the evidence that they want to present. They learn the federal rules of evidence to argue objections and enter evidence, how to effectively present opening and closing arguments, and how to adapt their arguments to different judges.”

The HBU Mock Trial team competes at least once per semester against college and university teams in the area. HBU has done well. The team received an Honorable Mention at the 2019 American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) Open Round Championship Series (ORCS) in Tennessee, and was an Honorable Mention for the Houston Regional ORCS Tournament as well. Dooley earned a Top Witness Award, and



Calvin Maynard, team captain, won a Top Attorney Award at the Houston Regional Tournament. Maynard also received a Top Attorney Award in Memphis.

Although many students involved in mock trial programs plan to enter the legal profession, the skills they learn are transferable into many arenas. "The students develop public speaking skills that go beyond being able to stand up and recite a memorized speech – they must think on their feet, be able to receive criticism and adapt quickly," Dang said. "The students also participate as a team. While one student may perform very well, the success of the team depends on everyone meeting their obligations. This allows students to learn what it means to be a good leader and a good teammate."

Team member Allison Klinge said, "I've always been interested in legal studies, but once you jump in, it's really overwhelming. In mock trial, I've had to learn everything through hands-on experience. I now know things I couldn't learn from a book or that a professor couldn't teach me."





## American Marketing Association Chapter Helps Prepare Students for Life and Work

**A**fter a several-year hiatus, a chapter of the American Marketing Association (AMA) was reestablished this spring with the help of students Yvette Garcia, Ana Nava-Cardoso, and Emily Zavala, with Dr. Mark Clark, assistant professor of Marketing in the Archie W. Dunham College of Business. The group is just one of the dozens of clubs and organizations at HBU in which students can supplement their education, and learn and practice valuable skills.

As a Business major and president of the HBU AMA chapter, Danielle Wheeler is pleased to see the organization growing already. "Participating students gain a lot from AMA, such as working on teams for professional projects, gaining knowledge and learning how to market," she said. "The beautiful thing about AMA is that it is not closed off to just business majors. Anyone can join, and it is valuable because the world is all about how you market yourself, your skills, and so on."

Clark has experience as an organization sponsor and as a director of entrepreneurial programs for college students. He also worked as a corporate recruiter for a time. "During a student's undergraduate program, any extracurricular activity like athletics, student government, a service fraternity or sorority, or AMA, distinguishes and

differentiates students in the eyes of recruiters," Clark said. "And the first job assignment after baccalaureate can set the stage for a great career. I know part of my duty as a higher education professional is to ensure a student enjoys a successful and fulfilling career."

AMA offers educational, learning and networking opportunities for students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The goals of the program include helping students gain a quality first job assignment, practicing marketing concepts and skills, and furthering the reach of HBU.

Dean of the Department of Student Success & Advising, Dr. David Hao, serves as a sponsor for AMA. "Involvement in organizations like AMA contributes to student success," Hao said. "It is a really effective means of helping students learn and grow and find their passions and interests. It helps them figure out and refine what they want to do for their future jobs and careers. By helping these students identify their interests, get plugged in with campus resources, and find the right major, they're going to graduate and go on to be effective and successful."

**Visit [HBU.edu/StudentLife](https://www.hbu.edu/StudentLife)  
[HBU.edu/p56-Lazzari](https://www.hbu.edu/p56-Lazzari)  
[HBU.edu/p56-Marketing](https://www.hbu.edu/p56-Marketing)**



## Rick and Denise Renner Continue to Share the Good News

**R**ick and Denise Renner, known for shepherding the Moscow Good News Church in Russia's capital city, visited HBU to discuss God's work in Russia and around the world. Rick Renner has firsthand practice discovering the will of God for his life, and shares insights gleaned from experience and biblical study in his latest book, "The Will of God: The Key to Your Success."

"First of all," Renner said, "The will of God is in the Holy Spirit – He is the mind of God. The dreams and desires of people are often the will of God speaking from the inside. God's voice in Scripture addresses most of the issues we face in life. I believe there's nothing more important than the Word of God. When you're in the will of God, there's a different kind of grace that comes. And sometimes, knowing His will is a process. Abraham made every mistake. The good news is, if you've made mistakes, you can still get where you're supposed to be."

Like it is for others, Renner said discovering God's will for his life has been a multistep process, in which one move of obedience led to discovering further directives. His journey to Russia began when he was invited to speak at a missions conference. As a pastor in the US, he wasn't keen on becoming an international missionary. But beside him on the pew at the conference, he found a Russian Bible that captivated his attention. He discovered that, with the help of his Greek study, he could read the Russian language phonetically.

After studying the Russian language on his own, Renner was invited to speak in what was then the Soviet Union. "There were bread lines and little food," he described. "I ended up speaking in a school. The Holy Spirit spoke to me clearly and said, 'Welcome to your new home.' Then I heard the Holy Spirit say it again. In the next days that I was there, it all began to come together for me. God doesn't always reveal the full will to you; sometimes He just gives you enough to keep you moving. I thought we

were going for a year, and now we've been there for 29 years."

With the backing of American churches, Renner began broadcasting the Gospel message on Russian television around the time the Soviet Union dissolved in late 1991. "Communism/atheism ruled for 70 years. It did a great thing," he said. "In those 70 years, people's hearts became vacant. Communism in a way cleaned the slate. People were so hungry for the Word of God."

Early on, Renner offered for viewers to write him a letter with the promise of a response. The ministry was inundated with 800,000 letters. Thanks to television and in-person outreaches, people came to Christ in droves. The Renners began the Moscow Good News Church.

Denise Renner used her vocal gift to lead worship. "You just take one step and God opens another step and another step," she said. "I'm singing all these words I've never known in my life...the power of God would come as we worshipped Him. People would get saved and miracles would happen. We were just watching what God was doing. All we did was say 'yes.' When you say 'yes' in any area of your life, you open the door of heaven and His blessing, provision, power and peace. It opens the door to all of that and helps you do what you need to do."

Since the inception of their ministry, God has used the Renners to reach people throughout Russia and beyond. Their television ministry is broadcast in 13 languages around the world. They have enjoyed favor with the Russian people and even the government. "I can never forget there were a generation of believers who prayed for freedom to come," Rick Renner said. "When you're in the will of God, I'm not going to tell you everything is going to go swell, but when you're in the will of God, you do have a measure of protection. God is moving on every level of government and society; it's marvelous."

**Visit [Renner.org](http://Renner.org).**



"The need for a significantly larger **'digital workforce'** has been acknowledged by the Greater Houston Partnership, the Cyber Houston Task Force, Houston Exponential, the mayor of Houston and many other organizations and individuals. We are grateful for this gift."

— *Dr. Stanley Napper*

## Grace Hopper Scholarships to Assist Students in STEM-Related Majors

**H**BU is pleased to announce a new scholarship opportunity for students, recognizing a pioneer of computer science and military service, Rear Admiral Grace M. Hopper, PhD, by establishing the Grace Hopper Scholarships. This fund is established through a generous gift from Mr. Holly Frost and Ms. Kathaleen Wall. Mr. Frost is an entrepreneur who created one of the earliest and most successful computer memory companies.

Through the gift of \$500,000 per year for the next four years, HBU will be able to support up to 100 students annually in high-demand, STEM-related academic programs. Scholarship recipients will demonstrate Dr. Hopper's persistence, technical knowledge and selfless service as students in Computer Science, Cyber Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics at HBU. The goal of the scholarship is to support qualified students during the second and third years of their degree programs to enhance the probability of their graduation.

"Texas is expected to see dramatic growth in technology-based companies and career opportunities over the next five to 10 years. The only way to fill these

opportunities, and to ensure Texas' position as a premier technology growth center within the US, is to encourage increased pursuit of science and engineering degrees. For Texas students to be competitive in the workforce, STEM programs at the college level are essential now more than ever," Kathaleen Wall said. "STEM-focused college programs establish an educational environment and scientific background for students to open doors to enhanced research and development opportunities in Texas. Women, traditionally underrepresented in these fields, are a natural focal point for this effort. Encouraging more women to pursue science and engineering careers will help Texas to develop a workforce of the future, while also offering women the benefits of the rewarding and high-paying jobs that are associated with these career paths. In an attempt to achieve this goal, we have chosen to establish a series of scholarships – named in honor of the legendary computing pioneer, Grace Hopper – to encourage increased participation of women in the fields of science and engineering. These scholarships will be available to female students, and all qualified applicants of HBU, who choose to pursue a technology-related degree. HBU truly exemplifies



*Dr. Stanley Napper*

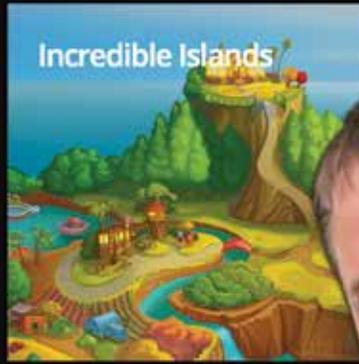
Texas excellence. It provides a well-rounded, high-quality education that attends to academic as well as spiritual learning, understanding and development. We truly hope that this effort can serve as the first step in positioning Texas for success in the future."

Dr. Stanley Napper, dean of the HBU College of Engineering, said, "The United States, and the Houston metro area in particular, needs more STEM graduates, especially in the high-demand areas of software development, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, analytics and other topics whose foundation lies in computer science, engineering, science and mathematics. The need for a significantly larger 'digital workforce' has been acknowledged by the Greater Houston Partnership, the Cyber Houston Task Force, Houston Exponential, the mayor of Houston and many other organizations and individuals. We are grateful for this gift."

