

HBU NEWS

SPRING 2007
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Credo

Moderato maestoso

Krzysztof Penderecki
* 1933

THE JESSE H. JONES HALL FOR THE ENDOWMENT
Houston Baptist University presents
Penderecki's Credo



Penderecki's Credo
An Evening to Remember

Message from the *President*

It is hard to believe as I write this column that six months have passed since I became HBU's president. The time thus far has been fast paced and exhilarating. The opportunity to meet with small groups of faculty, staff, students, and alumni has been among the highlights of my time. Then, of course, there have been numerous occasions for Sue and me to meet so many friends of HBU among the alumni and others who love the University. Just as an aside, I must remark how impressed I am with the number of donors who, though not themselves alumni, nonetheless give sacrificially to the school. That fact alone says a lot about the quality and influence of HBU. People really believe in us and in our mission.

The recent Homecoming was my first, and it was a wonderful opportunity to meet so many alumni who returned to the campus. One of the highlights was the soccer match between the current varsity and former players. During the soccer match, I recall also meeting several alumnae who, as mothers with small children of their own, expressed great fondness for HBU and reminisced warmly about their days on the campus. Two of those that I met were gymnasts back in the days when the University won a national championship in women's gymnastics at the NCAA level. Another Homecoming highlight was meeting Henry and Carol Maxwell at the President's Home during the reception for returning alumni. Henry is a 1967 graduate of the University, which makes him and his classmates historically significant as 40-year graduates and of course members of our first graduating class.

Alumni also quickly remind all of us of our current students, since they are alumni-to-be. The fact is, the University exists, at a practical level, for the sake of the students. They are our primary point of focus, day in and day out. The faculty work hard to prepare lectures and classes for students; the student life staff design programs to shape these young people as they determine their own giftedness and calling in life; and all of us work to build support for the University to provide the kinds of resources – whether scholarships, classrooms, laboratories, or day-to-day student life amenities – our students need in their quest for a degree in higher education. University life in the 21st century is neither easy nor inexpensive, and for that reason it is important for all of us to do everything we can to make the HBU

experience one that nurtures the faith of these young people, challenging them with the truth of the gospel, while simultaneously providing them a cutting edge education which is academically excellent at every point. Furthermore, we must attempt to accomplish these great goals while providing an environment that is conducive to learning, reflection, and the development of values, character, and faith.

Speaking of students, it is for the sake of the students that we have announced a shift academically from the quarter calendar that HBU has been on for a good portion of its history (though not originally) to the more traditional semester calendar. After listening especially to the faculty in small group meetings, I have become persuaded that the learning experience for students will be greatly enhanced by this shift. The faculty of HBU are very passionate and eloquent on this point. In addition, those who work in the student life area are convinced that our retention rates will improve, because the total student life experience and campus involvement opportunities for our students will improve, if we shift to a semester calendar. Therefore, though the announcement no doubt involves some additional work and stress on the part of students, faculty, and staff for the next couple of years, it is an important change for the long run and one that I am glad to say that the Institutional Strategic Planning Committee thoroughly endorsed after extensive study. The recommendations that came to me said that we should implement this change beginning in the fall of 2008, and that we should between now and then work very hard particularly to help our current students make the transition in as smooth a way as possible, working with them to support their degree programs, degree requirements, and graduation goals (see p. 4). A lot is going on right now in other areas as well. The Trustees are working very hard to provide some additional space on campus for various faculty, staff and academic needs. Also, there are several projects going on this spring and summer which will represent, I believe, some significant pluses for the overall student experience: changes involving everything from extended hours and varieties regarding food service to additional study areas, as well as expanded space devoted to recreation and exercise. But more on these topics later. Let it be sufficient now for me to say that there are some exciting developments already under way.



One last, but very important, word. I am hesitant to share the precise numbers, because the news is so good that I am afraid you will think it is a misprint, but here it goes. Our freshman applications are dramatically ahead of those received at the same time last year. We now have more than 3,400 freshman applications — an increase of over 600 percent. This increase is very encouraging (see p. 23). First of all, it says very clearly that there is extensive value in an HBU education, and the market place is recognizing it. It is a value that has grown throughout the history of the University. For example, now for the third consecutive year we have been ranked in the top tier among the "Best Universities" offering masters degrees in the western region by *U.S. News and World Report*. While I do not expect the percentage of entering freshmen to remain above 600 percent (the truth is, we could not handle that many students at this time), I do expect us to have a very strong entering freshman class, strong in both numbers and academic quality. All of which means that the value of an HBU degree continues to grow, and it also means that all of us must do everything we possibly can, more sacrificially than ever, to support these students.

Sue and I have found every day here to be a blessing from our Lord. We are thankful to be here and to have the opportunity to serve this great University with all of you.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Slough". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

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On the Cover:

The voices of the HBU Choral Union filled Jones Hall accompanied by the Houston Symphony during a performance of *Credo*. It was truly an evening to remember for students, faculty, staff and University friends and guests.

Founded in 1960, Houston Baptist University, a Texas Baptist institution, is a coeducational, independent university with a growing national reputation for offering academic excellence through more than 40 undergraduate and nine graduate programs. HBU has been ranked in the top tier among the "Best Universities" offering master's degrees in the Western region by *U.S. News & World Report* in its *America's Best Colleges* for 2007 edition.

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University Announces Change to Semester Calendar

The University will move to a semester calendar beginning in the fall of 2008. The decision was made after several months of extensive study and was based on a unanimous recommendation from the University's Institutional Strategic Planning Committee (ISPC). President Robert Sloan announced the decision at a February 14 University Forum.

The study was initiated as a result of a series of listening sessions for faculty, staff, students and alumni held by Sloan shortly after he arrived on campus.

"Time and again I heard comments about the quarter calendar versus the semester calendar during those sessions," Sloan said. "That indicated we had enough of an interest across campus to at least explore the issue. It had to be a decision that was in the best interest of our students and the University."

The process included a Quarter/Semester Calendar Impact Study involving faculty, staff, students and

alumni, which focused on the change from four perspectives – academics, enrollment management, student/alumni impact, and administrative issues. Student forums were held to listen to student issues.

... "The learning experience of our students will be enriched."

— President Sloan

The study determined a number of positive aspects of the calendar change. Opportunities for in-depth study, expanded extracurricular and internship opportunities, more time for student involvement, increased opportunities for study abroad, easier transitions for transfer students, and reduced processing for registration and financial aid were among the benefits cited.

Planning for the transition will begin immediately. As part of the

process, extensive advising and academic counseling processes will be implemented to meet the needs of current students regarding issues such as degree programs, degree completion requirements and graduation.

"We will take care of our students throughout this process," Sloan said. "They are our main concern. We want to work closely with them to ensure that their expected graduation dates are not impacted by this conversion process."

Houston Baptist College opened classes on a semester calendar, but converted to a quarter calendar based on semester hours in 1973. Initial campus-wide and college-based meetings with current students have already begun.

For more information, visit the HBU Web site at www.hbu.edu/semesterchange.

Perspectives ...



they will experience very few problems. As long as the students remain positive to the change and the faculty and administration help accommodate the students in the transition both academically and financially, the transition will be smooth. The benefits as far as student life and academic opportunities will be significant, which will make the HBU experience more valuable."

— Edgar Gonzalez
President, Student Government Association

"I am very excited that HBU is changing from the quarter to the semester calendar. Over the years HBU faculty have come to believe, as faculty in many universities across the country have, that the semester calendar offers an enhanced learning environment for our students. We will be able to offer more opportunities to enrich our curricula and design ways for our students to take advantage of the many professional opportunities available in Houston. This is an important next step in our 21st century vision of HBU as a prestigious university."



— Dr. Doris Warren
Dean
College of Science and Mathematics

"I am very excited about the opportunities the semester calendar will bring to the College of Business and Economics — both for our students and our faculty. Our course content will be delivered over 15 weeks instead of 10 weeks. Although the contact hours are the same, the classroom experience will be even more enriching. The new calendar lends itself to guest speakers, more active learning techniques, field trip experiences, and much more. The 15 week semester allows for more productive internships as well. Our accounting students will now be eligible for public accounting internships which are available only on a semester calendar. There will be more time during the term for students to take part in professional clubs and other extracurricular activities. COBE undergraduates currently travel internationally as part of the International Business course. The change in the calendar allows more time between terms and thus the possibility for an even more comprehensive trip."



— Ritamarie C. Tauer MS '85
Interim Dean
College of Business and Economics

Defining Relationships

Reflections on a Career of Service

For Dr. Don Looser, vice president of academic affairs, a true retirement from the University he has served for more than 40 years is impossible. HBU is so woven into the fabric of his life that he has chosen instead to step down as vice president of academic affairs to take on new roles, including writing a history of HBU, that will allow him to enjoy more time with his family and friends while continuing the commitment he began in 1964 to a fledgling college in a rice field on the edge of Houston. During this time of retrospection, the *HBU News* asked Dr. Looser to share in his own words the impact that the University has had on his life, and we asked a few of his friends to share their best wishes, too.



I know you are passionate about HBU. Can you put that passion into words?

I've never really thought of HBU as a passion. Actually, I've thought of these years more as an opportunity or even a responsibility. This has been a place I felt needed, where my own contributions made a significant difference. There has always been the excitement here of confronting new challenges and experiencing the satisfaction of accomplishment. There has often been the exhilaration of creative personal responses to perceived institutional need. These have not been years for the timid or insecure. But, they have been the years when the opportunities were so great and the needs so powerful that only the best persisted and made their extraordinary contributions. On a bad day, the needs have seemed overwhelming; on a good day, there was often the opportunity to mark a solution with a distinct personal imprint.

