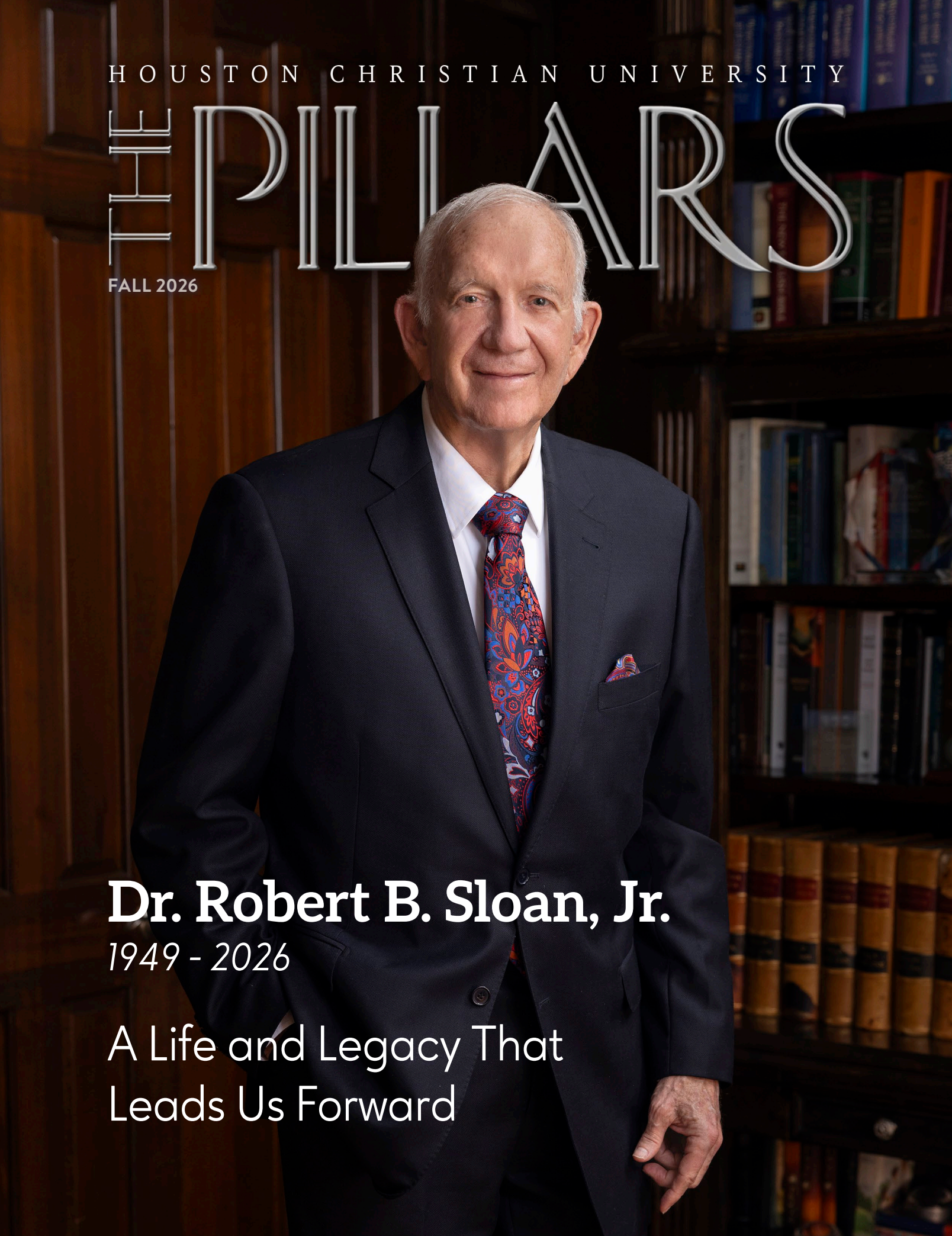
HOUSTON CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE PILLARS

FALL 2026



Dr. Robert B. Sloan, Jr.

1949 - 2026

A Life and Legacy That Leads Us Forward

PRESIDENT'S *message*



Sandra N. Mooney
ACTING PRESIDENT

For two decades, God entrusted Dr. Robert B. Sloan with leading Houston Christian University (HCU) through an extraordinary season of growth, transformation and renewed purpose.

Every milestone we celebrate—from embracing the Ten Pillars, Core Convictions and HCU Institutional Strategic Plan 2030 to strengthening our academic programs; advancing science, engineering and nursing; championing liberal arts education; expanding online education; elevating athletics; and proudly becoming Houston Christian University—was guided by his steadfast commitment to Christ-centered excellence.

This commemorative edition reflects that remarkable journey. Its pages tell the story of a University shaped not merely by its buildings, programs or achievements, but by a shared mission to equip students for lives of faith, service, leadership and academic distinction. Every college, initiative, member of the HCU community and friend and partner of the University has contributed to a legacy that will continue to influence generations to come.

May these reflections inspire gratitude for God's faithfulness, celebrate the lives transformed through this institution and encourage us to carry forward the vision with the same courage, conviction and unwavering hope and trust in God that defined Dr. Sloan's nearly 20 years of leadership.

Sincerely,

Sandy Mooney

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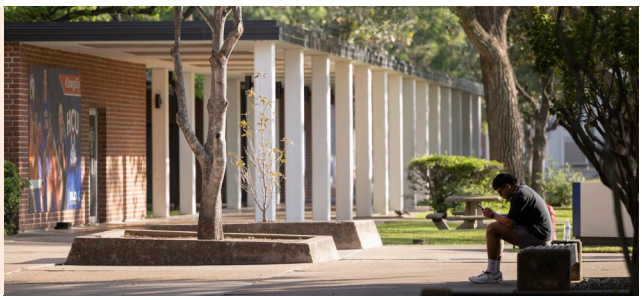
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VOLUME 62 | NO. 1

The Pillars is the news magazine of Houston Christian University and is published in print and online.

EDITORIAL OFFICE

The Pillars
Houston Christian University
7502 Fondren Road
Houston, Texas 77074

Main: 281.649.3000

Undergraduate Admissions: 281.649.3211

Graduate Admissions: 281.649.3269

Alumni: 281.649.3413

Update your address and subscription preferences at HC.edu/PillarsMail

Dr. James Steen, *VP for Enrollment Management & Marketing*

Cary Delmark, *Assistant VP for Marketing*

Jennifer Spence, *Graphic Design*

Diane Tezeno, *Managing Editor/Writer*

Michael Tims, *Creative Director/ Photographer*

Michael Taylor, *Video Editor*

Chris Lampson, *Web Developer*

Hope Etter, *Web/UI Designer*

Kaylah Hubbard, *Social Media Specialist*

Noah White and Raven King, *Digital Content Editors*

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jeff Sutton, Raven King, Noah White, Sarah Villalobos

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Sandra N. Mooney

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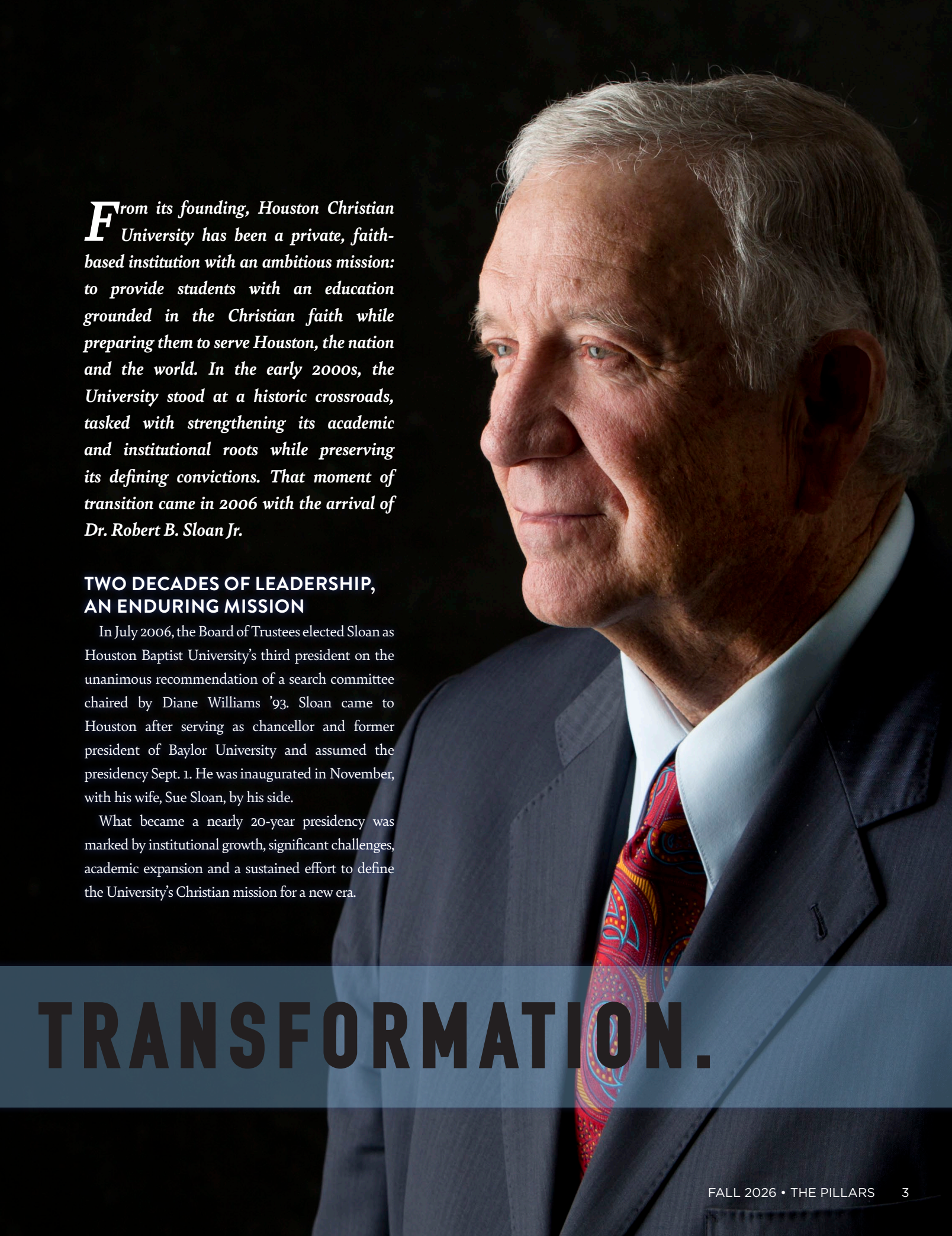
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THE SLOAN PRESIDENCY

Dr. Robert B. Sloan, Jr.

"However much we develop in numbers, academic programs and facilities, our calling is to provide an outstanding Christian education within the framework of a Biblical and Christian worldview, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ."

VISION. LEADERSHIP.



TRANSFORMATION.

From its founding, Houston Christian University has been a private, faith-based institution with an ambitious mission: to provide students with an education grounded in the Christian faith while preparing them to serve Houston, the nation and the world. In the early 2000s, the University stood at a historic crossroads, tasked with strengthening its academic and institutional roots while preserving its defining convictions. That moment of transition came in 2006 with the arrival of Dr. Robert B. Sloan Jr.

TWO DECADES OF LEADERSHIP, AN ENDURING MISSION

In July 2006, the Board of Trustees elected Sloan as Houston Baptist University's third president on the unanimous recommendation of a search committee chaired by Diane Williams '93. Sloan came to Houston after serving as chancellor and former president of Baylor University and assumed the presidency Sept. 1. He was inaugurated in November, with his wife, Sue Sloan, by his side.

What became a nearly 20-year presidency was marked by institutional growth, significant challenges, academic expansion and a sustained effort to define the University's Christian mission for a new era.

Robert Sloan was a great university president: attracting and motivating distinguished educators and students to enable so many productive lives! His strategic plans and execution elevated HCU and enriched its curriculum. He was a model citizen that displayed the best character traits worth emulating. It is essential for the faculty and students to have respected leadership. Robert and Sue had the biggest and best family imaginable. His children and grandchildren are their best contribution to humanity. After the trip to the Holy Land that he guided, Barbara and I can attest to his knowledge and personal relationship with God. We have faith that he is at peace in God's Grace surrounded by his loved ones with the deep understanding that has been promised. He lived with faith, hope and love, and will always be remembered for a life of accomplishment and love!

Corby Robertson, Jr.



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

In 2008, the Board adopted "Ten Pillars: Faith and Reason in a Great City," a 12-year institutional vision designed to guide the University's academic, spiritual and institutional development. In 2020, Sloan authored "The Ten Pillars 2030," establishing core convictions to guide the University into the next decade.

The vision was accompanied by a transformation of the physical campus. The Joella and Stewart Morris Cultural Arts Center and Belin Chapel opened in 2007. The University Academic Center, Lawrence Park and Lake House Residence followed in 2008 as part of a $35 million development. The University Theater was named the Linda and Archie Dunham Theater.

Subsequent projects included Belin Tower, the Doris and Terry Looper Learning Commons and the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty, which opened in 2022, with completion of Founders Hall II in 2025. The most recent project is the construction of the Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building, slated to open in Spring 2027.

GROWTH THROUGH CHALLENGE

The University's transformation through the years, unfolded amid significant adversity. Hurricane Ike struck Houston in September 2008, causing an estimated $8 - $10 million in damage, with the M.D. Anderson Student Center and Brown Administrative Complex hardest hit. During the national financial crisis, the University was forced to reduce its budget by 6%.

Sloan's administration also oversaw a major transition in intercollegiate athletics. HBU sued the NCAA over its retroactive seven-year probation policy, ultimately settling in 2009 with the probation period reduced to four years. Full NCAA Division I membership was restored in 2011. HBU joined the Southland Conference in 2013 and introduced football. By the end of Sloan's presidency, NCAA Division I sports had increased from five in 2005-06 to 17.

EXPANDING THE ACADEMIC MISSION

Academic growth was equally significant. The Graduate School was established in 2009, followed by programs in biblical languages, philosophy, apologetics, counseling, management, entrepreneurship and executive educational leadership.

Houston Theological Seminary was founded in 2016, and the first doctoral program, an EdD in Executive Educational Leadership, launched that fall. The Pampell Online Division was launched in 2017, and the College of Engineering enrolled its inaugural class in 2018, with cyber engineering becoming the first such BS degree in Texas. The College of Science and Engineering was formed in 2019, and the Houston Cyber Education Center launched in 2021.

By fall 2026, under Sloan's leadership, enrollment had reached a record 5,285 students, 147% higher than when Sloan began his presidency. Freshman enrollment had increased 132%. Degree programs

From the privilege of serving on the Presidential Search Committee, which brought Dr. Sloan to HCU in 2006, to the privilege of serving on the Board of Trustees during his leadership, I have been blessed! I have also been blessed by the special friendship that developed between Dr. Sloan and Sue and my husband Stanley and me. Dr. Sloan was a great example of Christ-like faith to all, while being full of fun and fellowship with special friends, among whom I have been blessed.

Dr. Diane Williams '93
HCU TRUSTEE



grew from 54 in 2006 to 115, including 69 bachelor's and 41 master's programs, while doctoral programs increased from zero to five.