The HBU College of Engineering was established in 2017; classes began in the fall of 2018. The College is expected to grow to between 200 and 300 students within the first five years. The HBU College of Science and Mathematics has, for decades, offered outstanding programs which prepare graduates for professional or graduate study, and for employment in a variety of industries.

***[HBU.edu/p56-Hopper](http://HBU.edu/p56-Hopper)***





“She said regarding World War II, **‘Without Christians, you wouldn’t be alive.’**”

— Gil Ilutowich

## Israeli Businessman Shares Significance of the Bible and Technology

**B**orn in Israel in 1965 to Holocaust survivors, Gil Ilutowich was named for the Hebrew word for “happiness” by his mother. “She told me, ‘You are an answer to 2,000 years of prayer.’ For her, it was an answer to many prayers,” he said. “It fulfilled what the prophets said – that one day, we would hear children again in the streets of Jerusalem.”

With parents who were fortunate to be alive, Ilutowich sees himself as a living miracle. He shared his story at HBU recently. “My mother was raised as a Christian. She put love for Jewish people and for Jesus in my heart,” he said. “She said regarding World War II, ‘Without Christians, you wouldn’t be alive.’”

Ilutowich went from humble beginnings to becoming co-CEO and chairman of the board for Compedia, an Israel-based technology company. Compedia specializes in immersive learning, bringing high-tech engagement techniques that enable learners to interact with and absorb material. The company’s creations include academic and religious curricula, professional and military training technologies, and more.

After establishing Compedia with partners 32 years ago, the company has developed products sold in more than 50 countries around the world. The augmented and virtual reality technologies they use apply to many different areas. Projects range from interactive children’s books to corporate training and manufacturing streamlining.

Recently, they’ve trained members of the Israel Defense Forces in combat. Ilutowich describes, “One of the problems Israel is facing is Hamas. We developed virtual reality tunnels where the IDF soldiers can train,” he said. “The inventions that are happening in Israel are remarkable. So many other inventions that are changing the world come from Israel.”

In education, the company has developed school curricula for several subjects including biblical education. Bible courses are compulsory for students in Israel, Ilutowich said. Similarly, the company created 3-D material for the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC.

“What’s amazing with this curriculum is – the attention span of a student is very short – with this technology, they read from the Bible and get to see a short movie. Every five minutes, the media is changing,” he said.

The Bible is much more than a religious book; it is the foundation for the Western world as we know it, Ilutowich said. “You can’t raise generation after generation of students who are ignorant of Western society, because it’s based on the Bible. All of us – no matter if we are Jewish, Muslims, Christians – can see that the Western culture is based on the Bible,” he said. “The Bible has such deep wisdom regarding relationships, morals and freedom.”

**Visit [Compedia.net](http://Compedia.net).**

# HBU Celebrates First Doctoral Graduates

**W**ith the implementation of HBU's first doctoral program, the Doctor of Education in Executive Educational Leadership in 2016, HBU became a national, comprehensive university. In May, HBU proudly celebrated the first-ever EdD class's graduation. There were 14 students who earned the EdD in Executive Educational Leadership in May, and who received their diplomas.

"The entire HBU family celebrates this historic academic milestone," Dr. Robert Sloan, HBU president, said. "HBU faculty, staff, trustees, and leaders have worked toward the goal of doctoral programs, and it is very gratifying to see the work of so many over so many years come to fruition with this first graduating class of doctoral students."

Dr. Julie Fernandez, dean of the HBU College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, said, "The faculty and staff in the College were honored to teach and serve these outstanding leaders. They will be amazing influencers in the field of education, and will apply their professional knowledge and powerful faith in our community and beyond."

In addition to the initial doctoral degree, HBU offers the Doctor of Education in Special Education Leadership and the Doctor of Education in Executive Leadership in Mental Health and Human Services.



## HBU by the Numbers

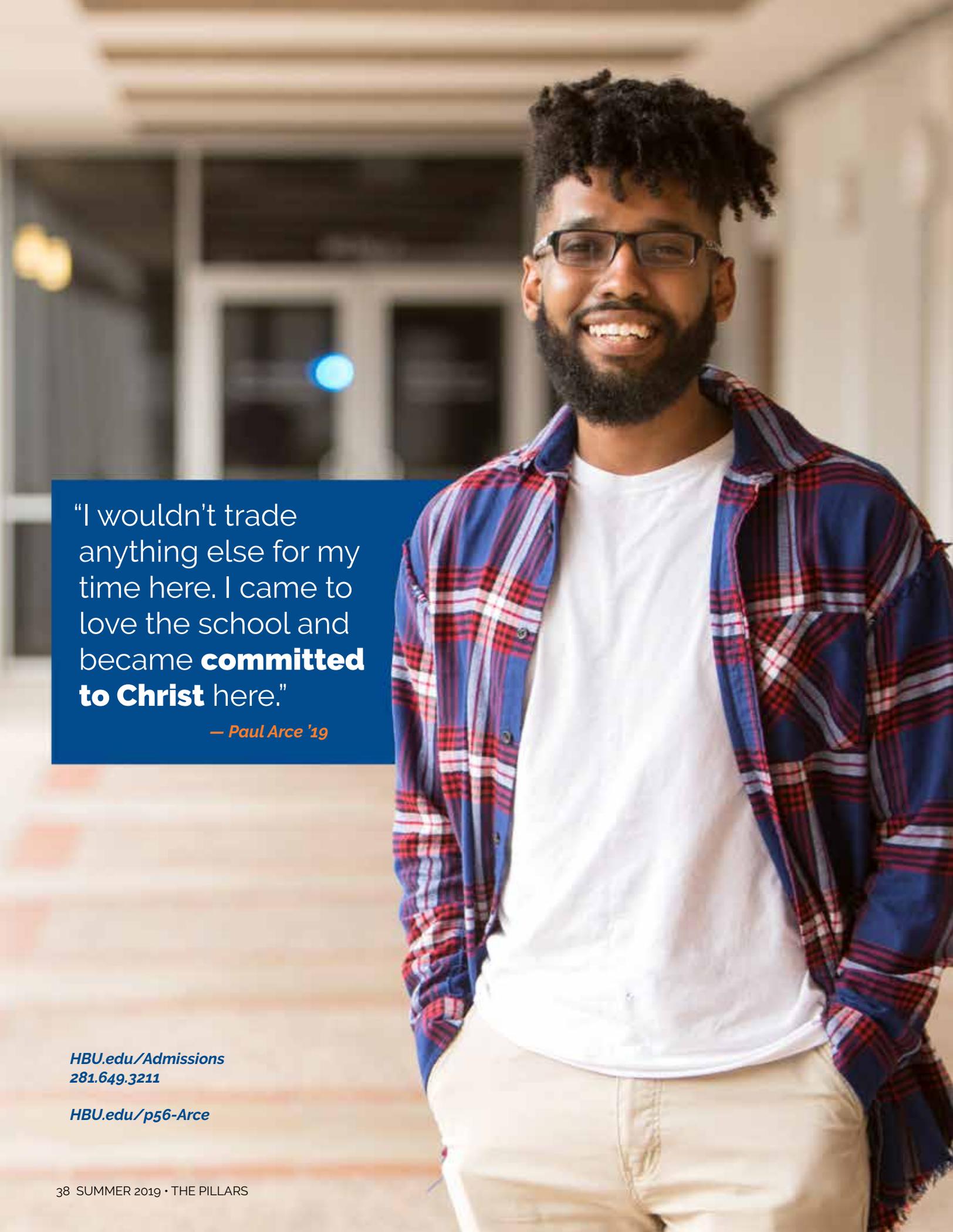
|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Undergraduate Programs:               | <b>69</b> |
| Undergraduate Certification Programs: | <b>3</b>  |
| Graduate Programs:                    | <b>45</b> |
| Graduate Certification Programs:      | <b>17</b> |

## SPRING 2019 NEW PROGRAMS:

Master of Arts in Christian Psychology  
Bachelor of Music in Music Theatre

| (UNDUPLICATED)<br>2018-19 | HBU MAIN<br>CAMPUS | ONLINE     | ALL          |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| Undergraduate Students    | <b>2,278</b>       | <b>352</b> | <b>2,630</b> |
| Graduate Students         | <b>957</b>         | <b>437</b> | <b>1,394</b> |
| All Students              | <b>3,235</b>       | <b>789</b> | <b>4,024</b> |





“I wouldn’t trade anything else for my time here. I came to love the school and became **committed to Christ** here.”

— *Paul Arce '19*

[HBU.edu/Admissions](https://www.hbu.edu/Admissions)  
281.649.3211

[HBU.edu/p56-Arce](https://www.hbu.edu/p56-Arce)


 A photograph showing three individuals smiling. On the left is a woman with blonde hair and glasses wearing a black top. In the center is a man with a beard wearing a light blue shirt and a purple patterned tie. On the right is a woman with blonde hair wearing a red sleeveless top. Behind them is a large sign with the text 'SMALL CHANGES BIG IMPACT' in orange and white letters.
 