Throughout all the years have been the extraordinary people — colleagues, students, trustees, friends of the University. I am overcome in the recollection of the depth of my experience with exceptional people. At first, they were my mentors. But as the years passed, the heritage I had been given became increasingly my own responsibility to sustain and inculcate. Now, my mentors are my younger colleagues from whom I learn daily and in whom I have great trust. So, I have the feeling of closing the circle, of having completed my requisite contributions, and moving now to a position of counsel and pride.

You've often said that the University has blessed your life in many ways.

The greatest gift the University has given me is opportunity. Young people are not always afforded a professional blank slate on which to begin. Along with that came confidence in my abilities, unearned at first, but intuitively extended.

There is a powerful bond that develops between a person who is given opportunity by one who is in authority and the giver. I was given such opportunity by Dr. W. H. Hinton (the University's first president) and Dr. H. B. Smith (the University's first vice president of academic affairs) who allowed me to discover qualities about myself I did not recognize and to use those gifts in ways that complemented their own skills. Such a beginning provides powerful inertia for a career. I have done all I know to do to pass that gift along to all those with whom I've had the opportunity to serve in the years since.

"My greatest gift from these years is the people whose paths have crossed mine."

You have been at HBU for more than 40 years. What was it about HBU as an institution that made you want to stay here?

I never planned to serve in one institution for a whole career. In an established university setting, I would have rarely had the opportunities that I have had here to analyze needs, develop solutions, hand off management, and move on to other areas of need. I feel greatly blessed to have been at HBU at a time and in roles that offered strategic advancement for me through the administrative hierarchy. It is a classic case of being in the right place at the right time.

Over these years, I've looked at other positions on other campuses a number of times. Traditional, mature college environments appealed to my fatigue, but did little to resonate with my need for freedom to exploit my creative energies. As a musician, I have a powerful need to create and develop. HBU has been generous to provide that opportunity. This has been a missionary journey for me. Without seeming mystical but being honest in my faith, there has been a sense of destiny that has strengthened me over my career at HBU. I experienced a

very profound sense of calling as a college sophomore without having clarity about eventual service. My coming to HBC can be charted by connecting the dots of people God put into my life as a college student leading here. These years have been hard, but I've always been buoyed by the conviction that I am where God wants me to be. It is a powerful motivator!

You have touched many students, faculty and staff lives during your years of service, but how has your life been touched?

My greatest gift from these years is the people whose paths have crossed mine. When I came here, I was 24 and was in the association of the college's first group of faculty, rich in experience, and generous of self — Albert Myers, Joyce Fan, Claude Rhea, Paul Green, Calvin Huckabay, Opal Goolsby, Arthur Travis. My first students were only five years younger than I; many of them are now lifelong friends. Among the trustees, those whom I first came

to know who were generous and helpful to me as a young man included Rex Baker, Cecil Cook, Howard Lee, and Florence Weaver.

The years since have afforded warm, personal, productive association with generations of students, trustees, and faculty. To go over lists of these names brings a steady smile to my face. People are my great energizer. Productive

associations fuel my energies more than any other single source. HBU has been a family experience. My wife taught here for a number of years and has been an integral part of my role in the University all the years since. And in most of our social and community experience, our association with HBU has been recognized and affirmed as a large part of our life's commitment. To think of our being anywhere else is really impossible. I consider myself to have been most blessed by the life and career God has ordained.



Then and now ...

Dr. Looser married his wife, Elsa Jean Albritton, when both were teaching at Houston Baptist College.

"I have the feeling of closing the circle, of having completed my requisite contributions, and moving now to a position of counsel and pride."

REFLECTIONS

Dr. Robert Linder - Retired Dean of Fine Arts

“When I think of Don Looser — I think of exquisite taste — which encompasses all facets of music — symphonic, Broadway, opera, keyboard, sacred and all the way to jazz. That same exquisite taste carries over into architecture, art, gourmet food and an appreciation of his colleagues for their accomplishments. He is a wonderful listener — and I have never wanted to follow him because of his magic with words. HBU has been so fortunate to have had this versatile academician as one of our leaders. He is very special indeed.”

Dr. Nancy Yuill BS '70, Dean, College of Nursing

“I have worked with Dr. Looser in a leadership capacity since 1990 and have found him to be warm and genuine. He has championed nursing and advocated for faculty and students on numerous occasions.

Working with Dr. Looser has truly been a joy and most rewarding. However, my favorite memory is a personal one. He is a gifted organist/pianist and shared his talent with my family and friends when he played the organ for my parents' funerals. He so willingly traveled 45 miles to Wharton, Texas, to be with us during that time. Not only did his music bring peace but his presence provided comfort beyond words. He and his wife, Elsa Jean, are some of the finest people I have ever known in my life.”

Dr. Doris Warren, Dean, College of Science and Mathematics

“I have known Dr. Don Looser and his wife Elsa Jean since 1967. I was a new faculty member straight from graduate school and we became friends as well as colleagues over the years. He is an extremely versatile and creative person. No one has a greater sense of history of the University as it has undergone the many changes since 1967. Dr. Looser is very much a ‘people’ person. I am continually amazed at all of the friendships he has developed over the years, whether the individual was student, faculty, staff, administrator, board member or university friend. Dr. Looser has continued over the years to maintain his professional expertise as a talented pianist in spite of his heavy administrative load. Dr. Looser is really not retiring — but redirecting his attention to many other important projects that will move HBU into the future.”

Dr. Connie Michalos, Professor in English, Faculty Assembly President

“I remember my interview with Dr. Looser as being more of a conversation between friends than an actual interview. He regaled me with humorous anecdotes about HBU, but somewhere in there, I learned about the University and he learned about me. Dr. Looser never ceases to amaze me when he effortlessly catalogues the number of convocations and graduations he has presided over and the number of degrees HBU has awarded. Logically, he has to have researched



the facts. Surely someone has reminded him. And yet it feels as if the numbers are as close to his consciousness as his own name. On the morning of Dr. Sloan's inauguration, I believe he had one eye on the Board of Trustees and the other on the weather. When the sun finally came out, he breathed an audible prayer of thanksgiving. And at the ceremony itself, when he said that the inauguration had to be outdoors because we were surrounded by the history of HBU even as we were making it, I knew that the honorific ‘Collective memory of the University’ is most appropriate.”

Dr. Carol Ann Halliday Bonds BA '68 Superintendent, San Angelo Independent School District

“I met you as I entered Houston Baptist College as a 17 year old naïve freshman ...Through my three years of undergraduate studies and then for the following almost forty years I have been blessed to know you.

You model excellence in everything you do! You were prepared for every rehearsal and elevated our performance through your magnificent piano support. You made us sound like angels ... which we all know we were not!

You model a marvelous sense of humor that has diffused many tense moments throughout the years. From the rehearsal room under the perfectionism of R. Paul Green to the emergency room after my wreck, your healthy and appropriate comments and sparkle allowed everyone to breathe and attempt to remain calm.

You model appreciating beauty in a way few people do. Far beyond your obvious enjoyment of great music, you see beauty in people and have taught us to value and enjoy even the most unlikely folks.

Above all, you are a man of integrity in a world of few such men. John Maxwell warns that two thirds of the leaders in the Bible did not finish well. Your walk and talk are absolutely aligned and demonstrate Godly characteristics.

I am a better person because I have known you.”

Defining Relationships

The church he leads has been named the fourth most influential in America by *churchreport.com*, and is one of the fastest-growing churches in our nation. His ministry airs weekly on networks throughout the world. He is a recognized Christian author. His conferences and Web sites offer resources to help pastors and churches build a creative and energetic worship. He is Ed Young BS '84, this year's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

Edwin B. Young (not to be confused with his father, H. Edwin Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston) is a pastor, author and speaker known for his creative communication style and ability to uniquely connect with the young and old alike. Through his leadership as founding and Senior Pastor of Fellowship Church, the church has become one of the most attended churches in America. Fellowship has its main campus just north of the DFW Airport and operates three satellite campuses in the greater Dallas/Fort Worth area and one in Miami, Florida.

Ed Young Ministries airs a weekly televised program on networks throughout the U.S., Europe and the Far East, including USA, TBN, God TV, Daystar, The Church Channel, The Inspiration Network, The Word Network, CNBC Europe, the Australian Christian Channel, and CGNTV Korea. His most recent book is *Outrageous, Contagious Joy: Five Big Questions to Help You Discover One Great Life*. Other books include *The Creative Leader*, *The Creative Marriage*, *YOU! Rating Your Dating While Waiting for Mating*, *Kid CEO*, and *Know Fear*.

Young is a frequent conference speaker and provides resources for church leaders through *CreativePastors.com* and the Creative Church Conferences (C3). He and his wife, Lisa, have been married for 24 years and have four children.

One of Young's close friends is former Chair of the Board of Trustees Dr. Mark Denison BA '82.

"Ed is the most creative person I know. He started a church with 150 people in 1990, and has led Fellowship Church to a weekly attendance of more than 20,000. Ed's humor and creativity are matched only by his integrity and devotion to God, Lisa, and their children. It is an honor to count Ed as one of my closest friends, and more importantly, a fellow Husky!"

Young took a few moments from his busy schedule to speak to *The News* about his experiences at the University.

You transferred to HBU after several years at Florida State University. It must have been a big transition to go from a large state university to a small private Christian college. Did you find any positives in the time you spent at HBU and the differences between the two schools?