The University's resources and residential capacity grew alongside enrollment. The endowment surpassed $100 million, endowed scholarships increased to 350, and nine endowed chairs and professorships were established. Residential capacity reached 1,052 beds before the 2025 repurchase of University Place added roughly 350 more, bringing capacity to approximately 1,400.

HOUSTON CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

The University's transformation was reflected in its name. On May 17, 2022, the Board approved the change from Houston Baptist University to Houston Christian University, and the transition was announced Sept. 21.

The new name reflected an institution that had grown considerably in size and academic scope while continuing to emphasize its Christian identity. That same year, the University added the Doctor of Ministry as its fourth doctoral program.

THE END OF AN ERA

By 2026, the University Sloan inherited in 2006 had been transformed. Its campus had expanded, academic programs had multiplied, doctoral education had been established, Division I athletics had grown, enrollment had reached record levels and the University's resources had increased significantly.

Sloan passed away suddenly on July 4, 2026, at age 77, just weeks before the 20th anniversary of his assuming office. On July 10, more than 1,200 friends, family and members of the HCU community gathered in Dunham Theater to pay tribute to his legacy. A thousand more viewers watched the services streamed live over the Internet, and 1,700 more have viewed the recording online.

His unexpected passing closed a defining chapter in the history of HCU, but his visionary leadership left a clear pathway forward for the University to follow.

That pathway was rooted in something Dr. Sloan repeatedly identified as more important than growth itself: the University's Christian identity and mission.

At a May 19 dinner for current and former trustees, Dr. and Mrs. Sloan hosted members of the University community who had helped guide HCU through decades of change. In a fitting close to the evening, Sloan reflected on what he believed was the greatest responsibility facing those entrusted with its future.

"The greatest need I must lay in front of all of us, as a reminder and ongoing need, is the importance of maintaining our Christian identity and mission," Sloan said. "However much we develop in numbers, academic programs and facilities, our calling is to provide an outstanding Christian education within the framework of a Biblical and Christian worldview, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ."

He continued by emphasizing the importance of having trustees, faculty, administrators and staff who do more than simply tolerate the University's Christian identity. Dr. Sloan made it his task to seek out people who "embrace it, support it and further it."

"That's the last word I'll leave you. If we fail there, we have failed at everything. God bless all of you."

Robert B. Sloan, my dad, served as President of HCU for nearly 20 years. Those who know well either Robert or the University are familiar with the phrase, "Jesus Christ is Lord." This statement, of course, forms the nucleus of the preaching of apostles in the New Testament, and its gravity draws into its orbit the submission of all of creation to its claim.

On its foundation, Robert sought to lead Houston Christian University, and by its example, Christian higher education, into the pursuit of a learning subservient to Christ's Lordship over all creation. No discipline, he believed, fell outside the realm of His dominion, and for this reason, all avenues – the material sciences, literature, philosophy and the Scriptures – could and ought to be studied in service to and in honor of the One through whom and for whom all things were made. This confession grounded the goals of the universities Robert sought to lead and the manner in which he led them. Under his leadership, with the help of faculty and staff energized by this common faith, *Houston Christian University flourished.*

JESUS C





HRIST *is Lord*





And while Robert, with Sue Sloan by his side, led the University admirably and for its good for nearly two decades, I want to make plain what Sue, my mom, made plain to me in the wake of his death: HCU was a chief blessing in their lives. Robert was greatly blessed by his time at Houston Christian University, an institution he loved and prayed for, and he, Sue, and his family, are grateful for the love and support shown to him over the years and in these weeks following his death.

But beyond the University, the confession that "Jesus Christ is Lord" shaped Robert and his daily walk of life – his life as a husband of over 56 years to Sue Sloan, a father and grandfather to his seven children, their spouses, and 26 grandchildren, a teacher and researcher of the Scriptures and a pastor to numerous congregations across decades. He sought to lead not just the University with fidelity to this confession, but to walk his every daily step under Christ's Lordship. To say it plainly, he was a wonderful man. A good leader. Wise. Patient. Extremely intelligent yet utterly humble. A careful, careful listener, as his niece Lucy once observed. Curious. Disciplined. Warm-hearted. And truthful. He cared so deeply about the truth and that he himself was true – to the Lord, his own word, his convictions, to his wife and family and responsibilities. And he loved his family deeply. Excepting God and His work through Christ our Lord, Sue and his children and grandchildren were the center of his life. They sought time with him, to learn from him, to see him at events both momentous and mundane, and were eager to hear the stories he loved to write and to tell. To put it simply

once more, Robert loved his family, and his family – Sue, his children and their spouses, and the grandchildren – loved him very much, and we miss him very much.

And he loved much else. He was, as we all are, whole selves whose interests lay outside what the public notices. He loved fiction, both reading it and writing it, American history, baseball, dominoes, pool and games around the table. And while he appreciated the necessary evil of small talk, he craved earnest conversation over matters great or small. He was, as mentioned, a careful listener, and what mattered to his conversation partner mattered to him. He loved hearing from faculty about their research pursuits; he listened patiently to me as I attempted to articulate my thoughts about a particular scriptural passage; he paid rapt attention to Elijah, my 7-year-old, as he described in great detail the Lego he was building; and he gladly listened to, recalled and prayed for, the prayer requests mentioned by all who spoke them to him.

He sought to lead not just the University with fidelity to this confession, but to walk his every daily step under Christ's Lordship.

But while he certainly devoted himself to many pursuits throughout his life, many rightly recognize that he exceptionally loved the Scriptures. He loved reading them, talking about them, teaching them, reading scholarship about them and talking about that scholarship. He was so driven by the conviction that Jesus Christ is Lord that he wanted to know the word that He gave us, which reveals Him, as well he could so that he could submit to that revelation. He was not just a knower of the word but a doer. And while imperfect and stumbling as we all are, he strove to submit his every action and thought to the Lordship of Christ, to walk with humility and in service of the one who gave Himself for him and for the world.

Much more could be said, naturally. But Robert – dad – was an exceptional university president, a wise leader, a faithful, loving husband, a wonderful father, and a dear, dear grandfather. We miss him greatly, as many do, and we grieve his death and the loss of the futures we'd imagined with him, but we grieve with hope because of the surety of Christ's resurrection and His promise that He will raise those united to Him.

Dr. Paul Sloan





A LASTING IMPACT *in their own words*

For nearly 20 years, Dr. Robert B. Sloan Jr. led Houston Christian University with bold vision and an unwavering commitment to Christ. To those who knew him, he was also a cherished friend, trusted mentor and caring pastor—a man whose intellect was matched by his humility, humor and genuine love for people. In these tributes, friends, colleagues and University leaders share memories of the man behind the presidency and the enduring mark he left on their lives.

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TO SHARE YOUR OWN MEMORIES OF DR. SLOAN

HC.edu/SloanTribute


STROBEL
Philip Nation



When Dr. Sloan first came to Houston as President of HBU, I called him right away for lunch. Conversation got around to 'We need an organ in the chapel' and he asked if I would consider donating that? I said, "Sure," thinking it was a stand-up organ like we have at our home. He asked if I was committed and I said, "Sure, done." What I didn't realize was that he was referring to a Letourneau Organ with 3,100 pipes and 85 stops. Oops! But, I was committed. So thankfully it took three years to build and install, so I could take three years to pay for it -- thank goodness.

Whew! I have spent many, many hours with Dr. Sloan at lunches, golf outings, dinners and meetings and thought I knew him very well. But, when I read his obituary, I was beyond shocked about this intellectual giant of a man. He was so low key about himself. There was just no appearance whatever of this amazing, incredible genius. He left a huge hole in my heart and will be enormously missed!

Jim Smith



Dr. Sloan was more than my mentor—he was my role model, my hero and a faithful servant of God. His Christ-like humility, unwavering faith and genuine love for others profoundly shaped my life and continue to inspire me.

Esther Tan Wong

Christian Higher Education will forever be impacted by the visionary leadership of Dr. Sloan. No one has led with greater clarity on the purpose and importance of fidelity to both Christian commitment and serious scholarship.

Rev. Ramiro A. Peña

CHAIRMAN, HCU BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Like so many, I was shocked and saddened when I received the news that my treasured friend, Robert Sloan, had stepped into eternity. Somehow, I had convinced myself that our friendship would never have a goodbye in its plot. That parting was grievous, but the reality of his faith becoming sight has grown more glorious to me with each passing day. I'll miss the life we lived on this side of eternity—our deep conversations, the hilarious laughs, his gentle correction, our mutual love for HCU and the genuine care he and Sue always gifted to my family and me. Dr. Sloan's ability to be a matchless intellect while exhibiting a burning passion and love for the Lord, and for people, will never be surpassed. I'm grateful to God for the decades we experienced the friendship Proverbs 18 describes as "closer than a brother." And I am more drawn than ever to that day "When we all get to heaven...what a day of rejoicing it will be."



Marc Rylander
HCU TRUSTEE



Robert Sloan will forever be remembered as a visionary whose amazing leadership profoundly impacted Houston Christian University. His passion for maintaining the University's Christian identity and mission will forever be his legacy!

It was an honor to serve as a member of his Executive Council these past 20 years. I was privileged to see, up close and personal, the countless ways this giant man of faith invested in the lives of so many segments of our community as he led HCU through a name change, which resulted in nation-wide recognition and unprecedented growth in donor and foundation support as well as in campus facilities and enrollment, all anchored in the Ten Pillars 2030 vision.

His enthusiasm was evident . . . from his pride in every opening convocation and commencement ceremony to the excitement of our first football game in Husky Stadium . . . from Spirit of Excellence galas on campus to celebrating the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty and the Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building . . . from the many friends and alumni events across the city and campus to student gatherings in Morris House or a faculty discussion on the sidewalk, he was there! His faith and his love for everything HCU was real!

With an engaging style of leadership, he motivated others to reach their potential and instilled in them a desire for excellence. He was an inspiration and true hero, a loyal friend, an avid listener and a great storyteller with a fabulous sense of humor! And most of all, he was truly present in the lives of those around him, and with Sue by his side, we have been doubly blessed!

Sharon Saunders
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT
AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Dr. Sloan was one of the finest leaders I have known. He combined wisdom, vision and intellect with genuine kindness and care for people. I especially saw Dr. Sloan's amazing leadership when I was the Chairman of the Board during the challenging days of the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic brought many phone conversations and prayer times between us and tightened our bond as brothers in Christ. I will miss his friendship tremendously and remain grateful for the lasting legacy he leaves behind. HCU, and all who knew him, were blessed by this great man of God.



Gregg Matte
HCU TRUSTEE,
SENIOR PASTOR OF HOUSTON'S
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Bible assures us in Matthew 5:4, "Blessed are those that mourn, for they shalt be comforted."

The Bible tells us in Matthew 5:8 that "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Robert had a pure heart. He's with God today. His back no longer pains him. He has a perfect body and he's worshipping his Savior.

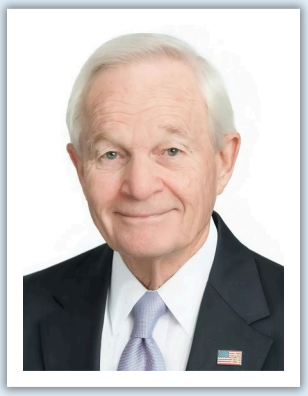
Linda and I first met Robert and Sue when he was elected President of Houston Baptist University in 2006. Robert was a visionary leader dramatically increasing enrollment and the physical facilities required to serve the students during his tenure as President.

He was an outstanding Preacher and a caring Pastor. That's a rare combination, based on the many churches I've attended in my lifetime. Some Pastors are great Preachers and "not so good" Pastors. Others are great Pastors and "not so good" Preachers. Robert was both.

He loved Sue and his family with all his being and he loved his friends, church members and the students at HCU.

Approximately 15 years ago, four couples ... Robert & Sue, Jim & Sherry Smith, Skip & Lucy McBride and Linda and I, began a tradition of playing golf together each spring or summer at some of America's most beautiful courses. Robert was the best golfer in the group, and I, the worst. Linda and Sue became friends during that time period shopping together. She became Linda's best friend.

Three years ago, Robert started a new tradition of friendship with me, Skip McBride, Jim Smith, Edd Hendee and Jerry Simon, organizing monthly lunches at the Taste of Texas so that together, we could talk about the issues of the day. It's nice to have "best friends." Robert was our "best friend."



How does one properly "pay tribute" to one of your best friends in life? "Great man. Good man. A man I loved, admired, respected for all the reasons we all know." Those words, though very true and accurate, simply do not do it. Then I ran across the answer. While reading Proverbs 23:28 one morning, I saw it. The Proverb reads: "My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways." And scribbled in the margin were my words: "What would Jesus do? or say? or Robert?" That is my tribute to Robert Sloan and how I felt about him and his ways.

Skip McBride
HCU TRUSTEE



Life is a journey punctuated with times of joy, triumphs, disappointments and challenges. We don't understand why unexpected events occur in our lives.

I lost Linda three years ago but my friendship with Robert and Sue continued with them helping me through the tunnel of grief experienced after the loss. They visited me often in my home, sharing words of comfort and inviting me to dinners and other activities at HCU. I will always be grateful for those times together.

It's difficult losing a family member or a spouse. Several months after Linda died, God spoke to me in a small daily devotional book and I want to share those words which meant so much to me.

"Keep walking with Me along the path that I have chosen for you. Your desire to live close to me is a delight to my heart. I could instantly grant you the peace you desire, but that is not my way for you. Together we will forge a pathway up the high mountain. The journey will be difficult, and you are weak. Someday you will dance on the high peaks, but for now, your steps will be slow and heavy. All I require of you is to take the next step clinging to My hand for strength and direction."

It's hard to be hopeful during difficult times, but I'm confident that God has a perfect plan for Sue and the rest of the family. God is good.

Dr. Archie Dunham



A NAME FOR



THE Future

When Dr. Robert B. Sloan Jr. arrived at Houston Baptist University in 2006, he inherited an institution with a strong Christian heritage and an ambitious future. Founded in 1960 as Houston Baptist College, the University's founders envisioned a Christian institution in Houston that would unite quality of life with quality of learning. Sloan understood that legacy and recognized the opportunity to carry it into a new era.

During his presidency, HCU experienced significant growth in enrollment, academics and campus facilities. More importantly, Sloan helped establish a vision for the University as a distinctly Christian institution equipped to engage a changing culture with spiritual conviction and academic excellence.

This vision ultimately helped guide one of the most consequential decisions in the University's history: changing its name from Houston Baptist University to Houston Christian University.

MORE THAN A NAME

In 2022, Houston Baptist University became Houston Christian University. The decision resulted in more than a new name, a new logo and a new web address. For an institution built over the course of more than six decades, this kind of change is never just cosmetic. It conveys the University's vision for its future as well as the identity that upcoming generations of students, parents and alumni will encounter.

A DECISION YEARS IN THE MAKING

During Sloan's presidency, the University considered changing its name several times. In the years leading up to an official name change, a trustee task force conducted extensive research and gave prayerful consideration before making a definitive decision. On May 17, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved the change. On Sept. 21, 2022, Houston Baptist University officially became Houston Christian University.

The decision was intended to communicate how HCU's identity had expanded over the years.

"Houston Christian University more accurately epitomizes our student body and reflects the faculty, staff, alumni and community we serve," Sloan said in announcing the new name.