SMALL CHANGES  
BIG IMPACT

## HBU School of Education Hosts 11th Annual Teaching, Learning & Research Symposium

The HBU School of Education hosted the 11th Annual Teaching, Learning & Research Symposium on March 23, in McNair Hall on HBU's campus. The theme was "Beyond Measure: Small Changes That Make a Big Impact." The symposium served PreK-12 teachers and future teachers in public and private school settings, those who work in higher education, high school students who wish to become teachers, as well as those interested in research related to education and the behavioral sciences.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Chad Jones, director of Digital Learning for Lamar CISD. Breakout sessions covered a gamut of topics ranging from bilingual instruction to technology integration. The sessions were taught by professors from multiple disciplines, area subject matter experts and doctoral students.

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

[HBU.edu/p56-Symposium](http://HBU.edu/p56-Symposium)



## C.S. Lewis Talk & Panel Held at HBU

Dr. Michael Ward, HBU professor of Apologetics and an England-based, leading C.S. Lewis scholar, led a C.S. Lewis Talk & Panel in March entitled, "The Current State of Lewis Studies." HBU scholars, Dr. Holly Ordway, Dr. Louis Markos, and guest scholar, Mr. Andrew Lazo, joined the conversation.

[HBU.edu/p56-LewisPanel](http://HBU.edu/p56-LewisPanel)



*Dr. Stewart  
Morris, Sr.*



*Jon  
Lineberger*

## Donors Honored at Endowed Scholarship Reception

**H**BU Advancement honored some of the many donors who provide scholarships to the University during a special reception on April 3 in the Hinton Center. Dr. Robert B. Sloan, HBU president, thanked donors and said the scholarships help student recipients, honor the namesakes of the scholarships, and bless those who give. "I'm confident that faith is one of the most transformative things you can experience. When you give to a place like HBU where faith is at the core of what we do, you get that transformation," Sloan said. "It makes a huge difference to our nation and culture."

Holly Frost and Kathaleen Wall, who are supporting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and Nursing students with their four-year, generous gift, named for computing pioneer, Grace Hopper, were honored at the reception and preceding Convocation. Among the other honorees were the Dolan family, who have carried on the memory of their son and brother through the Garrett Dolan Endowed Scholarship.

Sharon Saunders, HBU vice president for Advancement & University Relations, said what began with one endowed HBU scholarship in 1969 from founding father, Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr., has grown into 325 endowed scholarships. "This year, students benefit from more than \$2.8 million in scholarships," she said. "We have so much to celebrate."

Endowed scholarships are self-perpetuating, allowing the profit from invested funds to support student scholarships in the present and into the future.

Alumnus Jon Lineberger '01, spoke of how significant it was to receive the May Morris #2 Endowed Scholarship during his time at HBU. "Over the years, I just had this desire to say, 'Thank you.' When I tell you that this was a transformational place in my life I don't know if that describes it," he said. "I describe this as a holy place. So many prayers here were answered." Lineberger described how qualifying for the May Morris #2 allowed him to continue studying at HBU; he still treasures the scholarship certificate. "One of the memorials in my life of how God helped me is my scholarship certificate," he said. "This was more than just scholarship money; it was God's way of saying, 'I have a plan for your life.'"

Senior Julia Mathew, recipient of the Jane Jester '68 Marmion & Stephen Andrew Marmion Alumni Endowed Scholarship, said, "All of the professors truly want to help you achieve your goals. I truly believe HBU has helped prepare me to serve and do well in my career."

Chair of the HBU Alumni Association Advisory Board, Aaron Diehl '06, established the Diehl Family Endowed Scholarship with his wife, Stephanie '07. As a student, Aaron Diehl benefitted from the Iris Baker Endowed Scholarship. "It was an easy decision in our mind to fund an endowed scholarship," Diehl said. "The world needs more Huskies and people like Huskies in it."

Lineberger said investing in students in a Christ-centered way through scholarships is a worthy cause. "It's making a difference and it's making a difference in perpetuity until the Lord comes back," he said.



*Front row: Kathaleen Wall and Holly Frost  
with Dr. Rosato and Dr. Napper*

## Special Recognitions

The Grace Hopper Scholarship given by Kathaleen Wall and Holly Frost  
Marvy and Elaine Finger Endowed Scholarship honoring Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.  
Stewart Morris Endowed Scholarship  
David and Lynne Mahood Endowed Scholarship in Science  
Rebekah Ann Tauber Endowed Scholarship  
Sam and Cassie Ludtke Endowed Scholarship in Education  
Sides Family Endowed Scholarship in Nursing  
Stephanie and Aaron Diehl Endowed Scholarship  
The Garrett Dolan Endowed Scholarship

*[HBU.edu/Giving](http://HBU.edu/Giving),  
[HBU.edu/p56-Scholarshipluncheon](http://HBU.edu/p56-Scholarshipluncheon)*



# The Guild Hosts Silver Tea

The Guild hosted its annual Silver Tea at the historic home of Elizabeth and Peter Wareing. More than 120 attended the event to celebrate the work of The Guild and to raise funds for graduate scholarships.

As a result of the philanthropy, seven endowed scholarships and 21 annual scholarships were awarded to deserving students pursuing master's degrees in Theology and Education and the EdD in Executive Educational Leadership.

The Guild has awarded more than \$1.4 million toward endowed scholarships since the creation of the first scholarship in 1999.

[Learn more about The Guild at HBU.edu/Guild.](http://HBU.edu/Guild)

*Peter and Elizabeth Wareing with First Lady Sue and President Robert Sloan*



*President Cheryl Kaminski with Silver Tea Chairs Ruth Ann Williamson and Cookie Peeler*

*Judy Graham, Sharon Saunders, Diane Williams '93, Judi Pyburn '94*

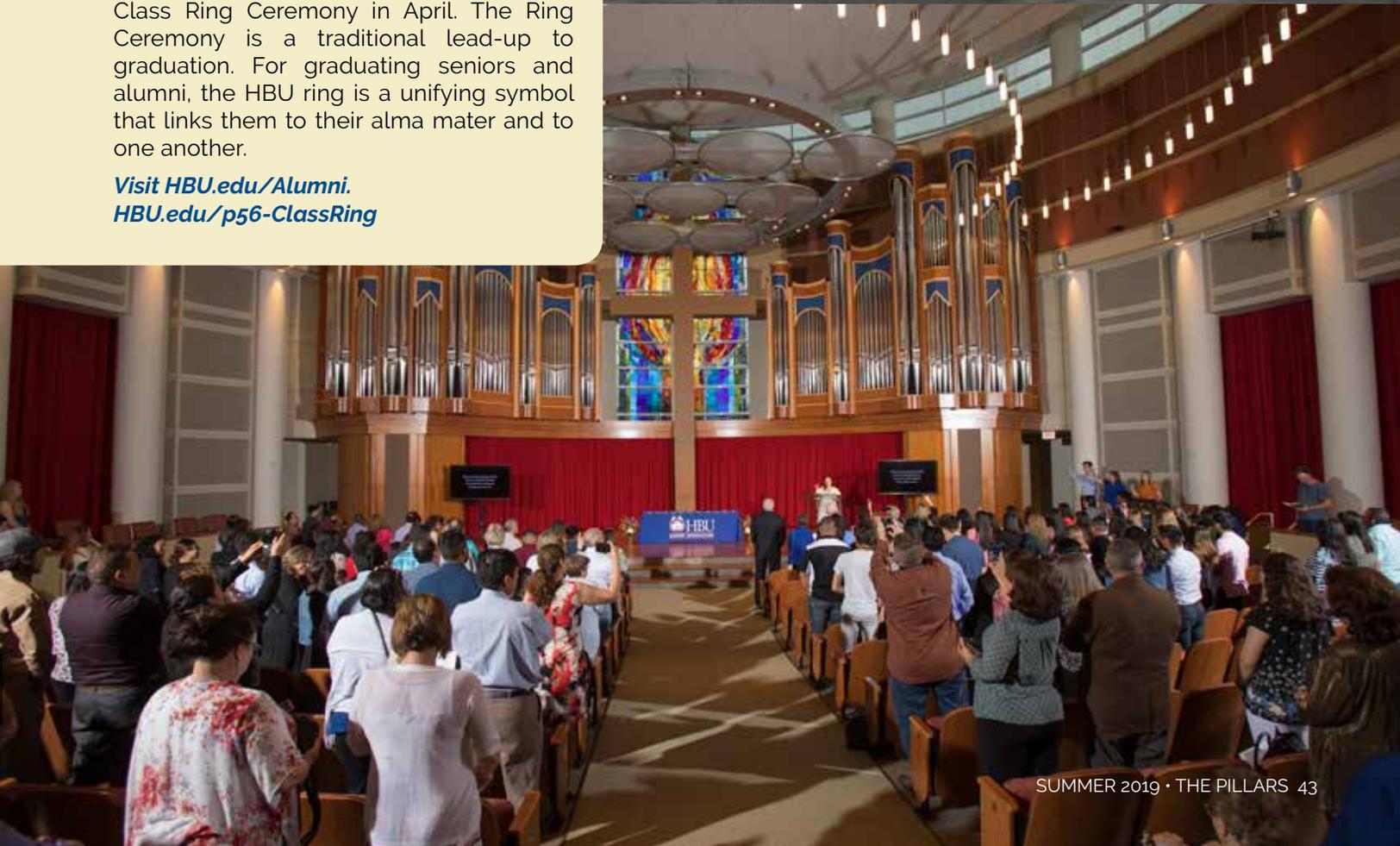
*Dr Carol McGaughey, Dr Dawn Wilson MEd '99, Dr Katie Alaniz MEd '11*