"God used my time at Florida State to reveal some of the people I was called to reach in my life. And my time at HBU was something that God used to give me some basic knowledge

Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

and experience I would need later in life in order to reach those people. Spending time in both places gave me an even deeper understanding of the fact that people of very different backgrounds all need the same Savior."

What do you appreciate most about your time at HBU?

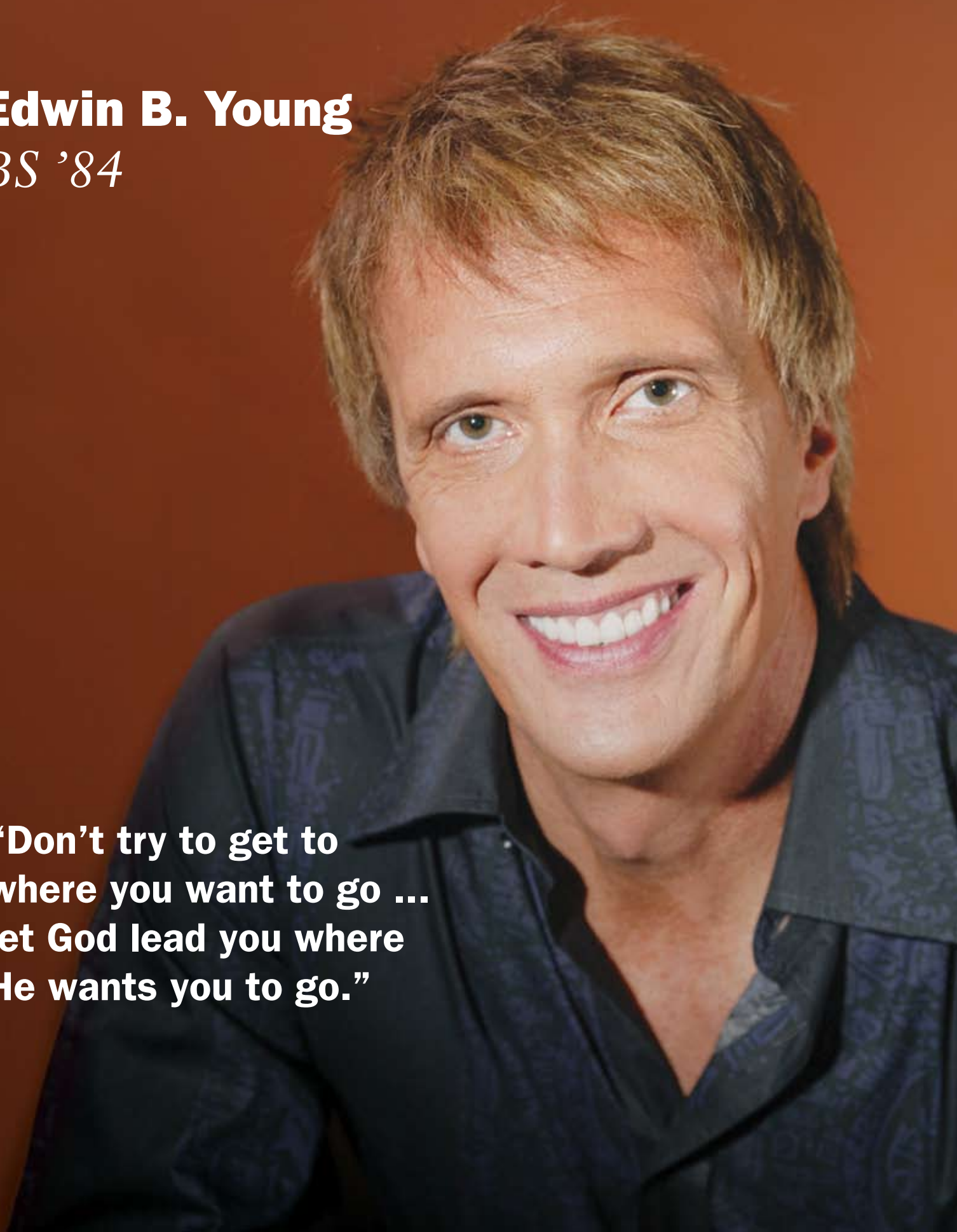
"Before I went to HBU I began to look at church through an entirely new set of lenses. At HBU I learned not to listen to the critics of my new perspective. I knew God had a plan for me. And through my time at HBU I learned to focus on that, and that alone. I didn't need to be like everyone else. I didn't need to conform to the old way of doing things simply because that's how things were always done. All I needed to do was to concentrate on the basics and let God take care of the details."

Do you have any words of advice for our young Christian students today as they struggle with the challenges of college, growing up and finding their own way in life?

"The biggest piece of advice I can give anyone, old or young, is to lean on God — hard! Too often, in our self-centered mentality, we do all we can to convince God that our plans are the ones that He needs to endorse. And we basically try to sign God on as a junior partner. What we need to do is step aside and allow Him be the CEO. Let Him call the shots and lead you where He wants you to go. God knows the pressures you can withstand, the struggles you can face successfully and the roads that will lead you through it all. Don't try to get to where you want to go ... let God lead you where He wants you to go."

Edwin B. Young
BS '84

**“Don’t try to get to
where you want to go ...
let God lead you where
He wants you to go.”**



Defining Relationships

As someone who values life-long education, choosing Houston Baptist University to receive his master's degree was a conscious and informed decision for Tadd Tellepsen MBA '99, this year's Meritorious Service Alumnus Award recipient. The award, which is presented to an alumnus who has made significant, sustained contributions of time, energy and creativity toward the advancement of the University, aptly fits Tellepsen.

For Tellepsen, giving back to the college and the community is a priority. "I enjoy being a part of HBU. I enjoy the satisfaction of looking around Houston and seeing what my great-grandfather, grandfather and my dad have built through Tellepsen Builders and it's exciting to be a part of Houston's future, too."

Tellepsen received his master's of business administration from HBU in 1999; he is currently the vice president of Tellepsen Builders, a Houston area commercial building company. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in economics and finance from Southern Methodist University in 1991 and joined the family business shortly thereafter. "I started at the bottom in an entry level position doing manual labor in our field operations learning as much as I could. During my 13 years, I have worked in every area of our business," recalls Tellepsen.

After gaining an understanding of the varied entities within the business, Tellepsen realized that an MBA would complement his experience. He chose HBU because he wanted a top-quality education with flexibility and convenience. "I got just that at HBU. I did consider other schools in the Houston area, however I found HBU to have a more personal feel and a history and reputation in the community that I recognized and appreciated," said Tellepsen.

"The most valuable benefit from my education at HBU was exposure. Being in a family business in the construction industry, exposure to the outside world of best business practices and strategies might have been limited. In HBU's program, I was exposed to strategies, concepts and best practices that I just would not have been around had I not attended this University."

Tellepsen wears many different hats throughout the day, but his main focus is on client development, marketing and communications. The development of a business strategy based on a changing market is important to Tellepsen Builders. "HBU's MBA program is on the cutting edge of innovative business strategies and it has helped me develop and investigate ideas, especially in the strategy and innovation area, for our company. Those ideas have allowed Tellepsen Builders to continue to develop quality solutions and remain customer focused to stay ahead of the curve in the highly competitive commercial building construction industry."

Meritorious Alumnus *of the Year*

"I found HBU to have a more personal feel and a history and reputation in the community that I recognized and appreciated."

Evolving ethics and legal challenges are always present in the highly competitive commercial building industry. Tellepsen says HBU influences on an ethical level absolutely impact the way he approaches business decisions. "Most of the curriculum has an ethical bent, which fit well with Tellepsen's culture. The driving force in my decision to attend this University was the education and experience that I would receive. Having come from a home with a strong Christian faith, attending a Christian university was very much a bonus."

Ritamarie Tauer MS '85, interim dean for the College of Business and Economics, recalls what an asset Tellepsen was during research and market analysis done by the college last year. "As an MBA alumnus and a COBE Advisory Board member, Tadd was instrumental in our beginning the MBA marketing research project with Gelb Consulting Group. The feedback from Gelb's research has already proven to be so beneficial. Based on their recommendations, we now have a wonderful radio ad campaign, we offer a Saturday MBA, and the inquiries into our MBA program have increased dramatically. Tadd is a wonderful resource and a proud alumnus."

—SH



Tellepsen

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Tadd Tellepsen
MBA '99

Tadd and Howard Tellepsen in front of Tellepsen Builders' recent project, Memorial City Professional Office Building IV, in Houston.

Defining Relationships

Sheila Swift

“Without a doubt, I consider my time at HBU absolutely some of the best years of my life! It was the most enriching and enlightening experience. I found myself on campus.”

Sheila Swift BA '04 has always loved the power of words and creative expression. And while her dreams have taken diverse paths over the last few years, her passion for the arts has never failed her.

Although Swift is known primarily as an artist on campus (she was one of a limited group of artists recently chosen to display their artwork in the Great Hall of the Cultural Arts Center during the Homecoming Alumni Awards Dinner), she first began to express her creativity through song. Her life-long love of singing, songwriting and God led to her involvement in the Christian music scene, and she released her first independent album in 2000. While going through a period of self-doubt, she found a new creative outlet in painting as an art and English major at HBU. In 2005 she married Michael Hurst and began to feel that familiar need to create through word and song. This January she released a new cd, *The Shape of Things*, which received rave reviews in a *Houston Chronicle* review by Joey Guerra.