The University's community had grown beyond a single denomination, with students, faculty and staff representing a broad range of Christian traditions. The new name acknowledged that breadth while making HCU's Christian identity unmistakable. For Sloan, changing the name did not mean changing the University's foundation. HCU's mission remained centered on academic, spiritual and professional excellence and its confession that "Jesus Christ is Lord." Its Christian worldview and core convictions remained unchanged. The name was intended to clarify HCU's identity—not redefine it.

VISION WITH A FOUNDATION

That principle reflected a larger theme of Sloan's leadership: growth and change should serve mission. "The Ten Pillars: Faith and Reason in a Great City," developed during Sloan's presidency, provided a framework for that growth. Later expanded as The Ten Pillars 2030, including the Ten Core Convictions, the vision called the University to engage the world while remaining firmly grounded in Christian faith and truth.

That vision became tangible across the University. Sloan initiated The Graduate School in 2014, helping expand HCU's graduate and doctoral education. Academic offerings grew, facilities expanded and HCU developed into a comprehensive Christian university serving one of the nation's largest and most diverse metropolitan areas.

The name change was another expression of that same philosophy: preserve what is essential while finding the clearest way to carry it forward.

FOUR YEARS LATER: THE IMPACT OF THE NAME

The most meaningful measure of a name change is not the launch announcement. It is whether or not stakeholders eventually recognize themselves in the new identity.

HCU conducted a Global Pulse Survey in fall 2025 to provide an important window into that question. The



I met Dr. Sloan during a three-day campus visit in 2016, and more memorably than his height, I encountered his wit, his gentleness, his visionary and strategic thinking, and his humility. Those first impressions and appreciation for Dr. Sloan only grew over my time at HCU. While I am grateful to have been at HCU during a time when I personally benefited from his leadership, I am most thankful for the times that I was able to learn from him. Watching him lead and listen well, allowed me to see his care for scripture and people and his clear mission for Christian higher education. I am grateful for his stewardship of that mission and the legacy that continues from it.

Dr. Kristi Cerling
INTERIM PROVOST

survey drew 1,253 responses from alumni and parents and measured perceptions across five key areas on a 10-point scale. Hundreds of open-ended comments added context to the numbers, revealing the community's experience of the name change.

The results suggested that HCU's sense of self had become increasingly clear.

Strategy, the degree to which respondents understand and align with the University's mission, vision and values, scored among the strongest areas. Distinctions, which reflect how clearly HCU stands apart from other institutions, also showed the significance of its Christian identity. Respondents repeatedly specified HCU's identity as a defining characteristic, with some connecting it directly to the name.

Buy-in also ranked highly in the survey, reflecting confidence in HCU's employees and leadership. Particularly notable was the strong response among new parents.

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TO SEE THE TEN PILLARS: FAITH IN A GREAT CITY
HC.edu/TenPillars2008

TO SEE THE TEN PILLARS 2030: THE CORE CONVICTIONS
HC.edu/TenPillars

TO SEE THE TEN PILLARS 2030: EPILOGUE
HC.edu/TenPillarsEpilogue



Dr. Sloan understood that the first responsibility of a university president is to remember what a university is for. He also believed a Christian university could be a university—with all that entails—and decidedly Christian. He masterfully conducted the normal business of a university: budgets, planning, building, enrolling. He understood that those things sustain the university; yet, he knew they do not define its highest end.

Aristotle distinguished between being alive and living well. A university must help students make a living with meaningful work, but it also must, if it is to be a true university, help students learn to live a good life. It should prepare them for the work they will do but also help form the people they will become: people whose judgment is wise, whose courage is disciplined, whose dealings are just, whose calm tempers extremes and whose lives are marked by faith, hope and a love that extends even to their enemies.

That is why the Liberal Arts mattered so much to him. A university fails its students without them. An excellent president must hold together enrollment and Aristotle, accounting and beauty, the practical and essential demands of the institution and the formation of the actual, human soul. Dr. Sloan did.

Jodey Hinze

DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

For families encountering the University for the first time as Houston Christian University, the new identity was not a transition from an old name, but simply the name of the school they knew.

At the same time, Communication and Readiness, categories most closely connected to visibility and the ongoing transition, were somewhat lower. That finding is understandable. A name carries decades of memories, and memory does not move as quickly as a rebrand.

For generations, "Houston Baptist" appeared on commencement programs, alumni communications and in countless personal memories. Many alumni who knew the University long before "HCU" existed continued to speak of Houston Baptist with genuine affection. That affection is not something to overcome. It is part of the foundation on which HCU continues to build.

What the survey captures, therefore, is less a rejection of change than a University in the midst of a graceful handoff—carrying its history forward while introducing itself to a new generation.

A NAME THAT OPENS THE FUTURE

The new name also supported an ambitious vision for HCU's future. The University launched a growth campaign with a goal of reaching 4,200 residential students and 5,800 online students—a combined enrollment of 10,000. The purpose was not simply growth. It was greater influence.

"We want to extend the influence of our mission while also appealing to as many students as possible," Sloan said.

That statement captures the heart of his leadership. Sloan saw Christian higher education as a means of shaping lives and contributing meaningfully to the world beyond the campus. The University's growth in programs, facilities and educational reach was therefore tied to the larger purpose of extending its mission.

The University's mission centers on providing a learning experience that develops academic, spiritual and professional excellence through its Christian identity, while the Core Convictions reflected in HCU's Ten Pillars 2030 provide a framework for carrying that identity forward. The



name Houston Christian University places that Christian foundation at the center of how the University presents itself to students, alumni, Houston and the world.

A LEGACY OF LOOKING FORWARD

HCU's history is the story of an institution evolving while remaining faithful to its foundation. The Founding Fathers' vision for a Christian college of the highest order in Houston led to the transition from Houston Baptist College to Houston Baptist University in 1973. Nearly five decades later, Sloan guided the University through another defining transition.

Houston Christian University became a name that more fully reflected the breadth of its community and the clarity of its mission.

Ultimately, Sloan's leadership in the name-change effort was about far more than branding. It was about helping HCU understand its past, articulate the present and prepare confidently for its future.

The Global Pulse Survey suggests that work is taking root. The opportunity ahead is to turn recognition into understanding—to ensure that when people hear "HCU," they immediately recognize the mission, faith, excellence and sense of purpose behind the name.

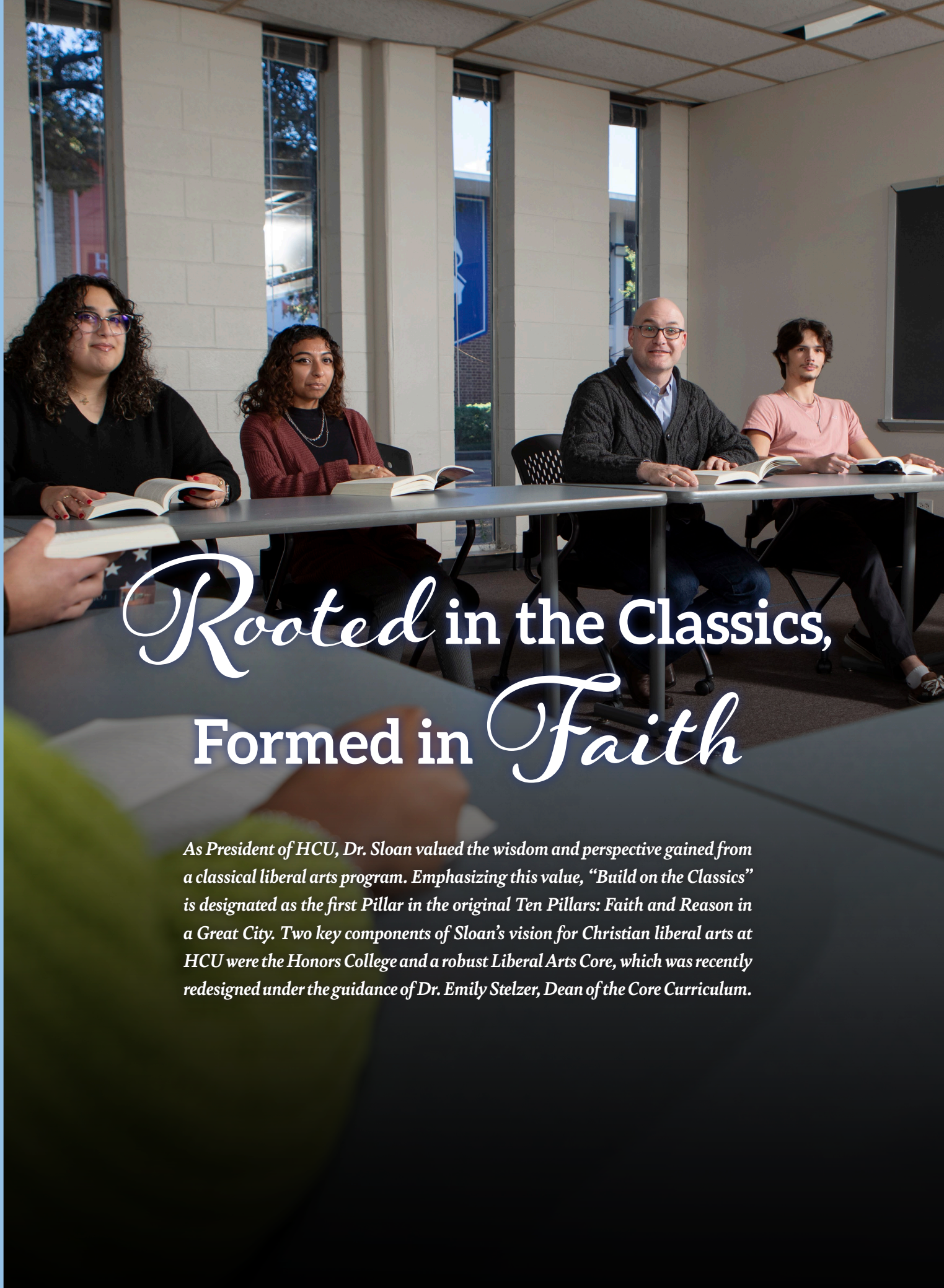
The rebrand began with a new name, but the story is much bigger than a name. It is the story of a University carrying its heritage forward, strengthening its identity and embracing its mission in a changing world.

And that may be the most enduring tribute to Dr. Robert Sloan's leadership: he led HCU to a defining decision that was not simply about the name, but about how it would carry its Christian foundation into the future.

The future, as Sloan understood, is not something an institution merely inherits.

It is something it builds toward and faithfully embraces. For Houston Christian University, that future is still being written.





Rooted in the Classics, Formed in *Faith*

As President of HCU, Dr. Sloan valued the wisdom and perspective gained from a classical liberal arts program. Emphasizing this value, "Build on the Classics" is designated as the first Pillar in the original Ten Pillars: Faith and Reason in a Great City. Two key components of Sloan's vision for Christian liberal arts at HCU were the Honors College and a robust Liberal Arts Core, which was recently redesigned under the guidance of Dr. Emily Stelzer, Dean of the Core Curriculum.



THE HONORS COLLEGE

Sloan founded the Honors College in 2007, calling it a "jewel" of the University. The Honors College demonstrated HCU's commitment to the integration of faith and classical learning. Radically re-envisioning what a "core curriculum" could be, the Honors College curriculum was intentionally interdisciplinary and centered around conversation, whether through discussion or writing. Sloan referenced the goal of cultivating knowledge, character and wisdom that is shaped by "the best that has been said, thought, written and otherwise expressed by the human experience."

Dr. Gary Hartenburg, Director of the Honors College, observed that Sloan "wanted Honors College faculty to lead students to genuine knowledge of things that are eternally valuable, and he understood that the rewards of pursuing this kind of education are wisdom, perspective and true learning."

EXPANDING VISIBILITY AND INFLUENCE

Under Dr. Sloan's leadership, opportunities expanded for HCU students and faculty to learn, create, compete and lead on increasingly prominent stages.

CAMPUS

- HBU became Houston Christian University, establishing a distinctive identity and renewed vision for growth.
- New programs, facilities, branding, record enrollment and community and business partnerships strengthened HCU's profile.

LOCAL & REGIONAL

- The Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty received a Houston Business Journal Landmark Award.
- HCU professor and School of Fine Arts students contributed to Houston Astros murals.
- Division I athletics and winning Southland Conference teams broadened the University's visibility.
- HCU celebrated the University's first NFL draft pick and Super Bowl champ.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

- HCU professor served as expert contributor on Kevin Costner's "The First Christmas."
- HCU professor's film screened at the Cannes Film Festival, with HCU students contributing to the production.
- An HCU student was selected to intern with the historical drama series, "The Chosen."
- HCU musicians performed at Carnegie Hall, and the HCU cheer squad appeared on Fox News to help kick off America 250 Tour.



CORE CURRICULUM

In addition to establishing the Honors College, Sloan envisioned a core curriculum that was rigorous and interdisciplinary.

The initial, refocused Liberal Arts Core Curriculum served the University and its students well for most of Sloan's tenure.

In 2024, HCU Provost Stanley Napper proposed a redesign inspired by a desire to help students see the deeper connections and enduring value in a liberal arts education.

Collaborating with faculty across the University, Stelzer led the redevelopment of 14 courses in the Liberal Arts Core Curriculum, centered around the themes of "Knowing God," "Knowing Creation" and "Knowing Humans as God's Image Bearers." Stelzer and her team preserved the transfer-friendly qualities of the curriculum while introducing more cohesion and distinctiveness.

Reflecting on the vision for the new core curriculum, Stelzer says that "We are meeting the needs of today's students, seeking to provide a holistically transformative learning environment that takes seriously their status as God's Image-bearers. I am grateful to Dr. Robert Sloan for all that he did to inspire and support this enterprise, and I trust that this core curriculum will play a small part in honoring his legacy while deeply benefiting HCU students and the lives of those they impact."

A comprehensive overview of the new Core Curriculum can be found on HC.edu, but a highlight is a new signature assignment for each course, which is a reflective, embodied activity that demonstrates Christian wisdom and builds courage, community and transferable skills. These assignments assess at least one of the nine core outcomes. Examples include reciting the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence in the Morris Family Center for Law and Liberty (modeled on Independence Hall in Philadelphia, where the Declaration was first read) and writing about a visit to a church from a different tradition.

This desire for deeper connections and recognition of the value of a liberal arts education can be traced directly to the vision Sloan articulated early in his presidency.

Both the Honors College and the Core Curriculum, in their unique ways, are centered around the goal of providing HCU students with courses where they, as Sloan put it, "take part in a great conversation that has been going on for centuries... encounter[ing] good versus evil, questions about human nature, morality, law, ethics, community, government and the nature of truth."

Sloan's desire to root the HCU educational community in wisdom and spiritual growth—the meeting of Athens and Jerusalem—will endure as one of his lasting legacies as HCU president.

Scan here
TO SEE A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF THE NEW CORE CURRICULUM
HC.edu/academics/curriculum



"We are meeting the needs of today's students, seeking to provide a holistically transformative learning environment that takes seriously their status as God's Image-bearers."

Dr. Emily Stelzer
DEAN, HCU CORE CURRICULUM



GROWING IN *Reach*
GROUNDED IN *Christ*



"At the time, it was just hard for current faculty and even staff members to believe that we could grow to this size."