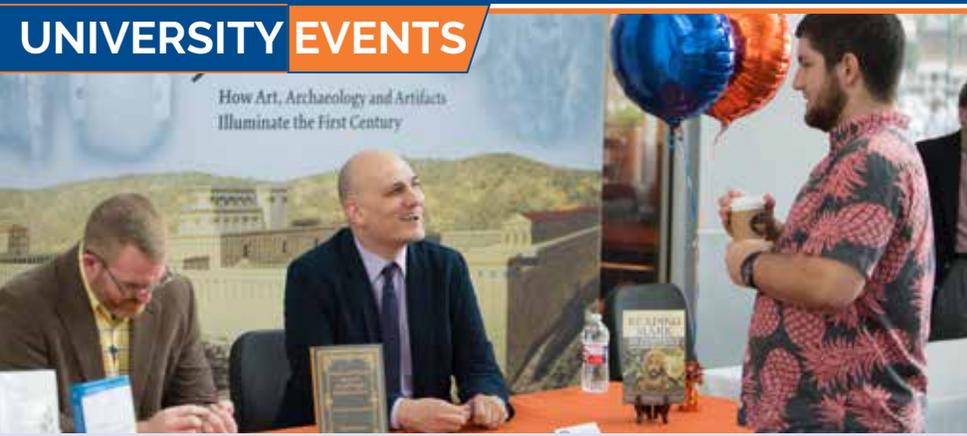


## HBU Alumni Association Hosts Ring Ceremony

The HBU Alumni Association hosted a Class Ring Ceremony in April. The Ring Ceremony is a traditional lead-up to graduation. For graduating seniors and alumni, the HBU ring is a unifying symbol that links them to their alma mater and to one another.

Visit [HBU.edu/Alumni](https://www.hbu.edu/Alumni).  
[HBU.edu/p56-ClassRing](https://www.hbu.edu/p56-ClassRing)





How Art, Archaeology and Artifacts  
Illuminate the First Century

## Third Annual Author Celebration Held

HBU proudly hosted the Third Annual Author Celebration in April featuring HBU faculty, student and alumni authors and editors. Featured faculty members represented a diverse set of fields, from fiction to education, business, Christian theology and apologetics, and more. Distinguished authors/editors and their books included Nancy Pearcey, "Love Thy Body: Answering Hard Questions About Life and Sexuality"; Dr. Ernest Liang, "Christianity in Business: Applying Biblical Values in the Marketplace"; Dr. Jerry Walls, "Two Dozen (or so) Arguments for God: The Plantinga Project"; and Dr. Louis Markos, "Atheism on Trial: Refuting the Modern Arguments Against God."

[HBU.edu/p56-AuthorCelebration](http://HBU.edu/p56-AuthorCelebration)



## 2019 MFA and BFA/BA Art Reception Held

Graduates of the Master of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Arts programs in the School of Fine Arts showcased their work in a special exhibit in the University Academic Center from April 25 through May 27. Art elements ranged from wood panels to steel and clay.

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



# Annual President's Concert Delights Listeners



The annual President's Concert, featuring artists from the Department of Music, was held in April. This year's concert highlighted the winner of the annual Concerto/Aria Competition within the Department of Music, Nathan Lerner, singing an aria from Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro." The concert also included the Terra Nostra Ensemble, and combined choirs and orchestra in Franz Schubert's beautiful "Mass in G."



## HBU Hosts Annual Writers Conference

HBU Hosted its Annual Writers Conference: Creativity in the Classroom, in April. The conference featured speakers, workshop sessions, and panel discussions, including by HBU president, Dr. Robert Sloan, HBU faculty members and students, and Writers in the Schools.

Jayme McGhan, dean of the HBU School of Fine Arts, and a noted playwright, delivered the keynote address, "High-Impact Storytelling in the Classroom (or How to Be More Interesting Than Your Students' Smartphones)."



## 2019 HBU Honors Convocation

Congratulations to the honorees of the 2019 HBU Honors Convocation. The special event recognizes outstanding students in various disciplines, organizations and sports. The Honors Convocation represents the best of HBU, and this year, the event was even more meaningful with the reveal of the new Mingo mascot suit!

[HBU.edu/p56-Honors](http://HBU.edu/p56-Honors)

# Golden Circle Celebration Honors Early Graduates

**G**raduates of the class of 1969 from what was then known as Houston Baptist College were honored in the Golden Circle Induction Ceremony held in May in the Hinton Center. The HBU Alumni Association recognized alumni and presented each of them with a Golden Circle certificate of membership and a lapel/pendant pin.

"We're very thankful for all the shoulders we get to stand on – the decades of history and tradition and excellence that have been built up by so many who have gone before all of us and continue to work with the University," said Dr. Robert Sloan, HBU president.

Sharon Saunders, vice president of Advancement and University Relations, said, "We celebrate you almost daily on this campus because we think about the early classes and all that you did to pave the way for all of us. You were truly pioneers. We are in your debt."

Former faculty members, Dr. Don and Elsa Jean Looser (*top photo*), were recognized for their service to the University. Dr. Doris Warren (*center photo*) was recognized as well. David Appleby '69 shared a thoughtful class reflection.

The HBU Golden Circle was established as a way to honor HBU alumni who attended the University 50 years ago or more. All alumni are eligible, even if they did not graduate from Houston Baptist College or Houston Baptist University.

[HBU.edu/p56-GoldenCircle](http://HBU.edu/p56-GoldenCircle)





# Faculty and Staff End-of-Year Celebration Honors Employees

HBU employees were celebrated for their service during the 2019 HBU Faculty and Staff End-of-Year Celebration. Faculty and staff award winners and finalists were lauded. Retirees and those with five-year increments of service were recognized.

Dr. Robert B. Sloan, HBU president, said, "It's such a privilege to work here and be part of such an outstanding group of faculty and staff. It's what happens day in and day out that allows us to really carry forward the mission, the nature and the traditions of the University."

## Finalists and Award-Winners in Each Category



### 2018-2019 Ray Mayfield Outstanding Staff Award

*Joshua Dunn, Award Winner*  
*Hunter Neesley, Award Winner*

Charles Bacarisse, Finalist  
Gary Dyke, Finalist  
Tristan Fernandez-Cablay, Finalist  
Erinn Hughes, Finalist  
Mary K. Pinto, Finalist



### 2018-2019 Opal Goolsby Professor of the Year Award

*Dr. Agnieszka Czopik, Award Winner*

Dr. Mark Clark, Finalist  
Dr. David J. Davis, Finalist  
Dr. Rhonda Furr, Finalist  
Dr. Steven L. Jones, Finalist  
Dr. Joseph Pelletier, Finalist  
Dr. Kay Watkins, Finalist



### 2018-2019 Piper Professor Finalists

*Dr. John Travis Spoede, University Nominee*

Dr. Barbara Benitez, Finalist  
Dr. Ben C. Blackwell, Finalist  
Rev. Dr. Tim Ewest, Finalist  
Dr. Daniel Kramlich, Finalist

[HBU.edu/p56-EndofYear](http://HBU.edu/p56-EndofYear)

# The Guild Celebrate

Board members and committee chairs of The Guild gathered on campus recently for a planning session and installation. Sharon Saunders, executive director, presented Cheryl Kaminski with a commemorative charm in recognition of her first year as president of the organization. Attendees celebrated the underwriting success of the 2019 Silver Tea and the 2019-2020 calendar of events was reviewed.



Sharon Saunders, Carolyn Little, Cheryl Kaminski and Judy Craig



Cindy Garbs and Madelyn Collier



Cathy Bates, Ann Beeson, Patti Bailey and Lynn Tyger



## Graduation Celebration

HBU applauded the spring 2019 graduates, including 258 undergraduate students, 180 graduate students, and 14 EdD graduates - the first doctoral degrees awarded by HBU.

- [HBU.edu/p56-EndofYear](http://HBU.edu/p56-EndofYear) - 11:30 a.m. ceremony
- [HBU.edu/p56-Graduation2](http://HBU.edu/p56-Graduation2) - 2 p.m. ceremony
- [HBU.edu/p56-Graduation4](http://HBU.edu/p56-Graduation4) - 4 p.m. ceremony



Brena Baumann-Gonzalez '87



Klare Bambrich



Marion Armstrong, associate general counsel for HighGround Advisors



Honorable Georgia Akers '70



## Stewarding Resources Well: → A WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN

### HBU Advancement Hosts Financial Workshop for Women

The HBU Office of Advancement hosted "Stewarding Resources Well: A Workshop for Women" in May in the Belin Chapel of the Morris Cultural Arts Center. This free event for women of all ages included the important topics of personal estate planning, charitable contributions and women in philanthropy.

Speakers included the Honorable Georgia Akers '70; Brena Baumann-Gonzalez '87; Marion Armstrong, associate general counsel for HighGround Advisors; and Klare Bambrich.

[HBU.edu/p56-FinancialWorkshop](http://HBU.edu/p56-FinancialWorkshop)



### HBU Gideon Institute Hosts Psychology and Counseling Conference

The Gideon Institute of Christian Psychology and Counseling at HBU presented "Living in the Larger Story: The Christian Psychology of Larry Crabb" in May in Mabee Theater on HBU's campus.