Swift is accustomed to meeting life's challenges head-on. In 1994, she was diagnosed with a benign brain tumor. After consultation with a neurosurgeon, she and her family agreed with the doctor to not operate, and instead just keep a careful eye on the tumor. Swift has occasional problems caused by the tumor, but it's her love of life and her belief in the power of prayer – along with her passionate love of art and music – that keeps her life in her own words, 'beautiful.'



Do your music and art crossover at all or do they exist independently? Do you ever struggle with two passions or find they work together?

They are ABSOLUTELY synonymous with one another! The pen, the paintbrush, the guitar, how I relate to others are all tools in which to express myself, raise my voice, and hopefully be a vessel for the greater good. I am a big believer that we should view art, literature, and life in light of context. For me, the facts are I am a singer, songwriter, painter, photographer, poet, wife, step-mother, daughter, sister, friend, an American, and most importantly a child of God. Though I might not be conscious of each one within every moment, I cannot separate them – it is my fabric. Therefore, I feel blessed that God has chosen to trust me with these talents- if I divided my energy between them and viewed them as separate entities I would essentially (as I have done in the past) be ignoring a giant part of who I am and be burying my talents.



Music was not one of your majors at HBU, but did you continue to pursue music when you were a student?

I never lost touch with that part of myself, but I was definitely floundering in the fact that my whole life I had been defined as a singer. At the age of 17 I had been approached by Atlantic Records about a possible deal but they passed saying, "Lose the weight and then call us." (I had gone from a size 2 prom dress to a 6 and I was overweight according to the industry.) Well, I got depressed, my dreams were "shattered," and I continued gaining weight. I had lost my identity. HBU helped me find it.

You had to love the Chronicle review of your music. Guerra called it a "smart-pop lover's dream" and said "Swift's bold, brightly colored voice injects every song with a shimmering immediacy." How did it feel to get a great review like that?

Amazing! I was surprised that Joey Guerra, whom I had never met, contacted me through my Myspace account. So, when he said they'd like to do an article, I didn't get my expectations up because I know how those things go. When it came out on January 3, I didn't even know about it because I had been in the hospital the day before due to a seizure and my special brand of "migraines." So, it was quite a boost!!

In recording Shape you worked with musicians who work regularly with LeAnn Rimes, Garth Brooks, and DeeAnn Messina. How did it feel to work with such recognized musicians on your cd?

It was absolutely amazing! I learned a lot from the process, got spoiled by an amazing studio- Cider Mountain, but most of all I was really excited to be able to write all these little songs and have these Nashville cats come in and blow them up. Joey Canaday (bass) and Jeff Marino (drums) really raised the bar and made me rise up even that much further to try to meet the new standards we were setting in the studio out in the middle of nowhere Idaho!



Philomela

How did your HBU professors influence who you are today?

I had *never* painted until Michael Collins' (associate professor in art) Method and Materials class in the winter quarter of 2000. He really inspired me to explore another part of myself I never knew existed through color and experimentation with materials. The canvas became my new stage.

Virgil Grotfeldt (assistant professor in art) became another gift in my life. He taught me that art is a lifestyle. He also helped me understand the importance of art as an agent for social change, which opened the door for me to start working with Project Row Houses in the 3rd Ward (I taught art to K-2nd grade at the after-school program for 2½ years).

Dr. Connie Michalos (professor in English) – another blessing. She showed me what a strong woman looks like. She helped me find my voice through her mentorship, through the literature, through her encouragement and genuine love.

I also thrived in creative writing classes with Dr. Jim Ulmer (professor in English and writer-in-residence). He gave me the courage to not edit myself and taught me to allow the metaphor to rise out of the literal (an important part of my songwriting today).

Melanie Leslie (associate professor in art) was another unexpected friend and mentor.

"I began to think about the dualities of this world, the dualities of my God even - all loving yet all powerful. Many will argue you cannot be both. And for me, they arise out of the same place, out of the same need to create and communicate. My voice is my voice, be it on paper or canvas or in your iPod!"

Do you have any words of advice for those HBU students who dream of having their own CD?

Do it! Write, write, write. I was really lucky to get the funding to go all out and have a really big budget project, but that was not at all by my doing! I can't even begin to explain how much that was a God thing! I would say, "Don't concern yourself with budget and going big if you don't have the resources; that shouldn't stop you from creating. The technology is so affordable these days to lay some tracks down at home on your computer if you have to! Just get it out there, your voice should be heard!"

Sheila's CD is available on OutboundMusic.com or sheilaswift.com. Her artwork can be viewed at gallery279.com.

Credo: Expressing Belief Through the Arts



HBU Choral Ensemble and the Houston Symphony perform Penderecki's *Credo* at Jones Hall in downtown Houston.

It was a week of exciting performances and intriguing speakers, all based on one work by one man – *Credo* by Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki.

While the week's conference, *Credo: The Arts as Expressions of Belief*, featured a variety of well-known authors and artists, the signature event of the week took place when the Houston Baptist University Choral Union took center stage at Houston's Jones Hall for the Performing Arts for a performance of *Credo*. Along with the Houston Symphony and the Treble Choir from the Houston High School for Performing and Visual Arts, the Choral Union performed before a full house of more than 2,600 concert-goers. The moving performance was under the direction of guest conductor Jahja Ling, music director for the San Diego Symphony.

"The performance of the Penderecki *Credo* on Thursday evening represented the culmination of over two and a half years of preparation. I could not have been more proud of the HBU Choirs, the HSPVA Treble Chorus and the soloists," said Dr. John Yarrington, director of the School of Music.

Credo, which premiered in 1998, was slated to be conducted in its Houston premiere by Penderecki. Unfortunately, health problems prevented his travel to the States. Providentially, Ling was able to step in. His professed faith added a new dimension to the performance.



Dr. Ann Gebuhr, professor of music, and Dr. John Yarrington, director, School of Music, invested over two years in orchestrating the three day conference, *Credo: Arts as Expressions of Belief*.

The work is a musical interpretation of the Nicene Creed, the fourth-century statement of Christian faith that comes from the Roman Catholic Mass.

"The *Credo* conference has gifted HBU and Houston in so many ways, but none as important and deeply meaningful as the experiences that have been shared with our students," said Dr. Ann Gebuhr, professor of music theory and composition and chair of the Committee on Christianity and the Arts, who organized the conference. "Through the presentations by our outstanding guest speakers and the incredible professional experience of our choral ensembles with Maestro Ling and the Houston Symphony, our students have grown and in both subtle and not so subtle ways, been changed."



Marilynne Robinson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Gilead*, shared the philosophy behind her book and later read an excerpt from her works.

“The *Credo* conference has gifted HBU and Houston in so many ways, but none as important and deeply meaningful as the experiences that have been shared with our students.”

— Dr. Ann Gebuhr, chair,
HBU Committee of Christianity and the Arts,
professor of music theory and composition



Melanie Leslie, associate professor in art, and Mary McCleary, artist and professor of art emeritus, Stephen F. Austin State University, shared their love of art after McCleary's presentation entitled *Moving Pictures*.



(Pictured l to r): Kimberly Fuselier, soprano soloist; Jahja Ling, guest conductor; Dawn Padula, mezzo-soprano soloist; Richard Piersall, bass-baritone soloist; Lynda McKnight, soprano soloist; and Joseph Evans, tenor soloist, share a moment of triumph after the Jones Hall performance. Both McKnight and Piersall are assistant professors of music at HBU.



President and Mrs. Sloan and underwriters of the *Credo* concert, Elizabeth and John Gibson, were among the guests at a private reception held at the home of Candace and Richard Faulk after the performance.



Dr. David Capes, chair, department of Christianity, takes a moment to appreciate the exhibit *Talmud in the Works of Ben Zion and Marc Chagall* hosted by The Museum of Printing History.

Homecoming 2007

Alumni attending Homecoming 2007 enjoyed a variety of new events including an Alumni Awards Evening; an art exhibit featuring faculty, alumni and current students; an alumni vs. varsity soccer match; and a Saturday picnic lunch. New friends made, old friends remembered....it was a time to reconnect.



Donna Harward BA '81, pictured with President Sloan, Holly Harward and Rick Harward, reunited with other HBU alums at the President's Open House.



The Alpha Chi Omega ladies wrangle up their best batch of Texas chili for the annual campus-wide chili cook-off.



J.D. Humber '04 proudly displayed his "daws up" before he spoke during Homecoming Convocation.



They dusted off their cleats and took to the field! The men's alumni soccer team took on the men's varsity soccer in the first annual match-up. In the end youth won out, as the varsity players outlasted the alums 8-3.



(Pictured l to r) Kara Frank BA '05; Terry Suprean BA '03; Linda Renz BA '03; Virgil Grotfeldt, assistant professor in art; Michael Collins, associate professor in art; Melanie Leslie, associate professor in art; Marie Weichman, adjunct professor in art; (seated) Jennifer Barton, art and English senior; and Deborah Norcom, art education senior; all presented works at the Alumni Awards Evening Homecoming Art Exhibition in the great hall of the newly constructed Cultural Arts Center.



Royalty was on hand as the 2007 Homecoming King senior Edgar Gonzalez and Queen senior Toni Davis were presented during half-time of the basketball game.



Alumni Association Board President Andy Cherry BA '80, Board member Vivian Camacho BA '91, immediate past chair Monica Hodges BA '94, MEd '00, and Board member Page Butera BA '05 took time out to visit during the Homecoming Coffee House.