Houston Christian University's Vice President of Enrollment Management and Marketing Dr. James Steen recalls as he thinks back on his two decades spent serving HCU under President Robert Sloan. The beginning of a new academic year provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on the achievement of becoming one of the fastest-growing Christian universities in the nation.

A dramatic drone shot captures the Fall 2026 incoming freshman class—the largest in university history to date—gathered around the Husky logo on Dunham Field.

Sloan's legacy in Christian higher education is as impressive as his vision for what HCU would become. He served as Baylor University's president until 2005, then spent his final year there as Chancellor. He inherited a university of 2,143 students in 2006. By 2025, total enrollment had climbed to 4,693 students, a 119% increase in 19 years. The University surpassed 5,000 students this fall. That growth continues to be guided by The Ten Pillars 2030, which sets a goal of 10,000 online and residential students.

Amid national conversations around enrollment decline and the value of a degree in the current socioeconomic landscape, the University's expansion has defied the odds. Dr. Steen describes the leadership style that helped drive the vision forward: "We did not rest on the status quo. We always pursued new degree programs, like starting the College of Engineering, since very few Christian universities have engineering programs. We never stopped and said, 'We're good.' We were always pursuing the next thing, pushing to grow our sphere of influence and our footprint in Houston, across Texas and nationally."



The name change in 2022 presented a unique opportunity to strengthen the University's Christian mission, build on learning experiences that transcend the classroom and grow enrollment on a campus that reflected both Houston and the Kingdom. This vision shaped conversations about the name change from the very beginning.

"Robert Sloan was already talking about a potential name change before he ever stepped foot on campus. The board had asked him what he thought of the name Houston Baptist University during the search process. Even 20 years ago, when he was just coming here, it was already a conversation. It really kind of boiled down to the fact that Baptist didn't necessarily reflect the diversity of religious backgrounds of our student body. We'd have students walk by tables at a college fair and say, 'Well, I'm not Baptist,' and just keep walking. Whereas Houston Christian, it's just a totally different vibe," says Dr. Steen.

When reflecting on the name change, Dr. Steen calls it one of the boldest decisions of Sloan's tenure. "It's probably one of the hardest, but maybe one of the most rewarding things that we've ever done."

Steen adds, "that was an exciting year. Being a part of the name change process was pretty awesome."

A hallmark of Sloan's leadership that has encouraged sustainable growth has been his pioneering spirit, which kept HCU adaptable. When COVID-19 forced universities nationwide to pivot online in 2020, HCU was already ahead of the curve. Sloan saw the shift to online learning coming

Dr. Robert Sloan was a legend in Texas academia. His vision, commitment and diligence have shaped generations of students. Houston Christian University was blessed by his steadfast service to Christian education.

I am personally indebted to President Sloan for his trust in me to lead the School of Christian Thought. I speak for all my colleagues when I say that we will miss him deeply. Robert Sloan was a great president and a fine New Testament scholar. He was one of the great ones.

Dr. Phil Tallon

DEAN, SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

years earlier and facilitated the launch of the Pampell Online Division well ahead of the pandemic. At the time, online programs weren't widely respected among some peer institutions, and very few established universities had the vision to enter that space.

That same instinct carried into online education long before COVID made it a necessity. As Kevin Hartless, Vice President of Adult and Graduate Studies, explains, launching Pampell Online required departments to learn how to collaborate, develop and test programs and build effective recruitment strategies. Over time, that work paid off: "Pampell Online began seeing real growth in enrollment. We have students representing 47 states." Graduate enrollment alone grew from 328 students in 2006 to more than 1,400 in 2025, split between HCU's home campus and online programs.

Under Sloan's leadership, HCU successfully recruited students who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to attend a private, Christian university. He positioned the University as attainable to a diverse range of students, including online learners, first-generation college students and students from underserved communities. He also built a more vibrant college experience in the process.

As men increasingly opt out of higher education, most U.S. colleges and universities now enroll a majority-female student body. HCU's push to close that gap prioritized engaging in innovative strategies. Under Dr. Sloan's leadership, the introduction of NCAA Division I athletics reshaped the student body first. The freshman male population sat at just 33.6% in 2007. By 2025, it had climbed to 47%, nearly even with female enrollment. That shift was reinforced by the Grace Hopper Scholarship in the College of Science and Engineering, which drew a wave of new students into STEM with freshman engineering enrollment jumping from 62 students in 2020 to more than 400 by 2026. Transfer numbers also grew steadily over these years.

Perseverance and an eternity-minded mission have continued to carry HCU forward. Even through hard years and an emerging academic landscape that tended to discourage the intersection of faith with education, Sloan never compromised the Christian values of the University for the sake of growth. "We are always going to be a University that puts Christ first. In the effort to grow, that can sometimes become less of a priority, but for us it has always been part of our mission first and foremost," Dr. Steen affirms.

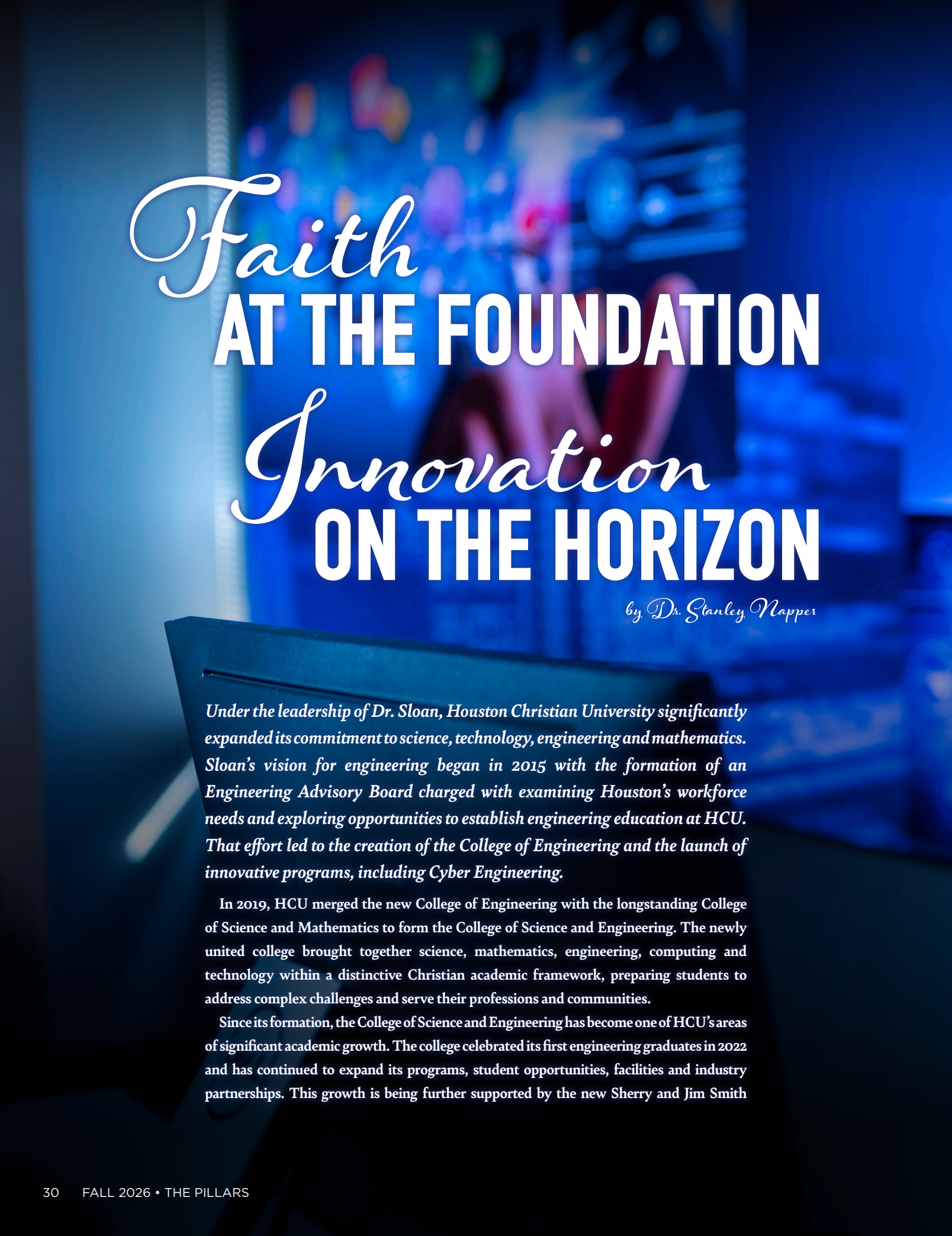
What may be most impactful about Sloan's years at HCU can't exclusively be measured by numbers on an enrollment chart. His drafting of the University's core convictions, The Ten Pillars 2030, continues to serve as a foundation for the University's future. "Vision, priorities and strategies are malleable. But our core convictions should not change. Those are the pillars that undergird the institution," says Dr. Steen.

Sloan's tenure as HCU's president brought tremendous change: a new name, a new athletic division, a new College of Engineering and unprecedented enrollment growth. What never changed was Sloan's ability to shape the University into a dynamic community where students could receive an excellent education that was unapologetically Christian. After nearly 20 years as president, the legacy Sloan created at HCU is forever cemented in the University's foundation.

During his time at Houston Christian, Dr. Sloan consistently demonstrated his commitment to our students by attending the Linda R. Dunham School of Nursing's Pinning Ceremony and Annual Nursing Luncheon. His presence at these events reflected his appreciation for the hard work, dedication and achievements of our students as they prepared to enter the nursing profession.

Dr. Carol Lavender
DEAN, LINDA R. DUNHAM SCHOOL OF NURSING





Faith AT THE FOUNDATION Innovation ON THE HORIZON

by Dr. Stanley Napper

Under the leadership of Dr. Sloan, Houston Christian University significantly expanded its commitment to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Sloan's vision for engineering began in 2015 with the formation of an Engineering Advisory Board charged with examining Houston's workforce needs and exploring opportunities to establish engineering education at HCU. That effort led to the creation of the College of Engineering and the launch of innovative programs, including Cyber Engineering.

In 2019, HCU merged the new College of Engineering with the longstanding College of Science and Mathematics to form the College of Science and Engineering. The newly united college brought together science, mathematics, engineering, computing and technology within a distinctive Christian academic framework, preparing students to address complex challenges and serve their professions and communities.

Since its formation, the College of Science and Engineering has become one of HCU's areas of significant academic growth. The college celebrated its first engineering graduates in 2022 and has continued to expand its programs, student opportunities, facilities and industry partnerships. This growth is being further supported by the new Sherry and Jim Smith



Engineering, Science and Nursing Building, scheduled to open in spring 2027, providing modern laboratories and learning spaces to prepare students for high-demand STEM careers.

Sloan's leadership helped establish a broader vision for STEM education at HCU - one that connects rigorous scientific and technical preparation with Christian faith, ethical leadership, innovation and service.

A PERSONAL LOOK AT DR. SLOAN'S VISION BY DR. STANLEY NAPPER

One of the things I remember most about Dr. Sloan was the clarity of his vision for the future and his deep conviction about the foundation upon which that future should be built. He was always thinking ahead. His mind was continually engaged with what might be possible and with how the institution could continue to grow in ways that were faithful to its mission.

What made his vision especially meaningful was that it was never merely visionary. Dr. Sloan was remarkably practical and grounded. When we were weighing possibilities, he would ask, "What do you think is most important?" And when we were considering how to move toward a larger goal, he would ask, "What is the next step we could actually take?" Those questions have stayed with me.

Dr. Sloan had a vision for the impact of HCU and for all of Christian higher education on the "Seven Spheres of Influence." He wanted HCU to prepare and produce graduates who would impact every area of religion, education, government, media, the arts and business, as well as the family. Perhaps this is what motivated him to lead an effort to develop new engineering programs at HCU, to complement, integrate and build from the strong science programs that were already here. Engineering was a missing area of influence, so it became part of the mission of



President Sloan's visionary leadership to launch an engineering program has been transformative for HCU. We are in many ways still in start-up mode for engineering, as we continue to launch new programs and seek additional ABET accreditations, but we are already seeing the remarkable impact of having engineering at HCU. In my entire career, I have never heard of any other university launching an engineering program without space, funding or faculty...but God. He has blessed this program beyond our imagination and projections.

I will forever be grateful to President Sloan and Stan Napper for hiring me to come to HCU. In particular, I was drawn to HCU by the compelling vision set forth in the original Ten Pillars. Coming into a Christian university, I have felt like my full self has come into alignment, and I have found a freedom in my vocational calling.

Dr. Katie Evans

DEAN, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

HCU to prepare and produce graduates who would impact technology development and use—and generate new—computing, cybersecurity and other technical solutions. God has blessed this vision with resources, faculty, leadership, donors and many, many students.

Dr. Sloan had a great ability to make lofty goals, biblical passages and daily prayers to be practical and purposeful. As a man of the Word, he made scripture relevant to daily problem-solving, such as budget retreats, online education and academic decision-making. This was evident to anyone who heard his devotions at the start of a long strategic planning meeting, at the start of a new year or in commencement addresses to graduates. This was evident also in his criteria for hiring faculty: one that focused on academic qualifications, and four that focused on faith and practice and commitment to genuinely Christian higher education.

We would honor Dr. Sloan well by continuing to instill a passion for excellence in academic, spiritual and professional endeavors and in our professional roles, businesses, churches and families.

Dr. Stanley Napper

PROVOST EMERITUS

On behalf of those community leaders who helped establish the original College of Engineering with Dr. Sloan, the faculty who joined to create and lead the curriculum and processes, the students who graduated in the first class and the thousands of students who enrolled in fall 2026, we are grateful to God for Dr. Sloan and his vision. We would honor Dr. Sloan well by continuing to instill a passion for excellence in academic, spiritual and professional endeavors and in our professional roles, businesses, churches and families.

When I think of Dr. Sloan, the first of his many qualities that come to mind is that he was a deep, careful listener which was driven by his genuine humility and approachability. Dr. Sloan was a down-to-earth, great guy and a true pillar of a Christian leader with such a heart for our students, faculty and HCU family.

Mike Rome

DEAN, ARCHIE W. DUNHAM
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



2015

A Vision Takes Shape

An Engineering Advisory Board begins exploring Houston's workforce needs and engineering education at HCU.

2019

Disciplines Unite

Engineering joins science and mathematics to form the College of Science and Engineering.

2022

1st Engineering Graduates

HCU celebrates its first engineering graduates.

2027

New Spaces for Discovery

The Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building is scheduled to open.

I loved his charge at graduation each semester as he spoke the truth of struggle in a fallen world, but with the promise of victory and joy if we follow Jesus. Every graduation, regardless of the scripture used, Dr. Sloan shared the message of hope in the gospel. One of the most amazing lectures I ever heard was when I was participating in the faculty disciple cohort, and we got to hear Dr. Sloan share the Bible in an hour. He didn't even use one note. The entire Bible in an hour flowed freely from his lips. It was amazing.