Dr. Larry Crabb may be the most influential leader in Christian counseling during the past 50 years. He published his first article in Christianity Today in the early '70s. Since then, he has written numerous books, from "Basic Principles of Biblical Counseling," published in 1975, to the recent, "When God's Ways Make No Sense," published in 2018. The conference celebrated his amazing ministry through a consideration of his contributions to Christian counseling and the evangelical church by hearing from friends, colleagues, leaders in the field, former students and mentees, as well as Larry himself.

Visit [HBU.edu/Gideon](http://HBU.edu/Gideon).  
[HBU.edu/p56-GideonConference](http://HBU.edu/p56-GideonConference)



Dr. Christopher Hammons



Professor Andrew Roberts

## Churchill Biographer Visits HBU

*Submitted by the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty*

If there is one thing about Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill that stands out, it was his conviction during the Second World War that liberty and Western Civilization are worth defending. It's a good message for young people to hear. The mission of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty at HBU is to make sure that HBU students understand and appreciate our nation's founding principles. We inherited these principles from the Greeks, the Romans, the English, and our Judeo-Christian heritage. For the Center's annual "Leadership in Liberty Lecture" this school year, award-winning British author Andrew Roberts (visiting professor at King's College, London) spoke to HBU students about Winston Churchill, the Second World War, and the fight against Nazi aggression in Europe. Many students were only vaguely familiar with the story.

Professor Roberts' new biography, entitled "Churchill: Walking with Destiny," has been pronounced by the London Times, New York Times, and Wall Street Journal as the best biography of Churchill to date. Roberts had access to previously unavailable documents, including the diary of King George VI. Roberts spoke to the HBU Honors College during a special Tea Time event about the character and leadership of Winston Churchill. Students enjoyed tea, scones, and great conversation with Professor Roberts. Each student received a signed copy of Roberts' book. The event was quite meaningful to the students. Attending the tea, Government major

Calvin Maynard observed that "Churchill stuck with his convictions that liberty was incompatible with Nazi ideology, and all-out resistance was the only proper course of action." Senior Nursing student Abbey Hannah Brant noted that "Churchill highlights the difference between a leader driven by conviction rather than popularity." Roberts later addressed the larger HBU community, painting a character sketch of Churchill with those qualities that made him a great leader but also a difficult person. "Churchill was hard on people, but those who came to know him, loved and admired him very deeply," said Roberts.

A private dinner with Roberts was held later in the evening for HBU faculty and invited guests. Dr. Christopher Hammons, director of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty, observed, "This was a great opportunity for our students to learn that the fight for liberty isn't something confined to the American Founding or ancient history. There are people alive today who fought during the Second World War, including Dr. Stewart Morris – one of HBU's founding fathers – who was seated at the dinner next to Professor Roberts." Dr. Morris says that most young people take freedom and opportunity for granted, not realizing the cost and sacrifice that comes with defending it. "It sounds like a bumper sticker, but freedom isn't free," Morris said. "After this great lecture by Professor Roberts, I hope our students understand that better."

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## Bailey Zappe Commands the Game With Confidence

**W**hen he first stepped onto the HBU campus in 2017, Bailey Zappe was handed the reins to the HBU football program.

The junior from Victoria, Texas, has started 21 of 22 games, missing one game to an injury his freshman year. He holds every Huskies career, single-season and single-game passing record imaginable, but leading the program to being a contender in the Southland Conference is what matters to him most.

"The biggest change I saw this spring was the mindset of this team," Zappe said. "Everybody came to every workout and put in extra work, so there was a big improvement all around. You come into this season feeling confident everybody is going to do whatever it takes to get it done."

Zappe threw five touchdown passes in his first season, but with the installation of a new offense, he tied for the Southland lead and ranked 12th in the nation with 23 touchdowns in 2018.

"This is Bailey's second year under Coach (Zach) Kittley and they have an effective ability to communicate well with one another," head coach Vic Shealy said. "Bailey has always been a good student of the game, whether it be practice video or opponent video — he just loves

the game of football. He loves studying the game, he's become more knowledgeable and has really learned how to watch and learn from tape."

"Being able to watch and break down film has a lot to do with our success," Zappe said. "I enjoy football so much — I love watching film by myself or with the coaches and learning the other team's tendencies and coverages."

Zappe spent much of this spring, putting what he learned from tape into practice on the field.

"Spring ball was really good — for myself, I just wanted to continue to be a better leader and teammate," Zappe said. "It's my job to put the other 10 guys in the right spot to execute the offense."

"Bailey has demonstrated a greater mastery of the offense and you can see the way he commands the game with confidence," Shealy said. "He has really become that coach on the field you want. Fundamentally, his release is quicker and his decision-making is quicker, so he gets the ball out and where it needs to be. That allows us to play faster than the defense can react."

Quarterbacks cannot be successful without a solid group of receivers. As a freshman, Jerreth Sterns led the conference with 68 receptions, including four

touchdowns, and junior transfer Terry Tillmon also hauled in four touchdowns. Add in Vernon Harrell, Gamar Girdy Brito, Nick Sexton and Corey Ceniceros, and the Huskies have plenty of talent, depth and options to continue to put big points on the scoreboard.

"Having more chemistry should translate big time for us this year," Zappe said. "Last year, we were just six months in and getting to know each other. Now, we've had a big gap of time between last year, the end of the season and through spring ball. A lot of the time, we just go out and throw and catch and go over the offense. It's solely on us when the coaches aren't around to develop that communication on our own and the cohesion we need to be successful."

"The communication with the wide receivers has been quicker; you see it on the field in real time," Shealy said. "Bailey makes the other players around him smarter. He had a tremendous year and I believe we have one of the more exciting players in the Southland Conference coming back. He led the league in touchdown passes last year, so what we have worked on is reducing the turnovers and bad plays, and I thought we did a good job with that this spring.

*HBU opens the 2019 season on the road against Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) opponent UTEP Aug. 31 at the Sun Bowl in El Paso. The Huskies play a 12-game schedule this season, including six home games. Season tickets can be purchased by calling 281.649.3143 or online at HBUHuskies.com.*



## 2019 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

|                 |   |                      |               |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|---------------|
| Aug. 31         | at UTEP   | El Paso, Texas       | 7 p.m.        |
| <b>SEPT. 7</b>  | <b>TEXAS WESLEYAN</b>                                       | <b>HUSKY STADIUM</b> | <b>6 p.m.</b> |
| Sept. 14        | at South Dakota   | Vermillion, S.D.     | 2 p.m.        |
| <b>SEPT. 21</b> | <b>*NORTHWESTERN STATE</b>                                  | <b>HUSKY STADIUM</b> | <b>6 p.m.</b> |
| SEPT. 28        | TEXAS SOUTHERN ( <i>Family Weekend</i> )                    | HUSKY STADIUM        | 6 p.m.        |
| <b>OCT. 5</b>   | <b>*INCARNATE WORD</b>                                      | <b>HUSKY STADIUM</b> | <b>6 p.m.</b> |
| Oct. 12         | *at Abilene Christian                                       | Abilene, Texas       | TBA           |
| Oct. 19         | *at McNeese   | Lake Charles, La.    | TBA           |
| <b>OCT. 26</b>  | <b>*SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA (<i>Homecoming</i>)</b>          | <b>HUSKY STADIUM</b> | <b>2 p.m.</b> |
| Nov. 9          | *at Nicholls  | Thibodaux, La.       | TBA           |
| <b>NOV. 16</b>  | <b>*LAMAR (<i>Senior Day/Military Appreciation Day</i>)</b> | <b>HUSKY STADIUM</b> | <b>2 p.m.</b> |
| Nov. 23         | *at Sam Houston State                                       | Huntsville, Texas    | TBA           |

\*Southland Conference game

All times Central and subject to change

“Our seniors and upperclassmen were really **welcoming** to the freshmen and they knew they were going to be able to help us, and that made it easier.”

— *Mary-Ellen Hall*



## Mary-Ellen Hall Keeps Winning

**N**o coach in HBU history has had more milestones than Mary-Ellen Hall, who completed her 28th season at the helm of the Huskies' softball program in May, and is the all-time winningest coach in any sport at the school. On April 18, HBU swept University of the Incarnate Word in a doubleheader, coming from behind in game one for an 8-6 win, then pulling out a 1-0 victory in game two for Hall's 800th career victory.

"I think with this milestone, it was not the 800th win that was important. It was coming off last season, having four starters out and not having a good season, hoping and knowing we were better, but we still had to get it done on the field," Hall said. "It just happened this year that we were able to achieve double the wins. It's a testament to (Assistant Coaches) Roger (Willhite) and Natali (Duron) and all the players who have been here, but even more so, it's a testament to HBU that they've had that belief in me and stood by me all this time."

The Huskies finished 23-23 overall, more than doubling their win total after a 9-34 finish in 2018, and 10 Southland Conference wins, their most in five years. HBU finished at .500 for the first time since the Great West Conference Championship season of 2011.

"This team truly knew it was better than the year before," Hall said. "We lost nine games by one run, so they knew they were close, but they need to focus a little bit more and work a little bit harder."

Two of the team's top three hitters were seniors,

with shortstop Demi Janak leading the team with a .301 batting average, six home runs, 14 doubles and 20 RBIs; and first baseman Brooke Bushman hitting .273 with two home runs, seven doubles and 13 RBIs. The lineup was bolstered by a talented group of freshmen starters in designated hitter Caitlyn Brockway, third baseman Autumn Sydlik and outfielder Riley Bullen.