***Diana Rockefeller* Visits Campus To Share Plight of Afghan Women**

Diana Rowan Rockefeller, founding donor of Afghan Women Leaders Connect, an organization that established a safe and vetted direct funding channel to Afghan women-led nonprofit organizations, shared stories of the setbacks and gains that Afghan women continue to face in the battle to elevate their role in the leadership and management of their country during a special lecture at the University. Nonprofit groups like Afghan Women Leaders Connect help bring the prospect of real, sustainable change and provide distinctive signs of economic growth in Afghanistan.

The event was hosted by Dr. Stewart Morris, HBU Founding Father. Rockefeller's organization supports, promotes and provides education, training, healthcare, economic opportunities and equal-rights protection for Afghan women and children.



Shown during a tour of campus are (l to r) President Sloan, Diana Rowan Rockefeller, Dr. Stewart Morris, former High Sheriff of Chesire John Richards, and Joella Morris.

American Museum Society Holds Annual *Museum Day Luncheon*

The Junior League of Houston was the site of the annual February Museum Day Luncheon for the American Museum Society. Featured speakers for the event were Ron Stone and Ron Stone Jr., newscasters, historians and scholars. In their presentation, entitled *Houston & Beyond: The Benefits of Preserving History*, they chronicled the founding of Houston and regaled the audience with anecdotes of well-known Texas pioneers, entrepreneurs and philanthropists. Both father and son teach in the University's Master of Liberal Arts program where Ron Stone Sr. received his MLA degree in 1994.

In a special surprise presentation, Museum Society President Sharon Corry presented a \$15,000 check for the Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts to Lynn Miller BS '77, museum director, and President Sloan. Co-chairs for the luncheon were Grace Gandy and Sharon Saunders.



President Sloan, Lynn Miller BS '77 and Sharon Corry

Sorrels Receives Public Service Award

Randall O. Sorrels BA '84, a partner in the Houston firm of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Matthews & Friend, received the Public Service Award from the South Texas College of Law Alumni Association for 2006. This award, given for the first time in the law school's history, recognizes the STCL alum that provides the greatest public service to the area and the community during the past year.

Sorrels is immediate past president of the Houston Bar Association.



Ron Stone, Grace Gandy, Sharon Saunders and Ron Stone Jr.

HBU Day at Williams Trace

Sunday, February 25, was HBU Day at Williams Trace Baptist Church in Sugar Land as President Sloan delivered the day's message and Refuge, HBU's music ministry group, presented special music for the service.



HBU Trustee Gem Childress and his wife Judy welcomed HBU First Lady Sue Sloan and President Sloan to Williams Trace Baptist Church.

Tour speaks at Lecture Series



More than 200 students joined featured speaker Dr. James M. Tour (c) and Oscar and Claire Turner at the Prince-Chavanne Distinguished Lecture series. Turner is the daughter of Harry Chavanne for whom the chair is named. She represented the family at the event in which Dr. Tour, a synthetic organic chemist and professor of chemistry at Rice University, discussed the importance of faith in individual's every day lives.

Created in 1986, the lecture series in Christian ethics in business is provided as a part of the Prince-Chavanne Professorship at HBU. A generous gift from Harry and Hazel Chavanne to the Baptist Foundation of Texas established the Harry and Hazel Chavanne Trust for HBU. The Chavannes endowed the professorship in appreciation of the Christian example of their parents in both their personal lives and business.



Members of Refuge, HBU's music ministry, Rachel Mixon, Megan Yarrington, Chelsea Tisdale, Jonathan Brink, Ryan Beasley, and Clay Carnes with Greg Stahl (c), associate pastor, music & worship, Williams Trace Baptist Church.

COBE Student Wins

SAP Scholarship

Angel Cordero, a senior business administration and computer information systems management major, has been awarded a \$10,000 national scholarship from Systems Applications and Products in Data Processing (SAP), the world's third-largest independent software provider.

"I was really excited to receive this scholarship based on my research paper about the software and implementation. It was hard work because in a sense it is my own methodology of how to properly implement an ERP system. Many businesses have a difficult time implementing the software. My paper provided my own solution of how to succeed," said Cordero.

SAP is the leading vendor of Enterprise Resource Planning systems software to many of the Fortune 500 companies in the United States. HBU teaches SAP software in the classroom, and prepares their student thoroughly on the implementation of such programs.

"Thousands of students enrolled in these courses at some of the biggest universities in the country use this software and teach the same things we teach here at HBU. It's great that an HBU student won," said Dr. Michael Bourke, professor in computer information systems management.

The scholarship is awarded to 10 individuals across the country each year and requires a research paper, application, resume, references and a career plan. Cordero hopes to eventually obtain his master's degree in computer science.



Huskies Induct Six Into Sports Hall of Honor



President Sloan, Rachel Werner, Elinor Smith, Rod Nealy, Carlos Gil and Coach Ron Cottrell (not pictured: Tommy Crosby and Sarah Emmer)

A very distinguished group of former athletes were inducted into the HBU Sports Hall of Honor during the recent Homecoming festivities. The new inductees consisted of five All-Americans, including a National Player of the Year, and a four-time Conference Player of the Year.

Tommy Crosby, Sarah Emmer, Carlos Gil, Rod Nealy, Elinor Smith and Rachel Werner were recognized at the Homecoming Alumni Awards Evening with the Lettermen's Award by virtue of their being selected into the Sports Hall of Honor.

Crosby was an All-American baseball player for the Huskies from 2001-03, Emmer was an All-American and Academic All-American volleyball player (2002-03) and Werner was an All-American and Academic All-American softball player (2002-05). Smith was inducted for two sports as she was an All-American in both women's basketball (2000-04) and volleyball (2002-04) and Gil was a four-time Trans America Athletic Conference Player of the Year in Soccer (1982-85). Nealy was an All-America in basketball and was chosen NAIA National Player of the Year in 2002-03.

Basketball Wins Ninth Straight Conference Championship

Returns to National Tournament for 10th consecutive year

The 2007 HBU basketball team won its ninth straight Red River Athletic Conference Championship in a "winner take all, Top 25 showdown" at Jarvis Christian College on February 26.

Entering the final regular season game, the Huskies (No. 11) were tied with the Bulldogs (No. 20) at 14-3 in RRAC play. HBU won the game, 91-82, to win its ninth consecutive title in the conference's nine years of existence.

The Huskies placed five on the All-Conference team, including Player of the Year Dwight Jones II. It was a repeat top honor for Jones II and the eighth time an HBU player has won the award.

Joining Jones II on the All-RRAC team were seniors Todd Henry, Matt Autenrieth and Ronald Wells, as well as junior Kevin Amend.

The Huskies, who are ranked No. 10 in the country in the final Top 25 poll, will play in the NAIA National Tournament, March 14-20 at Kansas City, Mo.



Dwight Jones II won back-to-back RRAC Player of the Year honors.

Huskies Win RRAC Tournament

Return to National Tournament



After failing to repeat as RRAC Champions, the HBU women's basketball team had a lot to prove at the recent RRAC Tournament. The Huskies used the tournament to prove once again that they have what it takes to be champions.

After finishing second to Langston for the conference championship, the Huskies entered the tournament as the second seed. In the first round, HBU defeated Bacone College, 95-75 before winning over Wiley College, 88-56. The Huskies faced Jarvis Christian College in the finals after Jarvis had upset RRAC Champion Langston in the semifinals.

In the tournament finals, HBU defeated Jarvis, 94-68 to win its eighth straight RRAC Tournament title. The win gave the Huskies an automatic bid in their eighth consecutive NAIA National Tournament, March 14-20 at Jackson, Tenn.

Five Huskies were named to the All-Conference team—seniors Velencia Kuykendall, Jessica Brantley and Jasmine Irving, junior Dominique Thomas and sophomore Jacqueline Overby.

**Get the latest news on
Husky athletics at
www.hbuhuskies.com**

Huskies Visit Dallas Church



On a recent road trip to Dallas, the HBU basketball team visited Park Cities Baptist Church where HBU alumnus and pastor Dr. Jim Denison BA '80, preached on "Surrendering your everyday life to Christ."

Lewis Honored



Basketball public address announcer Terry Lewis was honored at the 2007 HBU Homecoming game. Lewis, a 1987 graduate of the University, has volunteered his time and talents as the "Voice of the Huskies" since basketball returned to HBU in 1991. He received a warm ovation from the Homecoming crowd as Coach Ron Cottrell thanked him for his service.

Commencement February 2007

Family and friends joined the members of the November 2006 and February 2007 graduating classes for commencement services at Houston's First Baptist Church. This is the 41st year the University has awarded degrees, with this year's ceremonies bringing the total number of degrees awarded to 14,387.

President Sloan delivered the commencement address to the graduates.

"... Use this success as a reminder of a higher calling ... we are to make a difference, to have a purpose, and to let others see our good purpose."

— President Sloan



President Sloan congratulates John Gibson BM '07 as a new alumnus.

2007 Piper Professor honorees Dr. Lavon Hayrapetyan, professor in computer information systems management; Dr. Susan Cook, professor in biology; Dr. Eloise Hughes MEd '93, professor in education; and Dr. Connie Michalos, professor in English, were recognized during commencement. Honoree Dr. Vanora Hundley, associate professor in nursing, was unable to attend.



ON THE AIR:

Student Broadcasts Bring Games to Channel 16

Husky basketball games are big nights on campus, as students gather in Sharp Gym to cheer on their favorite team. However, some students aren't able to attend the games, even though they are on campus. Now thanks to the instructional television program, those students can cheer on the Huskies while some of their classmates receive real-time experience in on-air broadcasting.