Dr. Lesli Fridge

DEAN, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
& BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES



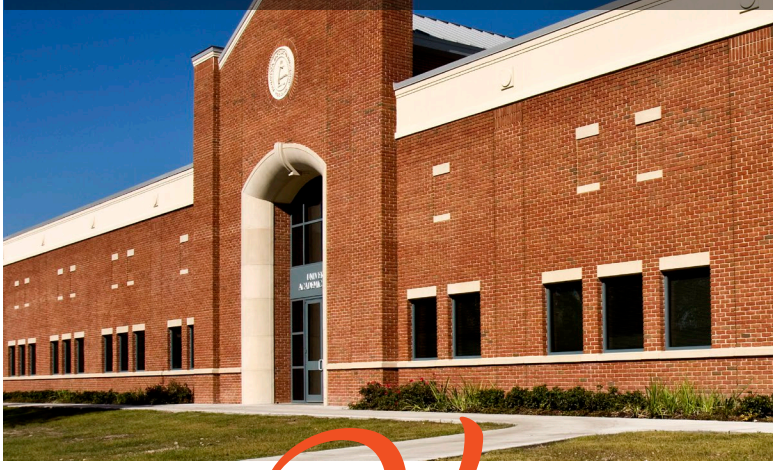


A NEW CULTURAL HEART FOR THE CAMPUS. Construction of the Morris Cultural Arts Center was already underway when Dr. Sloan arrived as HBU president in September 2006. Dedicated in 2007, the landmark complex brought together Belin Chapel, the Dunham Theater, McNair Hall and three University museums—creating one of the defining architectural and cultural destinations of the campus.



A NEW BEGINNING. Dr. Robert B. Sloan at his 2006 inauguration, marking the beginning of a new chapter of leadership, service and vision.

SPACE FOR A GROWING ACADEMIC VISION. Also opening in 2008, the University Academic Center added classrooms, offices, studios and gallery space for Art, Communications and other academic programs.



ESTABLISHING THE *Vision*

2006
Presidency begins

2007
Master Plan + Honor's College

2008
Ten Pillars: Faith and Reason in a Great City

BUILDING A MORE RESIDENTIAL HCU. Construction began in 2007 on the six-story Hodo Residence College, which opened in 2008 with more than 350 beds. The project represented a significant step toward Dr. Sloan's vision of a stronger residential campus and expanding opportunities for students to live, learn and grow together.



NEW MUSICAL CHAPTER. HCU celebrated the installation of a Létourneau pipe organ in 2009 in the Belin Chapel of the Morris Cultural Arts Center, made possible by Sherry and Jim Smith.



2009
Graduate School established

2010
Strategic alliance with Memorial Hermann

2011
NCAA Division I restored



FROM A FIELD OF DIRT TO FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS. Construction of Dunham Field began in March 2013 after demolition of the former "art barn." The first phase was completed that summer, and HCU's new 5,000-seat Husky Stadium opened in 2014. The project transformed the southwest corner of campus and helped launch a new era of Division I football.



A NEW DIMENSION OF STUDENT LIFE. In December 2011, HCU acquired the 80,000-square-foot Bradshaw Fitness Center from Memorial Hermann. Dedicated in 2012, the facility expanded opportunities for fitness, recreation, athletics and student wellness, becoming another important piece of the growing campus.



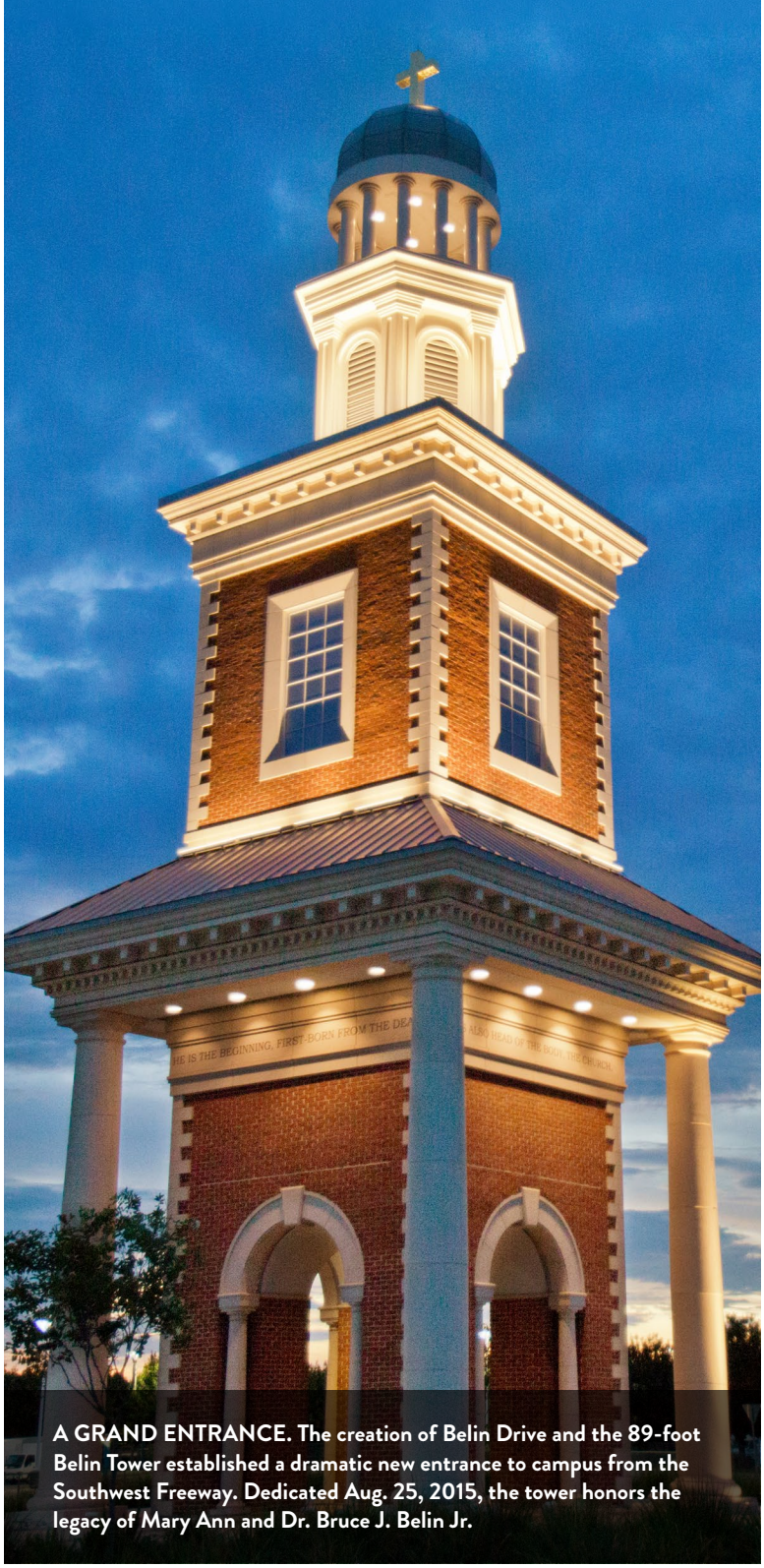
CREATING A GATHERING PLACE. McNair Plaza and the signature clock tower at the entrance to Husky Stadium, honoring Janice and Robert McNair, were dedicated in 2015, adding a prominent gathering space and strengthening the connection between campus life and the University's emerging athletics identity.

REACHING *Outward*

2012
Bradshaw Fitness Center dedicated

2013
Southland Conference + 1st football team

2014
Husky Stadium opens



A GRAND ENTRANCE. The creation of Belin Drive and the 89-foot Belin Tower established a dramatic new entrance to campus from the Southwest Freeway. Dedicated Aug. 25, 2015, the tower honors the legacy of Mary Ann and Dr. Bruce J. Belin Jr.



REIMAGINING THE LIBRARY FOR A NEW GENERATION. In September 2015, HCU opened the Doris and Terry Looper Learning Commons in Moody Library, creating a more collaborative environment for study, research and student success.



EMPOWERING CONNECTIONS. The Pillars initiative grew from HCU's long-term master plan to transform the University's Southwest Freeway edge. Today, it provides convenient access to dining, retail and everyday services in a welcoming, campus-adjacent setting.

2015
Belin Tower built + Engineering Advisory Board begins

2016
1st doctoral program + Houston Theological Seminary begins

2017
Pampell Online launches



A FAMILIAR PLACE, RENEWED. Renovations to the Baugh Center revitalized a longtime center of campus life, creating a more contemporary and inviting environment for students to gather, dine and connect. The project reflects the broader transformation of the HCU campus during Dr. Sloan's presidency — preserving important traditions while creating spaces for a new generation of Huskies.



THE FUTURE OF STEM. Dr. Sloan speaks at groundbreaking of Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing building, to open in Spring 2027, which will provide hi-tech learning spaces and labs to prepare the next generation of STEM professionals.

AMERICA'S FOUNDING STORY. Opened in 2022, the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty brings a striking Independence Hall-inspired landmark to campus, expanding classroom space for teaching American history, government, law, economics and free enterprise.



EXPANDING THE *Mission*

2018
College of Engineering inaugural class

2019
COSE forms + Law & Liberty complex breaks ground

2020
Ten Pillars 2030 debuts

BUILDING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION. Groundbreaking took place in April 2025 for the $60 million, 71,000-square-foot Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building. The three-story facility is designed to provide state-of-the-art laboratories and learning spaces for engineering, science and nursing students. As of August 2026, construction is continuing, with completion planned for the Spring 2027 semester.



A GLOBAL VISION. Dr. Sloan joins Esther Wong and family members at ribbon cutting for the Spahr-Tan Center for International Education, named in honor of Julia Tan, Wong's mother.

A PLACE TO CONNECT. HCU's Corner Pawket student lounge was refreshed with colorful LED lighting, upgraded projection and audio technology, arcade games, a full-size pool table, a Husky photo spot and a pop-up kitchen—creating a lively space for students to relax, play and gather.



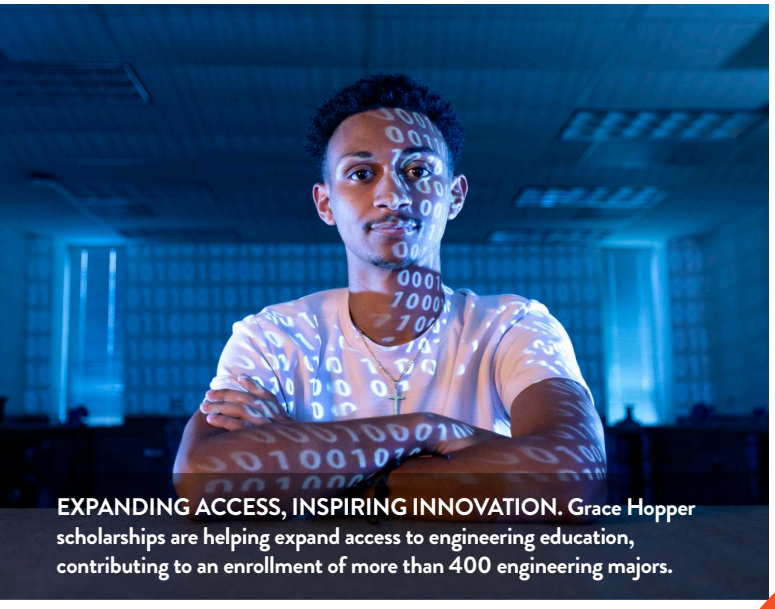
2021
Cyber Education Center + Spahr-Tan Center launch

2022
HBU becomes Houston Christian University

2023
Sharp Gym renovated



EXPANDED STUDENT LIVING QUARTERS. University Place, newly reclaimed by Houston Christian University, represents another chapter in the campus transformation advanced under the visionary leadership of Dr. Sloan. With renovations planned to create modern, connected student living spaces, the property extends the vision for a growing HCU community.



EXPANDING ACCESS, INSPIRING INNOVATION. Grace Hopper scholarships are helping expand access to engineering education, contributing to an enrollment of more than 400 engineering majors.



THE FINAL PIECE OF A TRANSFORMATIVE COMPLEX. Dr. Sloan joined members of the Morris family and the HCU community for the April 2, 2024, groundbreaking of Founders Hall II, the final building in the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty complex. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Feb. 2025, to celebrate the opening of the 28,000-square-foot building, which added classroom and office space and became the new home of The Honors College.

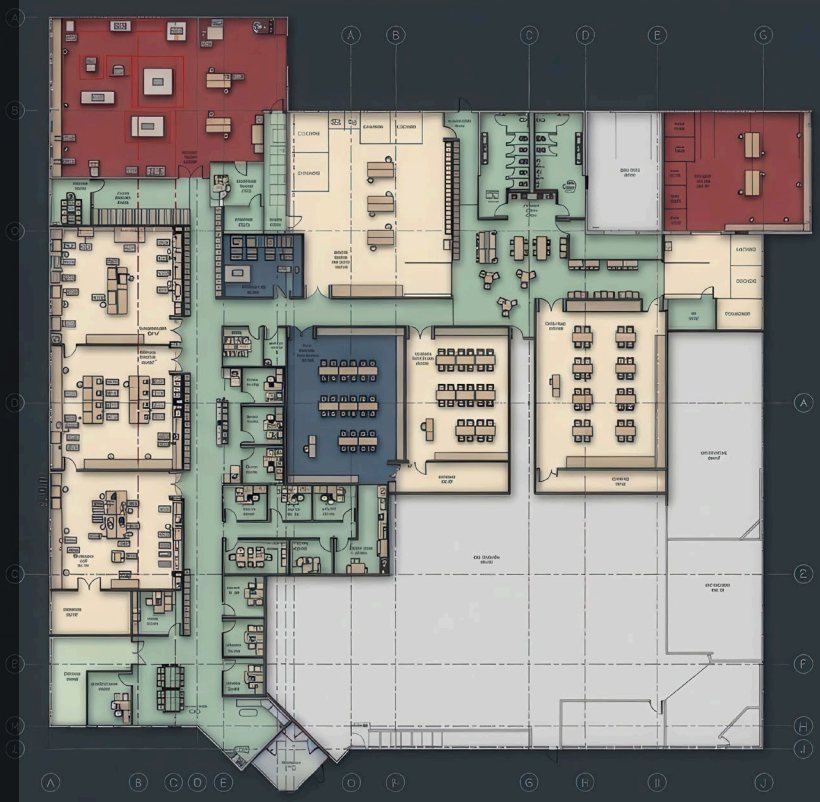
GROWING A *Community*

2024
Grace Hopper Scholarships

2025
Founders Hall II opens + Smith Building breaks ground

2026
Renewed Liberal Arts Core announced

Mechanical Engineering Conceptual Floor Plan



ATHLETICS
BACK OF HOUSE
CIRCULATION
CLASSROOM
GENERAL
LABORATORY
NOT IN SCOPE

Room and Space List:
13 Offices
Breakroom
Conference Room
Materials Lab
Write-Up Lab
Thermofluids Lab
Machine Shop
Senior Design Projects Space
3 Class Room Settings
Student Club Space
2 Collaborative Study Spaces
Open Study

EMPOWERING ENGINEERS. Plans are underway to solidify the location slated to house the Mechanical Engineering program, which is set to launch in Fall 2027.



TRANSFORMED ENTRYWAY. Visitors entering the HCU campus through Gate 1 on Fondren Road are now welcomed by two striking new buildings facing one another across Hinton Drive: the Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building, nearing completion, and The Morris Family Center for Law and Liberty.

2027 and beyond . . .