Hall credits the chemistry between the upperclassmen and underclassmen for the team's turnaround.

"They were a fun group to be around — they came out every day to practice. They weren't in bad moods, they worked hard, and if anyone saw Senior Day, they really understood how much they pulled for each other," Hall said. "Our seniors and upperclassmen were really welcoming to the freshmen and they knew they were going to be able to help us, and that made it easier. The fall gave us a glimpse of what the team could be, and the team really opened their arms to them."

This season certainly reenergized the coaching staff; adding what Hall believes is a strong recruiting class to an experienced group coming back bodes well for the future of the program.

"Even though we didn't make the conference tournament, we won a lot of big midweek games, and I think that is going to carry over to next year," Hall said. "We just need more consistency on the weekends. Very few teams win the last game they play (which HBU did by sweeping Abilene Christian), and while they were excited about the summer, they wanted to keep playing."

# Denim Rogers Set for the National Stage with Olympic Dreams on the Horizon

*Husky decathlete is the program's first track athlete to reach the NCAA Championships*

By Jeff Sutton

**W**hile Denim Rogers' path to HBU was anything but direct, the first-year Husky is set to be the University's first representative on the NCAA's biggest stage for the first time since the track and field program was restarted in 2008. And while he has high hopes for the NCAA Outdoor Championships, his aspirations extend beyond just the NCAA.

Rogers dropped out of high school as a freshman before completing high school online. As a result, he was a non-qualifier for the NCAA Division I, despite his aims, and made the decision to attend Garden City Community College in Garden City, Kansas, on an athletic scholarship.

As a freshman at Garden City CC, Rogers won the heptathlon at the NJCAA Region VI Indoor Championships, before placing sixth at the NJCAA Indoor Championships. Then, in the outdoor season, he took second place at the NJCAA regional meet and finished fifth in the decathlon at the NJCAA Outdoor Championships.

After his performance his freshman year, he felt he wasn't getting the attention from NCAA Division I coaches he was hoping for, so he began reaching out to coaches on his own, sending an estimated 300 emails to coaches.

"The coaches brought me on a visit and I really liked the small campus and didn't think I would survive on a big campus. I really liked the feel here and the coaching staff was awesome," Rogers said. "Most of my family is in Texas and it's a lot warmer than Kansas. That was definitely a factor, especially if I was going to go to a school without an indoor facility, so I could train year-round."

Rogers made the decision to commit to HBU and sign his National Letter of Intent in November of his second year at Garden City CC. Just a few months later, he returned to the NJCAA Indoor Championships and set a new meet record in the heptathlon with 5,465 points to earn the national championship. After that, Rogers began getting those calls he felt he should have been getting earlier. Much to the chagrin of those coaches, however, he was all set to become a Husky.

From the time he got on campus, the goals for the indoor and outdoor seasons were to qualify for the NCAA Championships. In indoor track and field, qualifying for the postseason in the heptathlon is limited to just 16 student-athletes who make it into the championship

field. Rogers' best performance of the season came at the 2019 Southland Conference Indoor Championships, winning the event and standing atop the podium with a point total of 5,528. Despite the win, that total left him an agonizing two points and one spot shy of qualifying for nationals.

"I won conference and I was crying on the podium," said Rogers. "For me, that wasn't the end goal. To go from being number one in junior college and breaking a national record to not even making the national list, it was heartbreaking. It was a huge motivator heading into outdoor."

Rogers competed in his first decathlon of the outdoor season at the prestigious Texas Relays, and after a disappointing start threw him off mentally, he and the HBU coaches made the decision to skip the final event and instead run in the 110-meter hurdles invitational. Despite not performing the way he wanted and skipping the final event, Rogers still set a new PR in the decathlon and wound up with a personal record time in the 110-meter hurdles that qualified him for the NCAA West Preliminaries meet.

A few weeks later, Rogers traveled to Azusa, California, for the Bryan Clay Invitational, where he won his decathlon group of 18 competitors with a total of 7,504 points for a new program record. Out of 68 student-athletes at the meet, he finished fifth among collegians, and his score put him safely in line to qualify for nationals.

"We didn't do what we wanted at the Texas Relays, which made me push more; I knew I had to get a mark in California," Rogers added. "It was just, 'one more bar, one more height' every single time. It was all-out or nothing because I didn't have anything to lose. I didn't want to feel like that (indoor championships) again."

Head Coach Theresa Fuqua added, "Multi-events are kind of a roller coaster. You have to be able to handle highs and lows and being on in one event and not on in another, and being able to process that as part of the big picture. Denim got better at that as he went through the year and was able to stack his performances and have the right energy distribution throughout the event to really put something together late in the season, which is what he did at Bryan Clay."

Feeling secure about qualifying, the decision was made for Rogers not to compete in the decathlon at the Southland Conference Outdoor Championships, instead competing in multiple individual events in hopes of earning points in each of those events, instead of limiting it to just 10 potential points toward the team total



from the decathlon. Teammate Scott Boon, a freshman from the Netherlands, set a new personal record of his own and placed second at the conference meet in the decathlon.

Rogers noted how he and Boon support one another and benefit from their relationship as teammates, adding, "Scott is good where I'm not as good and I'm good where he's not as strong. It's definitely good to have him in practice where I can give him some pointers on those events where I'm stronger and vice versa. We're coaching each other along with our coach, so that's great."

Heading into the NCAA Outdoor Championships, Rogers owns the 14th-best decathlon mark in the nation with the top 24 qualifying for the meet. While trying to temper his own expectations, he did concede that his goal was a top-eight finish at nationals.

"It's awesome," said Fuqua. "First and foremost, it's amazing for Denim, and therefore, also amazing for our program. It's a tribute, really, to his hard work. It was a tough pill to swallow in indoor when he was one spot away. For him to refocus and work hard during the outdoor season and put together a multi-event that ensured his entry into the NCAA meet is a testament to

how hard he's worked."

Rogers has two more years of eligibility remaining in outdoor and one more left in indoor. When pressed about future goals, he was straightforward about his plans for next season: "Next year is an Olympic year. I want to make the Olympic Trials next year."

He plans to skip the indoor season next year in order to fully focus on decathlon training. While his current PR is that 7,504 mark, he will need to meet the automatic qualifying standard of 7,900 points in order to earn a spot at the 2020 US Olympic Trials. He remained pragmatic about his Olympic aspirations, noting, "I'm not so much looking to make the Olympics, but if it happens, it happens. I'm young for multis. So many guys are 25 and are internationals, and they can start training for the decathlon at 10, while in the US, you don't start until college. If not, I'll be there for 2024."

**Rogers earned All-American status at the NCAA Championships held June 5-8, placing seventh in the decathlon. His point total of 7,596 is a new program record.**

*Visit [HBUHuskies.com](http://HBUHuskies.com).*

## Athletes Recognized: 2019 HBU Athletic Awards



Front row (l-r): Sierra Humphrey, Ana Kriletic, Sophie Taylor, Craig Clark. Back row: Kaity Cummings, Danielle Wheeler, Demi Janak, Denim Rogers, Amanda Johnson.

**Jan Edds Female Athlete of the Year**  
**KAITY CUMMINGS**

**Robbie Robertson Male Athlete of the Year**  
**DENIM ROGERS**

**Varsity Athletic Academic Award**  
**AMANDA JOHNSON, SOPHIE TAYLOR,  
ANA KRILETIC & DEMI JANAK**

**Galdino Lucero Service Award**  
**DANIELLE WHEELER &  
SIERRA HUMPHREY**

**Frances Curtis Mildred Boone Spirit Award**  
**CRAIG CLARK**



## 1970s

**Doug Harris '76** was elected as the Houston Film Critics Society's (HFCS) president in February. The 37 members of the Houston Film Critics

Society are working film journalists on television, radio, online and in traditional print. Together, they reach millions of people each week across the country with their critiques and commentaries on film.

## 1980s



**April Prichard '82** and **Douglas Barbier '84** were married on February 23 in Belin Chapel at HBU. They reside in Sachse, Texas, a suburb of Dallas, where April works in sales for Jack Henry and Associates and Doug is a CPA.

**Rita LaRue '84** currently works for McDowell Hetherington LLP and is a senior litigation paralegal.



**Benny Agosto, Jr. '86** is a partner at the Houston personal injury law firm of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz. He took office

as president of the Houston Bar Association for the 2019-2020 bar year at the HBA Annual Dinner on May 16. Mr. Agosto is the first native

Spanish speaker and second Latino to serve as HBA President in the association's 149-year history. At 11,000 members, he will be leading one of nation's largest metropolitan bar associations.

**Mark Lunsford '86** is celebrating 30 years as a pilot for United Airlines. After graduating from HBU, he followed his dream to become an airline pilot and was hired by Continental Express in 1989. He has been married to wife, **Gina '87** for 33 years. They have two children, Phillip and Lauren.

**Toni Cotton, MHA, RN, BSN '86** is the new chief nursing officer (CNO) for Harris Health System's Ambulatory Care Services, the primary and outpatient care arm of the safety-net healthcare system.

**Randy Sorrels '86** was named among Best Lawyers 2019 Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs "Lawyer of the Year" in Houston. This is his third year to receive this honor from Best Lawyers.