Student anchors Michael Simpson, Josh King, Larry Mayberry and Caleb Feese are bringing games to the University's Channel 16, a campus-based cable television channel that can be viewed in the residence colleges, Husky Village, M.D. Anderson Student Center, and other convenient locations across campus. The anchors make up the Husky Broadcast Team along with instructors Clay Porter and Issac Simpson and a team of students including directors Joey Knox and Armando Padillia; graphics director Brandon Porter; and camera operators Aaron Pizzana, Clay Carnes, Sarita Smalley, Colby Primeaux, Adam Richardson, Tracy Upton, Jenn Mulin and Nathan Cadis.

Feese says while he has enjoyed doing broadcast for quite some time as a co-anchor of the University sports show, *SportsWeek* (which just broadcast its 50th episode on Channel 16), nothing compares to doing a live broadcast.



Sophomore student anchors Michael Simpson and Caleb Feese



Junior cameraman Adam Richardson

"Nothing can replace an actual live broadcast. This is helping prepare me more for a career in television than anything else I have done so far. Everything has to be done correctly and with complete precision. I enjoy the thrill of the instant satisfaction of something being on the air immediately."

Porter says that the live programming is important to students' future careers.

"Students must have hands-on experience and you'll find an open door policy throughout Mass Communication. Whether it's writing for the *Collegian*, printing in the darkroom or recording in the TV Studio, our students have the opportunity to jump in with their ideas to work, build and grow."

ENROLLMENT UPDATE:

The News Is Good!

In the fall of 2006, Enrollment Management embarked upon an aggressive campaign to increase interest in Houston Baptist University. These strategies primarily targeted freshman inquiries who are current high school seniors graduating in 2007.

In December, a new application was launched “with remarkable results,” according to Vice President of Enrollment Management James Steen. The E-Z App, which has both a paper and an electronic version, has resulted in freshman applications increasing 625% over last year based on the same date, March 8. The number of admitted students for the same date has increased by 444%.

“We anticipate enrolling a record freshman class for fall 2007 in terms of both headcount and academic quality,” said Steen. Also noteworthy is the fact that 47% of this year’s freshman applicants and admitted students are from outside the Houston metro area.

For new transfer students, applications are currently up 38% this year versus last year on the same date.

Read more in a March 18th article from the *Houston Chronicle*.



<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/4640395.html>

In Memory

Founding Trustee John F. Baugh



John F. Baugh, founding trustee and longtime friend of HBU, passed away March 5.

Baugh, known for his efforts as a Texas entrepreneur and Baptist philanthropist, founded the Houston-based Sysco Corp., the nation’s largest restaurant food supplier. He retired as chairman in 1985 but remained on the board of directors until 1997.

Baugh served as a founding trustee of Houston Baptist College from 1960-1967. He and his wife, Eula Mae, were involved in the University in numerous ways. He served on the President’s Development Council and as an advisory trustee in recent years. Mrs. Baugh is a member of The Guild. The Baughs were recognized with the University’s most prestigious honor, the Spirit of Excellence Award, in 1996.

In 1993, the Eula Mae Baugh Center on campus was dedicated through the generosity of John Baugh as a tribute to his wife. It serves as a home for student life activities and campus dining.

“John Baugh was a gifted visionary with wisdom, integrity, honesty, work ethic, humility, respect for others, generosity, energy and passion,” said Jack D. Carlson, HBU Chairman of the Board, and retired Sysco executive. “I have known and worked with him for 41 years and have observed his life to demonstrate what Paul speaks about in *Galatians* 5:22-23... ‘The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.’”

For many years the Baughs have provided tuition for countless students at Baptist and other institutions of higher learning. “He wanted to benefit others who didn’t have the opportunity,” Carlson said.

“I first met John Baugh in 1960 as the father of a college friend. In all the years since, he has continued to be a father to my family,” said Dr. Don Looser, vice president for academic affairs. “He was a man of passion and zeal who deeply loved young people. His commitment to Christian higher education was testimony to his faith and his confidence in an emerging generation. We are all the stronger because of his influence on our lives.”

Baugh is survived by his wife, Eula Mae, and their daughter, Barbara.

Trustee News

President Sloan announced additions to the Board of Trustees. **William K. Robbins** has been named to the Board of Trustees, and **John C. Baker** returns to the Board as an Advisory Trustee.

The Greater Houston Preservation Alliance recognized **Joella and Dr. Stewart Morris**, HBU Founding Father, with the 2007 GHPA



President’s Award for outstanding leadership in historic preservation. The Morrisses were acknowledged for their longtime support of GHPA and their contributions to preservation in southeast Texas.

The couple has long been recognized for their work in historical preservation. Along with the donation of the Morris Columns and other architectural landmarks on the HBU campus, the couple was responsible for restoring the 1882 Stewart Building, one of the first major preservation projects in Galveston’s Strand National Historic Landmark District. Joella Morris was also instrumental in preserving the Victorian-era Fort Bend County Jail in Richmond and Houston’s Sweeney Clock.

Houston Classroom Teachers Honored

The University has established a tradition of presenting area Teachers of the Year with scholarships for graduate study. This year, six Houston area teachers received scholarships at the 2007 Crystal Awards presented by the Spring Branch Education Foundation and the Houston Chronicle.

The teachers recognized included Julia Bodenhamer, League City Elementary, Clear Creek ISD; Nina Corley, Satori School, Galveston; Sonia Greiner, The Guthrie Center, Spring Branch ISD; Don Hicks, St. Francis Episcopal Day School, Houston; Janice Reed, Cypress Falls High School, Cypress Fairbanks ISD; and Laura Zimmerman, speech-language pathologist for Klein ISD.

**Kathy Capes, coordinator of health professions,
College of Science & Mathematics**

Winter Employee of the Quarter

Cathy Capes has a number of ties to HBU in addition to being the Winter Employee of the Quarter. She has been married to Dr. David Capes, chair of the Department of Christianity and Philosophy and professor of Christianity, for more than 30 years. They have three sons, one of whom, Daniel, is a 2006 graduate of the University; Daniel's wife, Jenel, is a 2005 graduate.

You've been with HBU for four years now. Tell us more about your work.

I work daily with students who want to be future doctors, dentists, pharmacists, physical therapists or other healthcare workers. These fields are extremely competitive, so I help them navigate through all the details to succeed in gaining admission to medical, dental schools and others.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Working with students every day. I get satisfaction in knowing that I have helped them come closer to reaching their dreams. Whether it is academic advising, workshops, or through the student group AED, it's just a lot of fun being with students.

What do you enjoy doing away from the University?

In my free time I like to garden, play with my dogs, bake and work on home improvement projects. I enjoy working with my hands and physical labor. It's so different from what I do each day at HBU; it's a good balance.



Faculty Promotions

The following faculty promotions were approved at the February Board of Trustees meeting.

Dr. Lucindra Campbell to professor of nursing

Dr. Lawrence Clark to associate professor in writing

Kristin Fance to associate professor in library science

Dr. Ron Rexilius to associate professor in history

Dr. Betty Thompson to professor in biology

Dr. Yuri Yatsenko to professor in computer information systems management

Welcome New

Staff Members

David Herbert – Police, security officer

Sidney Fernandez – Information Technology Services, database administrator III

Jacquelynn Hernandez – College of Science and Mathematics, advising assistant

Janice Sellers – Information Technology Services, analyst III

Dr. Martin Bressler, professor in entrepreneurship and marketing, was the featured speaker at the Houston Business Breakfast sponsored by Services Cooperative Association, one of the leading business incubators in the country. He gave the 2007 business economic forecast to approximately 75 CEOs and business owners from the greater Houston area. ■ **Dr. Lawrence Clark**, assistant professor in English and writing, was interviewed recently on the HAAM (Houston Association of Acoustic Musicians) Radio Show on KPFT-FM regarding his upcoming album release and new books. ■ **Dr. James Claycomb**, assistant professor in physics, presented talks entitled "Noninvasive Sensors of Bioenergetic Processes" and "Harmonic Generation by Ion Transporters in Cell Membranes," as well as the poster "Harmonic Response of Butyrate Treated Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells to Oscillatory Electric Fields" at the 24th Annual Houston Conference on Biomedical Engineering Research sponsored by the Houston Society for Engineering in Medicine and Biology. ■ **Michael R. Collins**, associate professor of art, will have a solo exhibition entitled *Sacred Landscapes* this spring at the Gerald Peters Gallery in Dallas. The exhibition will feature a variety of selected works containing oil paintings, oil on paper on board paintings and some watercolor studies. ■ **Melissa Givens**, visiting professor of music, is a featured soloist on the album *Requiem: We Are So Lightly Here*, from Conspirare: Craig Hella Johnson and Company of Voices, which was nominated for a 2007 Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance. ■ **Vicki Ikeler**, marketing consultant, and **Sarah Bible**, director of recruitment, presented "Building Bridges for the Perfect Match: Promoting College Admission, Retention and Matriculation" identifying strategies to create successful partnerships between secondary school counselors and admissions personnel at a conference attended by more than 700 secondary counselors from across the state. The conference was sponsored by the Texas School Counselor Association. ■ **Sharon Saunders**, marketing, served as a presenter at the Houston Chapter of American Marketing Association. The session entitled, "Bridging the Gap Between Brand Research and Strategy" addressed branding experiences for three major entities - Houston Baptist University, Baker Petrolite and Bristow Group, Inc. ■ **Dr. Yuri Yatsenko**, associate professor in computer information systems, presented talks at the 5th International Conference on Differential Equations and Dynamical Systems held in December at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg and at the Annual Joint Mathematics Meetings of AMS and MAA in January in New Orleans. As the director of NATO collaborative grant "Optimal Replacement of Information Technologies and Sustainable Development in Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and USA," Yatsenko hosted the visit of Dr. Sergiy Lyashko, the chair of the Computational Mathematics Department, Kiev State University (Ukraine), in January.