Smith Engineering, Science & Nursing Building opening scheduled

Renovated University Place housing planned

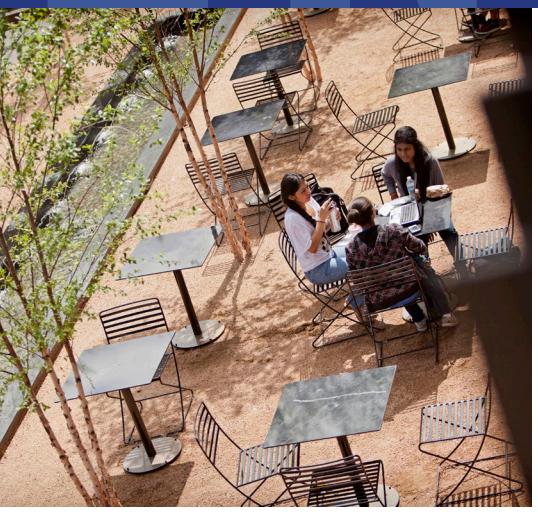
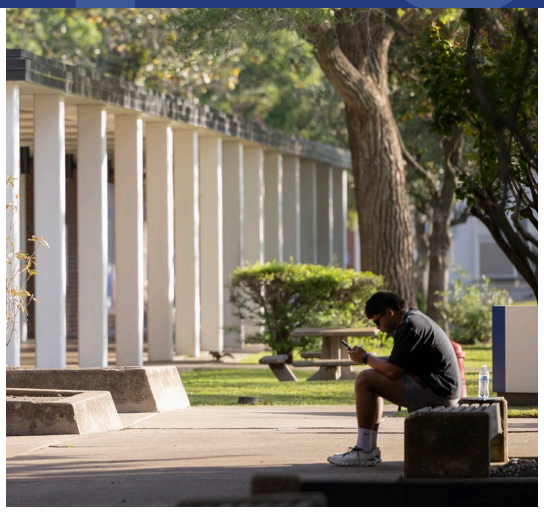
University pursues goal of 10,000 students

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

A *Legacy* of Faith and a Future of *Purpose*

As we reflect on the 2025-2026 academic year, we do so with profound gratitude for God's faithfulness and with a deep sense of responsibility to the legacy of HCU President Robert B. Sloan, Jr. Dr. Sloan devoted two decades to advancing Houston Christian University, and his vision, faith and unwavering commitment to Christian higher education helped shape the University we are today. His impact is evident in the growth, opportunities and Kingdom-minded mission that continue to define HCU.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS 44
ENROLLMENT 52
KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT 60
FINANCIAL HEALTH 66
ATHLETICS 72


The year 2026 was a remarkable chapter in that story. HCU welcomed a record 1071 incoming freshman students, our largest incoming class in University history. Academic momentum was equally strong, with continued growth in engineering and related fields, accreditation of the Archie W. Dunham College of Business and development of a new Liberal Arts Core Curriculum. Significant progress also was made on the $60 million Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building.

Our students continued to excel in every dimension of University life. The Women's Soccer Team won the Southland Conference and competed in the NCAA tournament. The Husky Women's Golf Team was recognized for the highest team GPA in the NCAA, and 141 student-athletes were named to the Southland Conference Spring Commissioner's Honor Roll. These accomplishments reflect the character, discipline and servant leadership we seek to cultivate in every Husky.

None of this progress happens without a community willing to invest in HCU's mission. The generosity of our donors fueled scholarships, academic growth, facilities and student opportunities while helping maintain the strong financial foundation necessary for HCU's continued advancement.

As we honor Dr. Sloan's life and legacy, we look forward with confidence. The work continues: preparing students to lead with wisdom, serve with integrity and impact Houston and the world for Christ.

Acting President,

Sandy Mooney



ACAD

Growing in Purpose, Impact and Possibility

HCU continues to strengthen its commitment to academic excellence by expanding innovative, career-focused programs and reimagining the student learning experience. Through an enhanced Liberal Arts core curriculum, new courses in high-demand fields and a meaningful integration of faith and learning, HCU equips students with the knowledge, skills and character to lead with purpose and make a lasting impact on the world.

IMPERATIVE 1: GROWING SIZE AND PLACE

In fulfillment of HCU's mission, we work to spark students' passions for academic, spiritual and professional excellence so that they can serve in every field with a purpose centered in Jesus Christ. The recognition that Houston and the world need more engineers, artists, pastors, nurses, accountants and educators animated by this same vision stimulates our efforts to grow towards an enrollment of 10,000 students by 2030. HCU has taken significant steps towards that objective this year through new scholarships, new degree programs, and progress on new academic and residential facilities. We are expanding our size and place to match the scope of our vision.

HCU enrolled a record number of 4,693 students for the Fall 2025 semester, the highest total enrollment in the University's history and a 10% increase from the previous

EMIC *success*

New Degree Programs

HCU's Strategic Enrollment Plan is driving our growth toward 10,000 by opening new degree programs that appeal to students and meet strategic market needs.

Launched in the 2025-26 Academic Year:

- BA Classical Christian Education
- BS Engineering Science
- MS Criminal Justice
- Master of International Business
- MS Human Resource Management - People Analytics
- Professional MBA, Accounting & Finance
- Professional MBA, Business Data Analytics
- Professional MBA, Management
- MS Data Science (Online)
- MS Artificial Intelligence

Launching in Fall 2026:

- BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- BS in Electrical Engineering Technology
- Master of Business Administration (now available in an additional hybrid format)
- Education Specialist (EdS) in Educational Leadership

Recruiting students now for programs that will begin Fall 2027:

- BS Mechanical Engineering
- BS Artificial Intelligence
- BBA Management Information Systems
- BBA Human Resource Development and Change
- BBA Business Data Analytics

Fall semester. In Fall 2025, the University welcomed 954 first-time freshmen to campus—exceeding our previous record by 25% and reflecting a 33% year-over-year increase from the previous Fall. Our residential and online campuses enrolled a combined total of 3,277 undergraduate students for the fall semester.

HCU's online campus enrolled a record 1,345 online students between our undergraduate and graduate programs.

Growing Size and Scope in Engineering and Computer Science

Our engineering and computer science programs have continued their rapid growth through the generosity of a visionary donor who funded the full tuition remaining after HCU's institutional aid for high-performing incoming students in our Computer Science, Cyber Engineering, Cybersecurity, Electrical Engineering, Engineering Science, Information Systems and Mathematics programs. Grace Hopper Scholars (named for a groundbreaking rear admiral, computer scientist and mathematician) have boosted new-student enrollment in these majors from 210 in the fall of 2024 to 373 in the fall of 2025.

In response to the workforce needs in the Houston Metro area, HCU is launching a BS in Electrical Engineering Technology in Fall 2026 as well as a BS in Mechanical Engineering and a BS in Artificial Intelligence in Fall 2027. The Mechanical Engineering program will be the only Christian mechanical engineering program in the region, will be built on small class sizes with close mentoring from faculty in an integrated lecture-and-lab structure across core engineering courses, and will culminate with a year-long senior design project, including some sponsored by industry partners.

At the heart of a Christian university are the classical Liberal Arts—paths of rigorous learning and virtuous living that liberate humans in the lives God has created us to live.

On-Campus Housing Expansion

On Sept. 16, 2025, HCU's Board of Trustees voted to approve the repurchase of University Place, a residential complex adjacent to HCU's main campus. The addition of University Place will soon expand the University's residential capacity by 35% and will provide at least 300 new beds for Fall 2027. The main five-story, 200,000-sq. ft. residential facility will house upperclassmen, graduate students and students with families in apartment-style housing in a complex with study and recreation spaces, dining options and other amenities. Work to refresh the living spaces and remodel and upgrade the common spaces began this summer and will be completed in summer 2027 for full occupancy next fall.

IMPERATIVE 2: REINVIGORATING THE CHRISTIAN LIBERAL ARTS

New Liberal Arts Core Curriculum

At the heart of a Christian university are the classical Liberal Arts—paths of rigorous learning and virtuous living that liberate humans for the lives God has created us to live. This fall, HCU will launch the fruit of a multi-year effort to contemporize our engagement with these ancient ways of knowing and becoming that will cultivate humility, charity and Christian wisdom. The renewed Liberal Arts Core will guide students to more fully know. and make known God, his creation in its complexity, humans as his image-bearers, and his plans to redeem and renew the world for his glory.

Dr. Emily Stelzer, professor of literature, was appointed to a new position as Dean of the Core Curriculum and has led a faculty team to fully redevelop the 14 courses each HCU undergraduate is required to take. The team designed each course to embody HCU's Christian convictions, to nurture two or more of the essential literacies the core aims to develop in each student, and to teach with scholarly and pedagogical excellence its academic discipline. Each redesigned course includes "Signature Assignments" intended to be courage-building, character-forming, community-cultivating and Christ-honoring. This collaborative effort will deliver an integrated, cohesive and transformative academic experience for all undergraduate students beginning this Fall. (For more details about the new Liberal Arts Core Curriculum, see "Rooted in the Classics, Formed in Faith" on page 22.)

"Knowing God" Core Curriculum Focal Literacies and Outcomes

Drawing from HCU's Ten Core Convictions, every course in HCU's Liberal Arts Core contributes to a coherent curriculum that will see students develop in one of more of the nine core literacies we seek to nurture in students.

KNOWING GOD

- Biblical literacy
- Christian wisdom
- Theological proficiency

KNOWING GOD'S CREATION

- Scientific literacy
- Quantitative literacy
- Aesthetic literacy

KNOWING GOD'S IMAGE-BEARERS

- Human dignity
- Interdependence
- Flourishing

University Goal

10,000

STUDENTS

Scan here
TO SEE PLANS FOR 2026-27 CONVOCATION
HC.edu/convo



IMPERATIVE 3: RENEWING COMMUNITY LIFE AND CULTURE

Campus culture is shifting in meaningful ways as students, faculty and staff become more engaged in the life of the University. Increased participation in campus events like the Fall Festival, Spring Fling, the Crawfish Boil and Late-Night Breakfast to kick-off Finals Week reflects much more than higher attendance because of more students. It demonstrates a growing sense of belonging to a real community and a true blue (and orange) Husky pride. Faculty and staff are investing more intentionally in the student experience by being present beyond the classroom, strengthening relationships that contribute to student success. Likewise, doubled participation in Campus Recreation leagues and increased attendance at athletic events, fueled by new cheer and spirit initiatives, shows that students are rallying around their common HCU identity and celebrating one another. Together, these trends point to a campus that is becoming more connected, supportive and unified.

Our Spiritual Life team hired a new director to help mentor the development of our HCU student worship teams and to strengthen our channels to provide one-on-one discipling for our students as part of the holistic education we offer them. In this past year we have also seen more churches join our Local Church Collaborative and new campus ministries partner with us to reach and disciple HCU students.

We have also continued to expand the opportunities to encourage and equip our faculty and staff as they fulfill their callings at HCU, resourcing their development in the opportunities they have to integrate faith with their work on campus.

Campus culture is shifting in meaningful ways as students, faculty and staff become more engaged in the life of the University.







Throughout the last year, HCU celebrated the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed and its clear confession of the full humanity and full deity of Jesus Christ through our Convocation theme, *Full*. Inspired by the Lord Jesus's words in John 10:10, we spent a year exploring how we can live fully the lives God lovingly created and redeemed us to lead because he has taken our humanity fully into himself in his Son. The teaching series on the doctrine of Christ, the Holy Spirit's empowerment in our lives, how we can know abundant life through habits of spiritual intimacy with Christ and the full assurance we have in salvation from the Triune God formed our campus community in rich ways.







IMPERATIVE 4: ENGAGING THE MARKETPLACE

HCU's Marketplace Initiatives seek to steward the innovation and excellence of our faculty and students through focused impact in key sectors in Houston's civic and economic life: Health and Wellness, Energy, Education and Cyber and Data.

Dunham College of Business Initiatives

The Archie W. Dunham College of Business (DCOB) launched a new required course named Financial Literacy and Generosity (FLAG) in the Fall 2026 semester to equip business majors with the knowledge and principles to be faithful financial stewards in both the marketplace and the kingdom. FLAG will build a strong curricular foundation for student opportunities through a new partnership with Blue Trust, a financial advisory services company that brings almost five decades of biblical wealth management experience.

DCOB's Center for Christianity in Business (CCB) launched new scholarship programs through which students can receive tuition assistance (between $4,000-$5,000 per year) as well as mentorship and professional development through connections with Christian leaders in the marketplace.

Connections with Houston's Healthcare Sector

HCU's Linda R. Dunham School of Nursing (LDSON) continues to strengthen connections with Houston's healthcare sector through strategic partnerships, including collaboration with Memorial Hermann Southwest, an ongoing partnership with CompassRN and multiple grant proposals to address the nursing shortage. Faculty and staff are actively involved in professional and policy organizations, including advisory boards, legislative advocacy and national program committees. LDSON's efforts have been affirmed by strong student outcomes, including a 97.83% NCLEX pass rate in 2025, reflecting the School's commitment to workforce readiness and excellence.

Hosting Science and Engineering Industry Professionals

The College of Science and Engineering (COSE) hosted and organized career fairs, employer visits and information sessions to promote career opportunities for students with companies including Bank of America, FedEx, Bechtel Energy, IBM and Lumen Technologies. COSE offered opportunities for students to visit industry sites, including Microsoft and Nitonix Circuits; attend recruitment sessions with employers, including the FBI; and hear from guest speakers, including NASA Aerospace Engineer John Goodman and former NASA Chief Information Officer Annette Moore.

Education Impact through the Cullen Trust Grant for Early Literacy

For the 2025-26 school year, HCU was awarded a $100,000 grant from the Cullen Trust for Higher Education (CTHE) to enhance early literacy at three Title I elementary schools located near campus in the Houston Independent School District (HISD). HCU student mentors worked as tutors and reading helpers at Lovett Elementary School, Neff Early Learning Center, and McNamara Elementary School up to 10 hours a week and up to 16 weeks each semester. They helped kindergarten-5th grade students with literacy, writing, reading and language assistance. The Cullen Literacy Grant was renewed for the 2026-27 year, the third year in a row.

IMPERATIVE 5: PLANNING FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Dunham College of Business Gets ACBSP Accreditation

After a rigorous, three-year process, HCU's Archie W. Dunham College of Business (DCOB) earned accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). Pursuing accreditation served to refine the curriculum, strengthen faculty development, deepen faith integration and align degrees more intentionally with workforce needs. Receiving ACBSP accreditation validates DCOB's teaching excellence, its student-centered focus and its commitment to continuous improvement in order to accomplish its mission.

Project Elevate

HCU completed a two-year overhaul of our business processes and conversion of our enterprise resource planning software (ERP) to a more streamlined and cloud-based system that will improve data quality, ease data analysis and create greater efficiency for students, faculty and staff to allow greater focus on our pursuit of excellence.