**The Honorable Pedro Ruiz '86** started a new position as attorney and mediator at the law practice of Pedro Ruiz.

**Trisha Pessarra Mouton '87** married Kemit Mouton in early March.

**Ophelia Binkley-Webb '89, MLA '98** is currently teaching psychology full-time at Wharton County Junior College and just recently started Restoration Life Project, a faith-based, anti-human trafficking nonprofit organization.

## 1990s

**Bitsy Buckley Rawlings '90** is currently working as a violin instructor and a freelance musician in the greater Nashville area.

**Kaddie Platt '94** started a new job at Memorial High School. She will be the volleyball coach and teach PE.

**Alison DiCamillo '95** was awarded Employee of the Year for FBCJPD Special Programs.



## Jason Seifert

**'95** is currently the associate pastor at Antioch Community Church in Friendswood, Texas.

**Bernice Dickey '96** participated in HBU's Author Celebration with her book, "My #1 is Still My #1."

**Dr. Sheila Pope MLA '96** is producer and host of the television show, "Conversations with Dr. Pope," on Houston Media Source Television.

**Jeff Dowdy '98** lives in Asheville, North Carolina and is currently the senior pastor at First Baptist Swannanoa.

**Tina Boaz Murray '99**, president of Mind Dance Marketing Inc., received the Agency Principal Award at the Media Alliance of Houston Gala.

## 2000s

**Jess Rogers '00, MEd '01** celebrated 10 years with TutorVille, where she is founder and CEO.

**Shane Lakey '01** is currently a biblical counselor for Crosslife Ministries in North Carolina.

**Lori Waguespack Kern '02** has been named a Texas Rising Star by Super Lawyers Magazine for the second year in a row.

**Chris Reed '03** is currently working for Texas AirSystems as a solutions sales specialist.

**Katrina English '05** has been named the new head volleyball coach at the University of the Southwest in Hobbs, New Mexico.

**Ryan Yarrington '05** started a new position as sales director at Cleargistix.

**JJ Worthen '06** was promoted to executive account manager at PROS.

**Edgar Gonzalez '07** is currently working with the United States Coast Guard as legal counsel.



**Rachel O'Shields David '08** recently came to speak to Dr. Chris Hammons' government class about her job and governmental affairs. She worked in Senator Cornyn's office.

## 2010s

**Keith Riley '10** has accepted a position with the Menlo Church in Menlo Park, California. Keith, his wife, **Liz '13** and daughter, Amaya, will be relocating to California, and he will be serving as director of Life Groups.

**Nida Saeed '11, MEd '16** was awarded Lakeview Elementary Teacher of the Year in Fort Bend ISD and is currently working on her research as a doctoral student at HBU.

**Kristina Burhans '12** is currently working as a regional sales manager for Haldeman Homme Inc., in Lewisville.

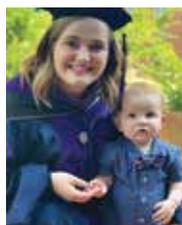
**Maricela Diaz MEd '12** was named Stafford MSD Campus Teacher of the year. She has been with Stafford MSD for the past 14 years.

**Sunny Jain '12** is headed to Mays Business School at Texas A&M University to pursue a full-time MBA with a concentration in Finance.

**Kelsey Engel '14** started a new position as volunteer coordinator for Emergency Disaster Services at The Salvation Army.

**Lorena Sprinkle Ritcher '14** has joined the staff at the Pregnancy Center of the Coastal Bend. She and her husband, Jonathan, live in Corpus Christi.

**Anthony Odunsi '15** signed with the Manawatu Jets to play basketball in New Zealand.



**Megan Sheilds Casturo '15** just finished her Master of Laws in Taxation at Georgetown Law Center. She will begin working for an employee benefits law firm in Washington, DC. Megan and her husband, Robert, also welcomed their son, Oliver, in July 2018.



**Samantha Solis '16** is working as an HR Generalist for First Transit.

**Paige Holden '17** has accepted the position of student associate at Tallowood Baptist Church.

**Alanna Khubieh '17** is the program coordinator for UH Sugar Land where she does academic and event scheduling, among many other things for the University.

**Taylor Watson '17** has been promoted to senior accounting specialist at Municipal Accounts & Consulting, L.P.

**Hannah '18 and Zachary MA '18** Akin were married in Loudon, Tennessee, on December 28, 2018. Hannah is the coordinator of Alumni Relations and Events at HBU, and Zachary teaches philosophy courses at Houston Community College.

**Jesse Childress '18** worked at Summit Ministries in Colorado for seven months before heading to Switzerland to study at L'Abri Fellowship for the Spring term. After leaving L'Abri, he plans to travel Europe before returning to the states to resume his work with Summit Ministries and perhaps pursue a doctorate in literature or philosophy.

**Nina Gonzales '18** works at Houston Community College as an enrollment services assistant.

**Victoria '19 and Joshua '16 McCrary** were married on January 5, in Houston. Joshua works as the audiovisual coordinator at Ben Taub Hospital, and Victoria will graduate from HBU in May.

# Husky Pups



**Tawny '10 and Travis Badger '08** welcomed their son, Travis Clayton Badger, Jr., "JR," on December 9, 2018.



**Bobby Delgado '01 and Jen Delgado '00** adopted Luke Tyler, 2 years old, from the Hunan Province, China. His siblings, Sydney (17), Riley (14), Mo (12), Kinsey (11), and Jeremiah (9) are thrilled to finally have him home after 16 months of waiting!



**Danielle Williams Earles '11** and her husband, Nathan, welcomed Trevor Earles on February 3. He was 19.5 inches and 7lbs. 7 oz.



**Ariana Salazar '04** and husband, Luis, welcomed baby Guillermo Nicolás on October 25, 2018. He was 21 inches and 8 lbs. 12 oz.



**Ginger Merkle Spiehler '06** and her husband, Dustin, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Lily Arielle Spiehler, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz. on January 1, 2019. The Spiehlers currently live in Colorado Springs. Dustin works at Peterson Air Force Base and Ginger works from home as an audiobook narrator.



**Meghan and Paul Sloan MATS '12** welcomed their first child, Elijah James Sloan, on December 6. He weighed 7 pounds and 4 ounces. Dr. Paul Sloan completed his PhD from the University of St Andrews and is a faculty member in the HBU School of Christian Thought. Elijah is the 22nd grandchild of HBU President Robert and First Lady Sue Sloan.

# IN MEMORIAM

## FORMER STUDENTS

**Lorenzo (Larry) Rosilez '92** passed away peacefully surrounded by his family, in Sugar Land on April 16. He majored in Spanish and History.

**Ramona Smith MEd '89** of Richmond, passed away on April 21 at the age of 65. She was born on November 9, 1953 in Austin, Texas to Bobby Ray and Hope Raley. She married Jackie Ray Smith on June 28, 1980. She received her Master's in Mid-Management from HBU.



**Jeffrey Scott Campbell '82**, son of Ruthie and Jeff Campbell, passed away March 17. He loved his alma mater, HBU, where he was a member of the Student Senate and served as the school's student photographer. Jeff was especially delighted when HBU established a football program. He worked for 30 years for the Data General and EMC Corporations and became their senior system architect.



**Josué Elizondo**, current student, passed away on May 25. He was interested in journalism and video editing. He worked as a sports editor and editor-in-chief of The Collegian.

## FACULTY/EMPLOYEES



**Dr. Eloise Hughes MEd '93** passed away on May 16. Dr. Hughes served as a faculty member in the College of Education & Behavioral Science from 1994 - 2014. After retiring from HBU, she was a part of the HBU Retirees Association and served as Chair in 2018. A memorial service is being planned for June.

## FRIENDS

**Sarah Lee Cole** died January 19, 2019, after a brief illness. She was the widow of Howard Lee, a founding trustee. In 2000, Sarah married Paul Cole and they enjoyed the final 18 years of life together until Paul's death in 2018. Sarah was an active and faithful member of South Main Baptist Church and a strong supporter of Houston Baptist University. Sarah was a lifetime member of The Guild.

**Rosemary Fowler** passed away on March 17, 2019 at the age of 94. Rosemary was the wife of the late West University Baptist pastor, Dr. LeRay Fowler. Both Rosemary and Dr. Fowler were instrumental in WUBC's history, leading strongly from the pulpit with love and establishing some important practices.

**Bobbie Wallace Smith** died in January 2019. Bobbie was a member of The Guild of Houston Baptist University. She lived an active, enjoyable life of golf, tennis, and bridge with her friends. Her passion was participation, including her volunteer work at MD Anderson Cancer Center and church.

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



**April 29**  
**Drake Lamb**  
**Student, College of Engineering**

Drake Lamb is a sophomore in the HBU College of Engineering. Launched in the fall of 2018, the HBU College

of Engineering offers tracks in Cyber Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. The mission of the College is to educate and train engineers who will utilize God-given resources and God-given talents to serve humanity by solving technical challenges efficiently and securely. Visit [HBU.edu/Engineering](http://HBU.edu/Engineering).

[HBU.edu/p56-Lamb](http://HBU.edu/p56-Lamb)



**May 20**  
**Dr. Matthew S. Stanford**  
**CEO, Hope and Healing Center and Institute of Houston**

Dr. Matthew Stanford is the CEO of the Hope and Healing Center and Institute in Houston. He also

serves as an adjunct professor of psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine and at the Methodist Hospital Institute for Academic Medicine. As an author, researcher and educator, Stanford focuses on the interplay between psychology and faith issues.

Visit [HopeandHealingCenter.org](http://HopeandHealingCenter.org).