HBU Alum-A-Gram

We welcome news about your life for Alum-a-Grams — marriages, births, jobs, honors, retirements, moves and general updates. We also enjoy sharing photos of our HBU alums in action. Please send either an actual photo print on glossy paper or e-mail a jpeg file of 300 dpi or higher if possible. Don't forget to identify everyone in the photo, including yourself, and please include your name and address on the back of the photo print if you would like us to return it.

Send your photos to hbunews@hbu.edu or mail them to **HBU News, 7502 Fondren, Houston, TX 77074-3298.**

(Note: Class year denotes last year of attendance or year of graduation)

1960s

Dr. Carol Ann Halliday Bonds BA '68 was named superintendent of San Angelo ISD in December 2006. She had previously served as superintendent of Livingston ISD for three years. She also served as superintendent of Rogers ISD from 1995-2002 and has 6 years of experience as a principal in Holland ISD as well as 11 years of classroom teaching experience. She and husband **Charlie** BA '67 have a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

Brenda Hodges Maddox BA '69 retired from teaching and moved to Panama City Beach, Fla., where she is a substitute teacher and grandmother of two. She is very active in her church and will be going on mission trips to Thailand and Ghana this year. Her son, **Damon** BA '99, will also be traveling to India on a mission trip.

Gerald Renfrow BA '69 and wife Sherri live in Pagosa Springs, Colo. They have two children, Daryl and Cari.

1970s

Dianna Garcia-Smith BSN '73 is a PhD candidate at the University of Arizona. She and daughter Leslie reside in Phoenix, Ariz.

Becky Gorton Smith BA '74 is a cognitive intervention teacher for ex-gang members at TDCJ-Ramsey Unit, Windham ISD, in Huntsville. Becky and husband Eldon have two children, Justin and Joey.

Kirby Bergstrom BS '78 is a marketing planning manager for Hewlett-Packard Company. He and wife Kathy have two children, Amy and Ali.

1980s

Robert E. Blake BSN '81 graduated May 2006 with an MDiv from the Houston Graduate School of Theology. He is a chief patient care officer for Memorial Hermann Healthcare System.

Patricia Kelly Clawges BS '81 is a senior production specialist for BMC Software in Jackson, Tenn.

Richard Wilcox BA '82 recently joined Jefferson Wells. He is very proud to announce the birth of his third grandchild, Gannon Cole Dixon, on Nov. 18.

Deanna Tucker Higgins BM '82 and family recently relocated to Tulsa, Okla., where Deanna has accepted a music teaching position at Sapulpa Middle School.

John Douglas Blacklock BA '83 is a mail courier for Washington Group International. He and wife Darlene reside in Leander.

Pam Shrader Drodgy BS '83 and husband Jack are the proud parents of two adopted children from the Ukraine. Jack is a geologist for Baker Hughes and Pam is a homemaker who uses her teaching skills with their children.

Susan Allen Farrell BS '83 recently accepted the position as president and CEO of Eventigy, a software company that provides web solutions for relationship marketing. The company is headquartered in Sugar Land. Susan and husband David have one daughter, Aimee.

Martin Elleson Retires from University



Judy Martin Elleson, director of development, will be retiring after celebrating 10 years of service at HBU. "It has been encouraging to me to walk alongside those who love the University and share their enthusiasm for their alma mater. I count those individuals as really wonderful friends," said Martin.

One of her most memorable memories while at HBU consists of a Chaplain, a pig and a kiss. "We used to have a kiss-the-pig contest every year, to raise money. One year, it came down to the wire with Andy Morris, campus chaplain, and me. We were at the location and time for the announcement of the 'winner.' I looked over and saw the slime dripping from the snout of the pig and thought

"If ever I wanted to be a loser, this is the time!" I won that day by losing!"

As she leaves the University she will miss the daily interactions with numerous people both at HBU and outside entities. Martin looks forward to traveling, a number of home projects, picking back up a few hobbies and continuing her Bible study and volunteer work.

Mike Reinfeldt MBA '84 has been named the general manager of the Tennessee Titans NFL team. Reinfeldt, a former Oilers all-pro safety, had been with the Seattle Seahawks for seven seasons. He and wife Susan have two children, Jared Michael and Elise Marie.

Linda Ramos Zamora BA '86 is currently a sergeant with the Houston Police Department. She has been a peace officer for 17 years and is currently assigned with the Cadet Training Unit for police trainees. She and husband Manuel have four children: Nacol, Micah, Christopher, and Jennifer.

Julio Cesar Zelaya BA '86 is an engineer for TCC. He, wife Patricia and children Julio III and Eva reside in New York, N.Y.



You're Never Too Young...

To cheer on the Huskies! Little Colin Willetts, son of Pete BS '01 and Christine Phillips Willetts BA '01, was cheering along with the best of them at the Huskies Homecoming basketball game. For a one-year-old Colin was showing incredible concentration on the game, watching the teams move up and down the court and clapping along with the crowd.

Welcome Husky Pups

Betsy Russey McDonald BA '95 and husband Matthew are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, Avery Elizabeth, on March 8, 2006.



McDonald

Nikki Barnett Thompson BBA '03 and husband Andrew are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Laney Jaye, on Aug. 17.



Thompson

Dr. Laura Ashley, assistant professor of mass communication and husband Doug are proud to announce the birth of daughter, Georgia Ruth, born on Dec. 6.

Josh Flores, admissions representative, and wife Tami are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Addison Blake, born on Jan. 29.



Steen



Flores

James Steen, vice president for enrollment management, and wife Heather are proud to announce the birth of a daughter, Millicent Baker, on Dec. 17. Milli joins brothers, Harrison and Cannon.

Alumni Update

NETWORK & FRIENDS CONNECTIONS

Alumni – join us at the next Network Connections luncheon on April 11 in Dillon II of the Hinton Center. Our guest speaker for the day will be renowned Houston television newsman, filmmaker and proud HBU alumnus Ron Stone MLA '94. The luncheon begins at 11:30 am. RSVP by calling (281) 649-3133.

FIRSTCLASS TRANSITION

The University has recently transitioned from using FirstClass to using Oracle for its communications. Alumni who used FirstClass for communication during their student days need to be sure to download and save any FirstClass documents they wish to preserve before May 31, 2007. On that date all FirstClass files will be removed from University servers and will be inaccessible. If you have questions about your FirstClass account, please call Information Technology Services at (281) 634-3410.

Kimberly K. Schultz BA '87 teaches senior English at Alief Taylor High School and was elected Teacher of the Year for 2006-07. Kim was also named Teacher of the Year in 1998-99 at Sharpstown High School.

Terri Bolin Miller BA '89 is an agent for Jessie Insurance Agency. She, husband Kevin and children Donna and Mackenzie reside in Campbellsville, Ky.

Diedre Horne Collins BM '89 is a home-schooling mom and a preschool children's choir director and orchestra member at Bear Creek Baptist Church. She resides in Katy with husband, Dan and their daughters: Cecilia, Brenna and Autumn.

1990s

Dr. Dawn Holman BS '90 and her husband, Dr. Alek Sokolovsky, are partners at Clarendon Surgical Specialists in Clarendon County, S.C.

Gabriel Rodriguez MS-HRM '92 is a customs border protection officer for Customs Border Protection. He and his children, Gabriel II and Alec, reside in Brownsville.

Lisa Edwards Benford BS '94 is a laboratory safety officer for the University of Houston. She and husband Bennie reside in Pearland with their children, Trey and Joshua.

Tom Kennedy BS '94 is a senior chemist for Ideal Specialty Gases and Analytical Services in Houston.

Tammy Trojanowski BBA '94 resides in Conroe with husband Ronnie and son Zachary.

Jorge Cruz '95 is director of coaches for New Territory Fusion Soccer Club. He and wife Julie live in Sugar Land with their four children: Jonathan, Christian, Julianna and Sophia.

Delilah Rose Hampton BSN '95 graduated from the University of Texas in December with a master's degree as a psychiatric nurse practitioner. She, husband Mark, and their children, Sarah, Ash, and Adam, reside in Bellaire.

Leslie Eileen Tripp BA '96 was recently named director of communications for the Alzheimer's Association of Georgia, located in Atlanta, after 13 years in television news.

Kelly Barber Harris BSN '96 is director of nursing for Urgent Care Plus. She resides in Leander with husband Steve and their three daughters: Siara, Savannah and Sadie.

Alex Hinojosa BM '97 finished his graduate degree in Nashville, Tenn. in trumpet performance. He had the opportunity to record, perform and tour with several groups including the Nashville Symphony and the Denver Mile High Orchestra. He is currently teaching middle school band in the Cy-Fair School District.

Kathi Crawford MS '98 is the vice president for human resources for Talent Tree Crystal, Inc. in Houston.

Rick Ogden BA '98 has been appointed to a second term of the Texas Association of School Boards Risk Management Fund Board of Trustees, the fifth-largest public risk management fund in the United States.

Challenge of the Decades

All Right! The 70s to the Max!

Congratulations to the winner of the fourth annual Homecoming Challenge of the Decades - the decade of 1970. An engraved paver will be added to the Heritage Walk in Holcombe Mall in honor of their contribution. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, a total of \$20,045 was raised for the HBU Fund.