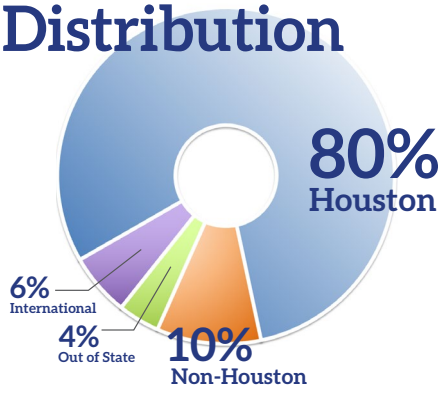


ENROL

Record Enrollment, *Lasting* Purpose

On the heels of two consecutive years of record growth, the University reached another significant milestone in Fall 2026, achieving the highest enrollment in its history. This record-setting achievement reflects continued momentum toward the University's 2030 enrollment growth goals and underscores the University's ongoing commitment to equipping future generations of students.

Enrollment Distribution



- Undergraduate: 3,142
- Pampell Online: 1,303
- Graduate: 466
- Dual Enrollment: 374

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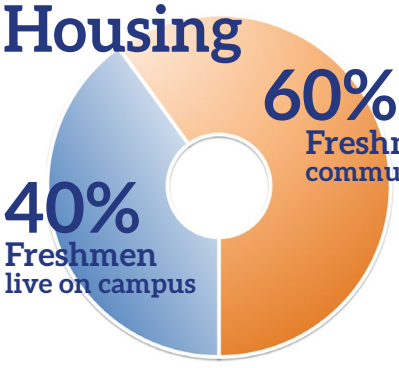


Undergraduate Enrollment

47% 53%

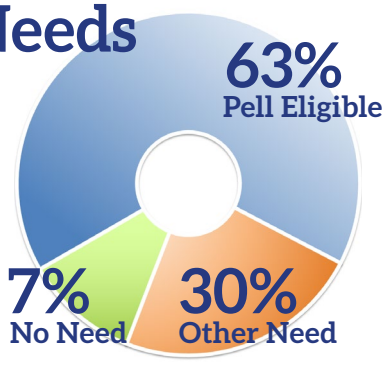


Freshman Housing



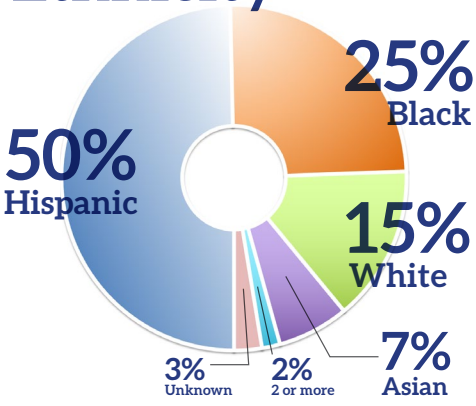


Freshman Needs





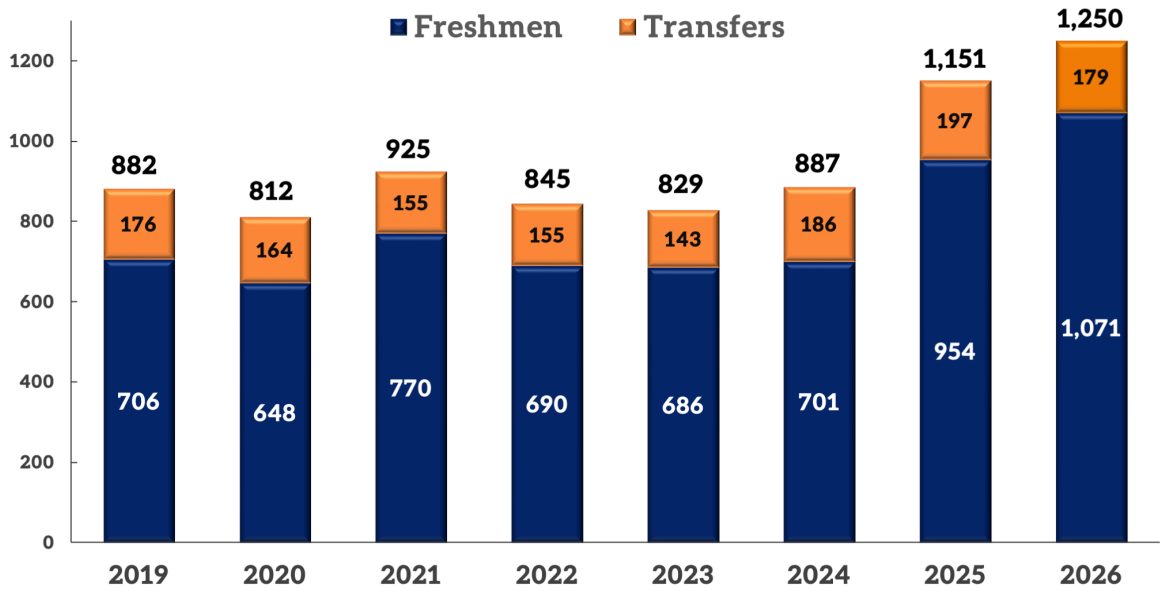
Ethnicity





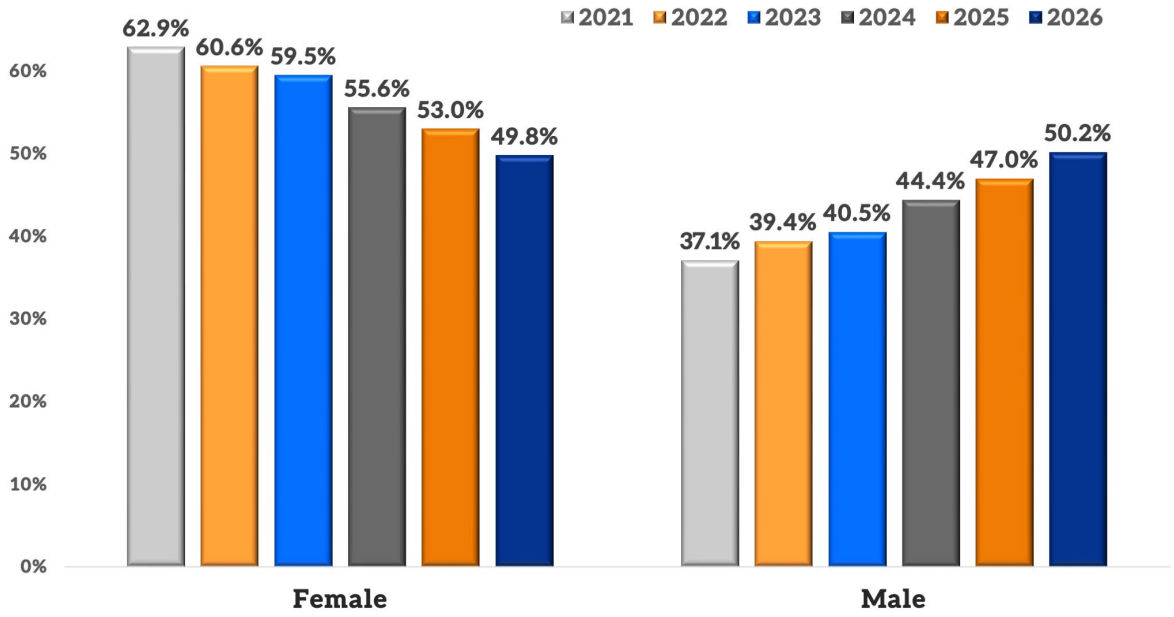
Enrolled NEW Freshmen & Tranfers

The University welcomed a record 1,071 first-time freshmen, up from 954 in Fall 2025, reflecting a double-digit 12% year-over-year increase, the largest freshmen class in the University's history. Additionally,179 new transfer students joined the Husky community, which was a slight decrease from last year's transfer numbers.



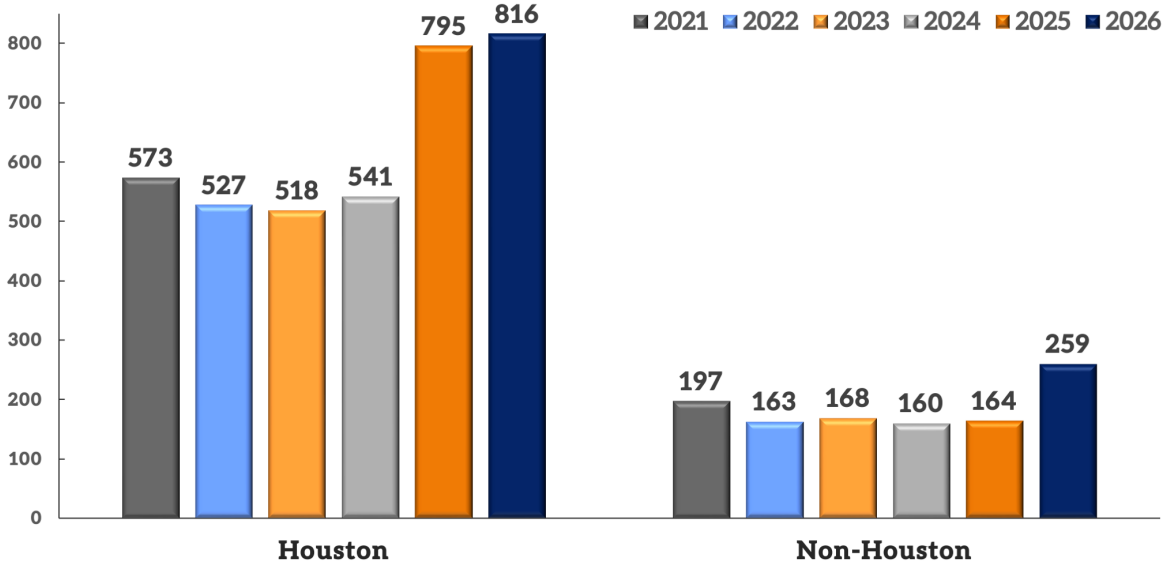
Freshman Female-Male Percentages

HCU enrolled 50.2 percent male freshmen and 49.8 percent female freshmen for the Fall 2026 semester, the first time since 1967 that the male population of incoming freshmen has exceeded the number of incoming female freshmen.



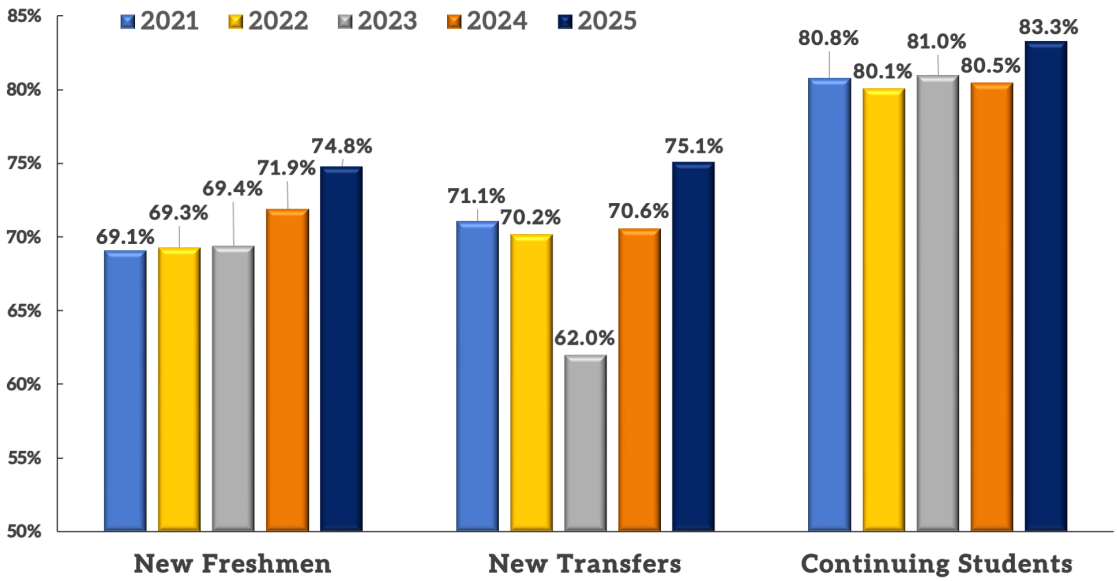
Freshmen Houston/Non-Houston Totals

The University enrolled 58% more students from outside the Houston metro than last year. This increase may reflect the effectiveness of the new branding and identity.



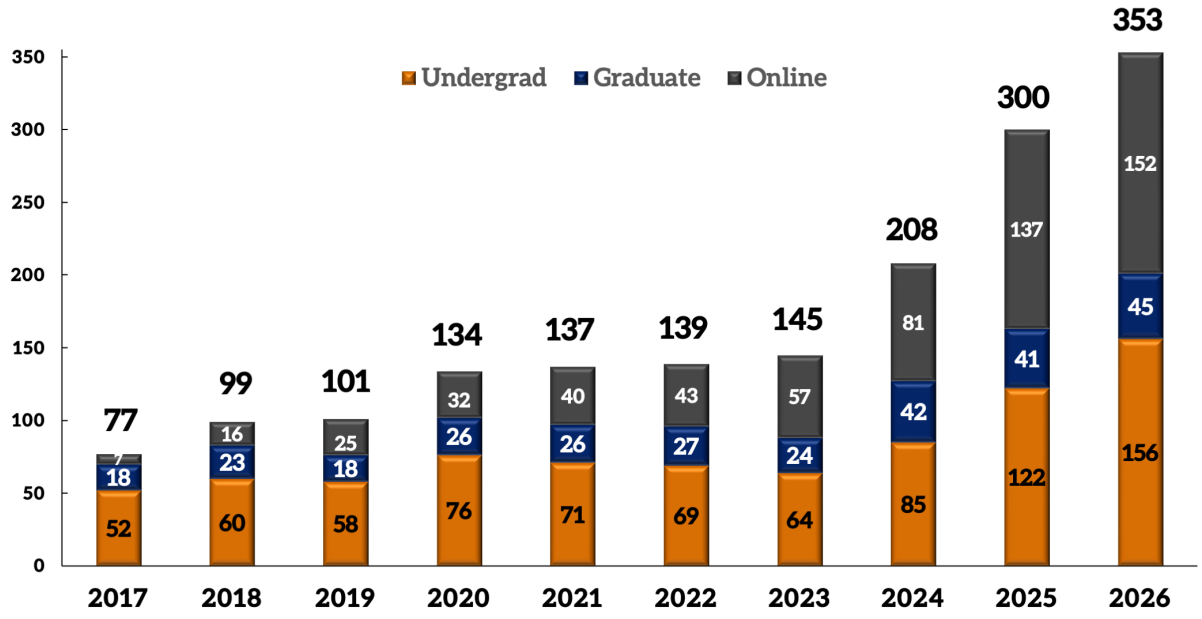
Fall to Fall Retention

The retention rate for new freshmen was 74.8 percent as compared to 71.9 percent in 2025. Transfer retention rose to 75.1 percent, up from 70.6 percent in 2025.