[HBU.edu/p56-Stanford](http://HBU.edu/p56-Stanford)



**May 27**  
**Leah Brewer**  
**Student**

Leah Brewer transferred to HBU after earning her associate's degree from Coastal Bend College in Beeville, Texas. She has been

involved throughout the University as a student worker and as a participant in Campus Recreation intramural sports, The Navigators, and Baptist Student Ministries. [HBU.edu/p56-Brewer](http://HBU.edu/p56-Brewer)



**May 6**  
**Dr. David Hardage**  
**Executive Director, BGCT of Texas**

Dr. David Hardage is the executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Hardage earned a

Doctor of Ministry from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and his bachelor's degree from Baylor University. He has served as a pastor and interim pastor, and served in leadership roles in faith-based and educational organizations. Visit [TexasBaptists.org](http://TexasBaptists.org).

[HBU.edu/p56-Hardage](http://HBU.edu/p56-Hardage)

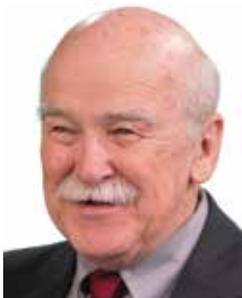


**June 3**  
**Maria-Louise Cook**  
**Student, The Honors College**

Maria-Louise Cook attended The Academy at HBU as a teen. As an English major in the Honors College,

she is following in the footsteps of many of her family members who attended HBU, including her great uncle, uncle, sister, brother-in-law and brother.

[HBU.edu/p56-Cook](http://HBU.edu/p56-Cook)



**May 13**  
**Dr. William Martin**  
**Rice University**  
Dr. William Martin is the Harry and Hazel Chavanne Professor Emeritus of Religion and Public Policy in the Rice University Department of

Sociology. He serves as the Chavanne Senior Fellow for Religion and Public Policy at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice.

Dr. Martin's research and writing have focused on issues ranging from religion to criminology and drug policies. He is the author of many important works including the recent, "A Prophet with Honor: The Billy Graham Story." [HBU.edu/p56-Martin](http://HBU.edu/p56-Martin)



**June 10**  
**Kristina Lazzari**  
**Student**

Kristina Lazzari is a founding member of the HBU American Marketing Association, an HBU peer mentor, a member of Alpha Chi Omega, and is involved in the

Baptist Student Ministry, Husky Hype, and the Apologetics Club.

[HBU.edu/p56-Lazzari](http://HBU.edu/p56-Lazzari)

# PODCASTS AVAILABLE FREE ON iTUNES



**June 17**  
**Paul Arce**  
**Student**

Paul Arce is involved throughout HBU. He has served as a resident assistant, a student mentor, and as a Bible study leader. He

is recognizable in the signature orange blazer of the prestigious HBU Student Foundation as well. [HBU.edu/p56-Arce](http://HBU.edu/p56-Arce)



**July 15**  
**David Kirkwood**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Music, School of Fine Arts**

David Kirkwood is an assistant

professor of Music in the HBU School of Fine Arts. Professor Kirkwood's primary teaching focus is vocal arts and opera. His areas of research and interest include sacred music, literature and musical aesthetics. He previously taught at Biola University.

[HBU.edu/p56-Kirkwood](http://HBU.edu/p56-Kirkwood)



**August 5**  
**Lindsey Moreno**  
**Student**

Lindsey Moreno graduated in December of 2018 with honors and the highest GPA of the December graduates. During

her time at HBU, she was a member of the Honors College and double-majored in Spanish and Classics. Outside of academics, Lindsey was involved on campus as a Husky ambassador, served on the leadership team with the Baptist Student Ministries, and worked for the Student Success Department running their social media. She now works as the program coordinator for First-Year Success. She is a recipient of the HBU President's Award.

[HBU.edu/p56-Moreno](http://HBU.edu/p56-Moreno)



**July 1**  
**Mon'Sher Spencer**  
**Director**  
**Student Involvement**

Mon'Sher Spencer graduated from HBU a decade ago, and is passionate about

furthering what was so integral to her own time at the University. As director of Student Involvement and Student Leadership Programs, Spencer oversees dozens of clubs and organizations, and helps facilitate meaningful Student Life experiences for students. Visit [HBU.edu/StudentLife](http://HBU.edu/StudentLife). [HBU.edu/p56-Spencer](http://HBU.edu/p56-Spencer)



**July 22**  
**Jonathan Rangel-Salazar**  
**Student**

Jonathan Rangel-Salazar is a class of 2019 Education major with a Spanish certification for

K-12. He was crowned Homecoming King in Fall 2017 and Mr. HBU in 2019. He served with the Baptist Student Ministries and started the first-ever Spanish Bible study, Profundo, at HBU. He served as a Husky Ambassador and was involved with the LSSI (Latino Student Success Initiative). Jonathan is the first person in his family to graduate from college.

[HBU.edu/p56-Salazar](http://HBU.edu/p56-Salazar)



**August 12**  
**Abbey-Hannah Brant**  
**Student**

Abbey Hannah Brant is a class of 2019 Bachelor of Science in Nursing with Honors graduate, and has accepted

a position with Houston Methodist West Hospital on the cardiovascular unit. Abbey Hannah has enjoyed membership in The Student Foundation, the Nursing Student Association, and House Augustine of the Honors College. She is a recipient of the HBU President's Award.

[HBU.edu/p56-Brant](http://HBU.edu/p56-Brant)



**July 8**  
**Bill High**  
**CEO**

**The Signatry**  
Bill High is the Chief Executive Officer of The Signatry: A Global Christian Foundation. Prior to joining the foundation in

2000, Bill was a partner with Blackwell Sanders LLP, a national and international law firm. He is also the founder of iDonate, a fundraising software company serving the nonprofit community. iDonate.com provides an online marketing solution for nonprofits to market and receive gifts of all kinds, including cash, text, credit card and non-cash gifts. Visit [TheSignatry.com](http://TheSignatry.com) [HBU.edu/p56-High](http://HBU.edu/p56-High)



**July 29**  
**Marcella Fick**  
**Student**

Marcella Fick is a class of 2019 Elementary Education major who has been a member of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society and

Alpha Chi Honor Society. She has served as a member of the HBU cheerleading team and was the captain of the team during her junior and senior years. Fick was HBU's 2018 Homecoming Queen and a recent recipient of the President's Award, an honor given by President Sloan upon the recommendation of the Student Life Advisory Committee.

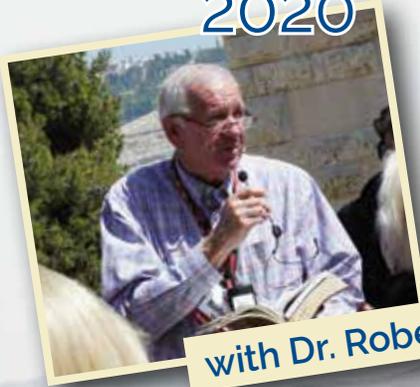
[HBU.edu/p56-Fick](http://HBU.edu/p56-Fick)



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# Walk in the Steps of Jesus!

2020



with Dr. Robert Sloan

**MARCH 13-21, 2020**

Join the HBU President and  
University leaders on a captivating  
tour of the Holy Land.

**Register Now! Limited Space!**

The cost is \$5,500 per person roundtrip from Houston, payable to HBU. A passport copy is required upon registration. Cost includes airfare, hotel, breakfast and dinner each day, all transfers, taxes, tips and fees to all sites. *(The fee is based on double occupancy; the single-room supplement will be \$1,179)*

A \$1,000 non-refundable deposit is due upon registration.

*Full payment is due November 22, 2019.*

## 9-DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 – FRIDAY, MARCH 13: Depart U.S.A.**

Tour members meet for our flight to Israel. After dinner is served, it's time to sit back, relax, and enjoy the on-board entertainment to prepare for this exciting adventure of a lifetime

**DAY 2 – SATURDAY, MARCH 14:** Arrive in Tel Aviv, drive to Tiberius. Hotel U Boutique Kinereth, March 14-16

**DAY 3 – SUNDAY, MARCH 15:** Galilee, Mt. of Beatitudes, Capernaum, boat ride, Bethsaida, Magdala, Jordan River

**DAY 4 – MONDAY, MARCH 16:** Galilee, Cana, Nazareth, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea, Jerusalem. King David Hotel – Jerusalem, March 16-21

**DAY 5 – TUESDAY, MARCH 17:** Mt. of Olives, Palm Sunday Road, Garden of Gethsemane, Western Wall Tunnels, Temple Mount, via Dolorosa, Southern Steps, Church of the Holy Sepulchre

**DAY 6 – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18:** Shrine of the Book, Model City, City of David, Pool of Siloam, St. Peter Gallicantu, Garden Tomb

**DAY 7 – THURSDAY, MARCH 19:** Qumran, Ein Gedi, Dead Sea for swim/float

**DAY 8 – FRIDAY, MARCH 20:** Personal time/shopping. Optional: Jerusalem, Bethlehem Elah Valley, Jaffa. Farewell dinner and last overnight in Jerusalem

**DAY 9 – SATURDAY, MARCH 21:** Transfer from Jerusalem to Ben Gurion Airport, arrive in USA

**HBU.edu/IsraelTour**

With questions, contact Clay Porter  
at CPorter@HBU.edu, 281-649-3467  
or 281-468-2874