A big thank you goes to this year's challengers — Carol Ann & Charlie Bonds, 1960s; Harry Herzog, 1970s; Cheryl & Randy Sorrels, 1980s; Suzanne Gerczak, 1990s; and Page Butera, 2000s.

Decade	# of Participating Alumni	% per decade	Amount Received	% of total dollars given
1960	12	4.07%	\$2,200	10.92%
1970	30	1.82%	\$5,345	36.45%
1980	33	.69%	\$5,231	30.55%
1990	33	.41%	\$2,765	17.69%
2000	14	.42%	\$ 885	4.39%

*60% of the score is based on participation and 40% on dollars raised



President Sloan and Harry Herzog BS '78 representing the 1970s.

Robert Villarreal BA '98 has served as pastor for Iglesia Emanuel for the past three years. Robert also teaches high school Spanish in the Pasadena Independent School District. He and wife Veronica live in Pasadena with their children: Phoebe, Sara, Ester and Lydia.

Yousef Balat BA '99 participated in the Homecoming Art Exhibit in the new Grand Hall of the Cultural Arts Museum on campus. Among his 2006 exhibitions was the "Houston Contemporary Art Exhibition" held in July in Shanghai, China. He was one of 40 Houston area artists participating in the exhibit which was presented by the Shanghai Art Museum and the Shanghai Branch of the Asia Society Texas. After graduation from HBU, Balat studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest, Hungary, and earned a Master of Fine Arts in painting from Texas Christian University in 2004. Balat's artwork may be viewed on his website at www.yousefbalat.com.

2000

Stephanie Broussard BSN '00 graduated summa cum laude from the MSN program at the University of Texas School of Nursing this past December. She has accepted a job with UT Health Science Center as a neonatal nurse practitioner and will practice at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital in the NICU.

Randy A. Birken MLA '00 recently published a collection of short stories titled, *A Harvard Death and Other Stories*. He is a board certified gynecologist and faculty member at Baylor College of Medicine. He and wife Liz reside in The Woodlands.

Kirandeep Brar BS '01 and wife Jagtar Singh Heir live in Houston.

Palu Dedhia BS '02 just graduated from Thunderbird, The Garvin School of International Management with an MBA. He celebrated his marriage on Jan. 28 and lives in Phoenix, Ariz.

Meghan Nicole Caruthers BA '03 is an attorney specializing in oil and gas and also real estate with the law firm of Crost and Associates in League City. Meghan received her law degree from Baylor University in 2006.

Sharon Margaret Rodriguez MEd '03 is chair for the department of social studies at Medina Valley High School in Castroville. She won the 2006-07 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8134 LaCoste Citizenship Teacher of the Year Award.

Alum Wins Unique Acceptance to Graduate and Medical School

by Lilly Berrones '10

This story has been edited from a previously published *Collegian* article.

William Choi BS '06 has been accepted into both medical and graduate school, becoming the second University graduate to claim that honor.

Choi was one of approximately 11 chosen from thousands of applicants for a final interview to be accepted into the Medical Scientist Training Program at Baylor College of Medicine.

Choi will enter Baylor July 23 with an ambition of becoming a physician scientist. That is, he will hold a medical as well as a doctoral degree. This prestigious accomplishment was preceded by a lengthy application process. Choi applied first to medical school, then to graduate school.

Dr. Robert Towery, assistant professor in chemistry, said the first time Choi took the Medical College Admission Test, he did not meet the competitive standards, but he later retok the test and received an excellent score.

"His particular case shows how perseverance pays off," Towery said.

Choi said it is amazing for both himself and the University that someone from a small school is able to compete on the national scale.

"It lets you know that everything we're doing is worthwhile," Towery said, reflecting on his former student's achievement.

Dr. Susan Cook, professor in biology, said she is very proud of Choi. Most of the people that make it this far are from Ivy League schools, Cook added.

Choi also acknowledged the significance of his education at the University and said it is a great place to learn and understand the sciences and technology.

Choi credits the University's atmosphere and his professors for helping him reach his goals. He added that the small classes, academic structure and student interaction with professors were valuable assets.

Throughout his journey, Choi faced various hurdles but he said what challenged him most was being able to combine everything he has learned and apply it to his scientific research. Currently, Choi is doing research on the immune system of leukemia patients.

"I want to be doing something of value," Choi said. "I want to tell a patient that we are looking to find a cure."

Choi advised students never to give up. In the end, he said, the accomplishments are worth all the obstacles.



Jaime Barnett Slafka BA '03 owns a small business called Tumbling Stars. She is co-owner with her cousin **Misty Gafford Neimeyer** BBA '04. They provide gymnastics and fitness lessons to children.

Glen P. Nilsen BS '04 is a biocide specialist for flow management, technical support & development for Champion Technologies in Houston.

Crystal Jean Briones BA '04 is a 3 SVS in the United States Air Force stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

Rebecca Hamblin BA '05 is a mental health counselor for The Menninger Clinic in Houston.

Ronald Anthony Booth MBA '05 is a finance manager for Royal Dutch Shell in Houston. He and wife Tracia live in Sugar Land.

Kimberly Hatton BBA '05 is a marketing associate for UBS Financial Services, Inc. She and daughter Mia reside in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Suyapa Mariely Mejia BA '05 is a first-grade teacher at Corpus Christi Catholic School.

Angela Mohle Aguirre BA '05 is an English teacher at Elsie Ninth Grade Center. She and husband Matthew reside in Meadows Place.

Jennifer Flowers Lyle BA '05 is a teacher for Fort Bend ISD. She and husband Robert reside in Missouri City.

Crystal Shai Streety BBA '05 is a small business specialist for Bank of America in Houston.

HBU Announces Expansion of the University Branding Campaign

"We're all over the air — AM ... FM ... Drive Time & More"

Catch President Robert Sloan
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Blake McMahon BA '06 was one of 16 finalists in a student short film mini-series contest conducted by *TheProject.tv*. Blake's entry was entitled *The Bus Stop*. Similar to American Idol and other reality TV mini series, the contest used a process of elimination and popular voting by website viewers to determine a winner.

Yolanda Moultrie MBA '06 is a human resources consultant for Fluor Corporation. She and husband Torrance reside in Cypress.

Renita Walker BA '06 is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Family Studies at Texas Woman's University. She is continuing to study for certification as a licensed chemical dependency counselor.

Traci Woods BM '06 and Jason Dennis were married on October 13. Traci currently works for Bethany Methodist Weekday School. She is also a private voice teacher for Katy ISD.



Maid of Honor Nerissa Rawls '07,
Traci Woods BM '06 and Matron of Honor
Maria Alegre BM '06.

In Memoriam

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

— Hebrews 11:1

FORMER STUDENTS

O'Neal Crocker '68 passed away Feb. 16. He was a member of the baseball team while at HBC. He is survived by his wife Pam and son Casey.

UNIVERSITY FRIENDS

Marguerite Goss, a member of the American Museum Society, passed away Mar. 8 at the age of 96.

George Merritt passed away Jan. 27. He is survived by his wife, Dana Merritt, a member of The Guild.

Evelyn Spears Shilling passed away Dec. 18. She was a member of the American Museum Society and former member of The Guild. Her late husband, Alonzo Shilling, was an original member of the President's Development Council. Mrs. Shilling's sister, Odean McKenzie, is a member of The Guild and the American Museum Society.

Honor Roll of Donors

Every gift to Houston Baptist University, regardless of the size, has the power to make a difference in lives. The beauty of these gifts is that the giving never ends. By enabling HBU to provide a quality Christian education to our students, donors are touching generations of lives.

We asked six of our Endowed Academic Scholarship recipients to share how your gifts have impacted their lives during college. Through their words, we think you'll experience the difference your gifts make in young lives.

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*"Your generosity does not go
unremembered. God is using your
faithfulness to further His good
purpose."*

— Rebecca Barton



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The listings in this section reflect the Donor Wall in the Cultural Arts Center

* deceased

Lisa Lund

Major: Biblical languages



"Thank you so much for blessing me through your giving. Your giving touches not only my life but also the lives of those I will touch because I was able to attend Houston Baptist University."

Lily Nguyen

Majors: biology and biochemistry
molecular biology (pre-med)



"I want our donors to know how much of an impact their donation has actually made on my life. I am able to have so many opportunities, thanks to their generosity. My HBU education has been so influential in my life."

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Dr. Barden & Carolyn Patterson

Rebecca Barton

Majors: business and mass communication



"The Endowed Academic Scholarship has allowed me to live on campus, which has been an immense blessing in my life. I have developed deep friendships as a result of living in the dorms, and I have learned a lot about myself from moving away from home and my comfort zone. I have grown in so many ways and learned so much about myself since beginning school here last fall that I am constantly reminded what a blessing it is to have the opportunity to attend HBU. The education itself has not only increased my knowledge, but it has also strengthened my love of learning. Getting to know all my professors on a personal level, which the small class size here at HBU facilitates, has been a wonderful experience."

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LEVEL 10

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While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list, some names may have been omitted or spelled incorrectly. If this is the case, please contact the Office of Development at (281) 649-3348.

Natasha Desa

Majors: biology and kinesiology



"I am so grateful for this once in a lifetime opportunity. No words could perfectly explain my gratitude, but in a sentence, I would say 'Thank you for making my American dream come true.'"

Platinum

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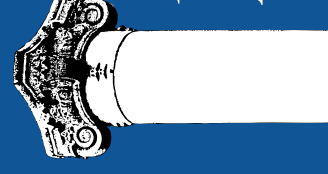
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