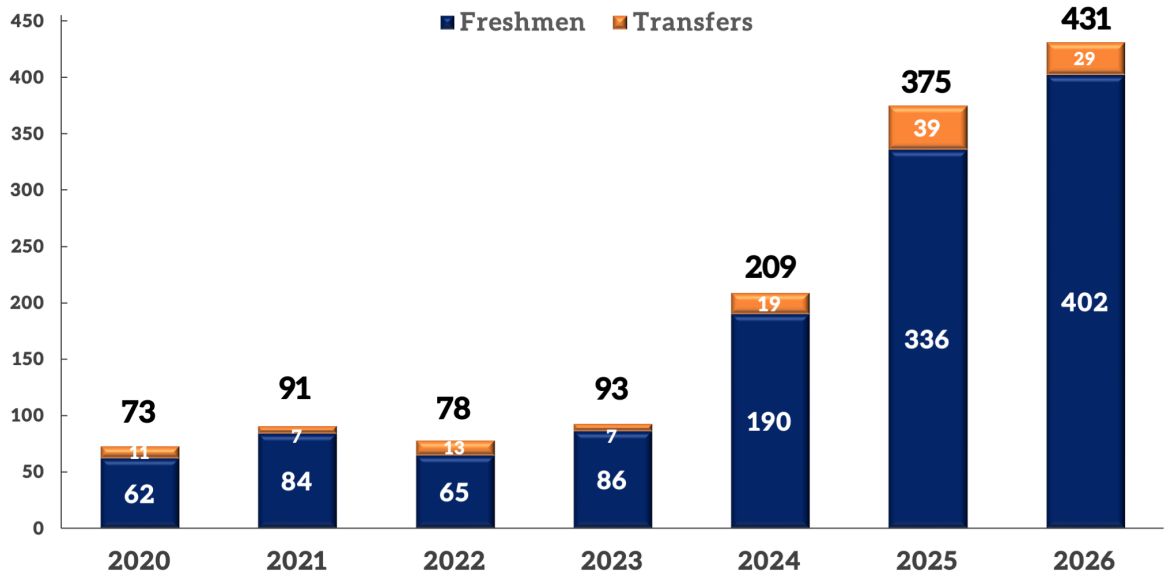
Veterans Enrollment

The number of military-affiliated student enrollment at HCU grew from 300 last year to 353 this year, building on the University's standing as a Top 10 national ranking as a Military Friendly® institution for veterans and service members.



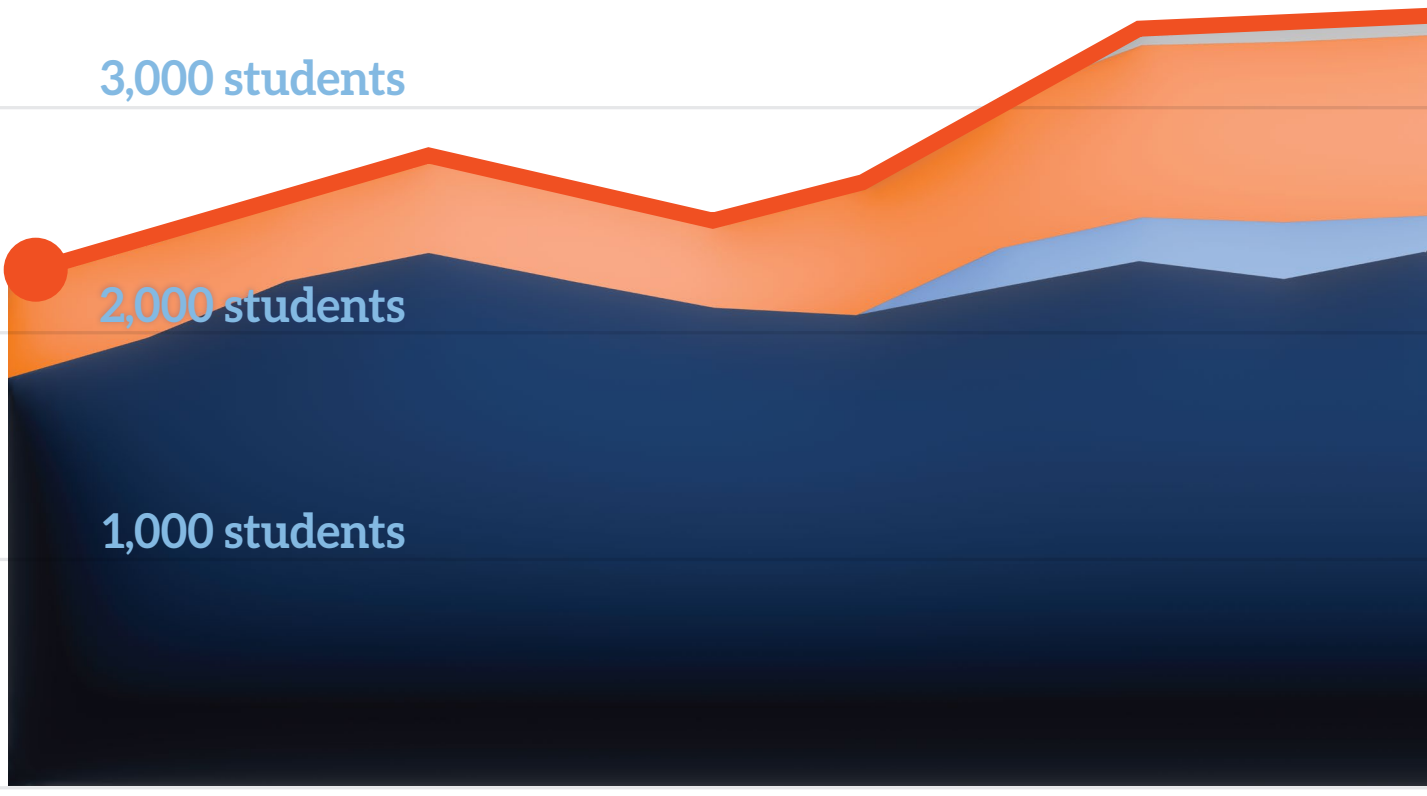
Engineering Enrollment

The University enrolled 402 new freshmen engineering majors, a 19.6 percentage increase for fall 2026. The number of engineering transfer students decreased slightly from 39 last year to 29 in the fall 2026 semester.



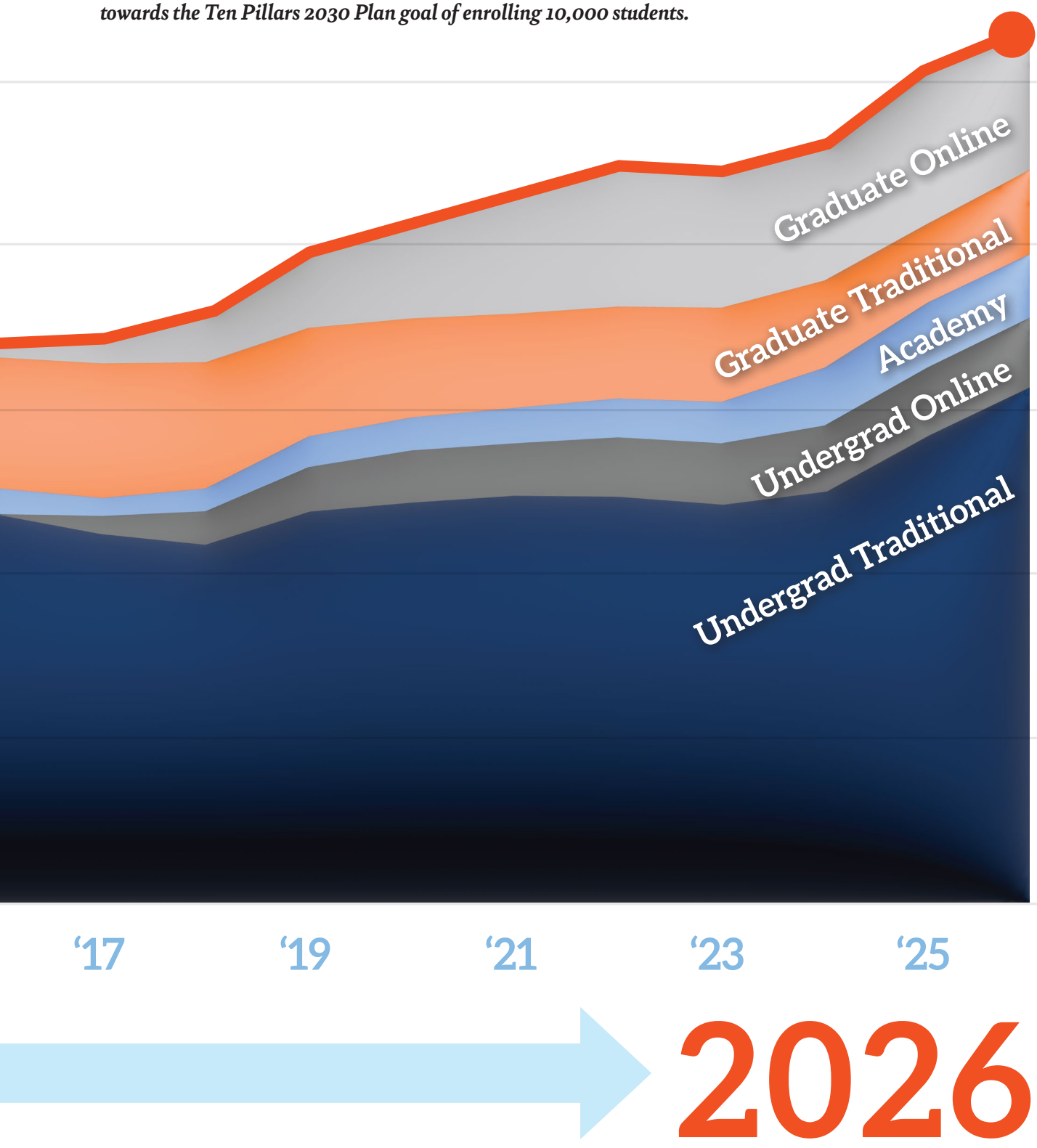
Twenty Years of *growth*

under the leadership of
Robert Sloan



2006

During Dr. Sloan's nearly 20-year tenure, the University's total enrollment grew by a significant 147 percent, reaching 5,285 students as of fall 2026. These figures include residential and online undergraduate and graduate students, as well as dual-enrolled Academy high school students, showing the University's progress towards the Ten Pillars 2030 Plan goal of enrolling 10,000 students.





STEPPING INTO TOMORROW. I-r, Dr. Archie W. Dunham and Sherry and Jim Smith tour the Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science and Nursing Building which houses the Dunham Family Nursing Center. The ribbon-cutting is scheduled for Jan. 26, 2027.

Kingdom ADVANC

Rooted in *Faith*, Growing in *Impact*, Leaving a *Legacy*

The generosity of the HCU community continues to transform lives and advance God's work through higher education. During the past fiscal year, HCU received more than $14.3 million in philanthropic support, allowing the University to invest in students, strengthen programs and advance the Ten Pillars 2030 Plan vision.

- ***Alumni & Friends: more than 1,600 gifts totaling $5.59 million***
- ***Organizations and Corporate Partners: more than 240 gifts totaling $2.57 million***
- ***Foundations: more than 65 gifts totaling $6.19 million***

Donor support touched every corner of the University. Endowment gifts strengthened HCU's long-term sustainability, while unrestricted gifts to the HCU Fund provided immediate support where it was needed most. Together, these contributions funded scholarships, enhanced academic and cocurricular programs, strengthened spiritual life initiatives, supported capital projects that expand the University's facilities and enriched the student experience every day.

EMENT

HCU is grateful for the longstanding generosity of Sherry and Jim Smith, whose philanthropy and service have advanced the University's mission in transformative ways. Their lead gift made possible the Sherry and Jim Smith Engineering, Science & Nursing Building, opening in spring 2027, featuring state-of-the-art learning and laboratory spaces. Their support has also enriched the University through support of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty, the gift of the Smith Letourneau Organ and the recital series it sustains, and enduring investments in the Orrien R. Smith Endowed Academic Scholarship and the John Bisagno Chair of Christian Origins. Beyond their financial support, Jim continues to serve as an Advisory Trustee, while Sherry is a lifetime member of The Guild.

In 1969, Founding Father Dr. Stewart Morris donated the first endowed scholarship. Now more than 360 Endowed Scholarships are among the most impactful ways donors ensure a lasting impact on Christian higher education, providing direct assistance to students. Named for longtime Director of Financial Aid Ken Rogers, the Ken Rogers Alumni Endowed Scholarship was established through the collective generosity of 43 donors and is being awarded for the first time this fall. Its inaugural recipient, Noah Parker '30, son of Matthew Parker '03, shared the significance of receiving this scholarship: "It has meant

1969

FIRST endowed scholarship donated by Dr. Stewart Morris



THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

2026

360+ endowed scholarships enabled students to attend HCU.

Someone paid it forward to help make it possible for Anna to attend college. God has blessed us greatly. Now, it is our time to pay it forward to the next generation of hard-working and deserving students. Praise the Lord that He has given us the means to do His will.

Clark Cogswell



It has meant the world to my family and I that I have been given the chance to pursue a higher education at a Christian University with the help of The Ken Rogers Alumni Endowed Scholarship. I'm thrilled that I can continue the family legacy at [HCU] with Christlike mentors and teachers walking along side me. I plan to major in Information systems and after getting my degree, go into full-time vocational ministry wherever God puts me.

Noah Parker '30

the world to my family and me that I have been given the chance to pursue a higher education at a Christian university with the help of The Ken Rogers Alumni Endowed Scholarship. I'm thrilled that I can continue the family legacy at Houston Christian University with Christ-like mentors and teachers walking alongside me. I plan to major in Information Systems and after getting my degree, go into full-time vocational ministry wherever God puts me."

Some donors choose to support scholarships in a way that annually and immediately support students. Anna Ford Cogswell '72 was the first in her family to get a college degree, and a scholarship made that possible. As shared by her husband, Clark Cogswell, "Someone paid it forward to help make it possible for Anna to attend college. God has blessed us greatly. Now, it is our time to pay it forward to the next generation of hard-working and deserving students. Praise the Lord that He has given us the means to do His will." The Cogswell Ford Scholarship, established by Anna and Clark Cogswell in 2022, has benefited 46 students, including 13 who have graduated.

For more than half a century, The Guild and the American Museum Society have strengthened HCU through service, advocacy and philanthropy. AMS enhances the visibility of HCU's University Museums through special events, while The Guild has raised more than $2.6 million to fund 468 scholarships for graduate students in education and Christianity.

HCU's Advisory Councils bring alumni and community leaders into the work of the academic areas they serve. Drawing on their professional experience, members help academic leaders remain attentive to changes in their fields and consider opportunities that benefit students. Their service strengthens the





connection between HCU's academic programs and the wider community.

Gifts to the HCU Fund provide annual support and directly enhance student life, supporting spiritual development, student success initiatives and campus programming. Many donors multiply their generosity through matching-gift programs that can double or triple their impact.

The impact of our foundation partners extends far beyond campus. The Joella and Stewart Morris Foundation has helped make so many things across campus possible, including the Joella & Stewart Morris Cultural Arts Center, a vibrant hub for arts, education, community events and HCU's museums. A Piece of the Past Museum Essay Contest, benefiting HCU students and generously funded by the Morris Foundation alongside Isaac Heimbinder, was inaugurated in 2010-11 to encourage student research into the artifacts of the Dunham Bible Museum, the Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts, and the Museum of Southern History. From commencements and symphony performances to lectures and student productions, the Morris Cultural Arts Center serves both HCU and the greater Houston community. The Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty has further elevated the University's visibility through educational programs, public tours and its use as a filming location for "The American Miracle: Our Nation Is No Accident."

For five decades, the relationship with The Cullen Trust for Higher Education has shaped our institution in profound and lasting ways. Since the first gift in 1975, the Trust's steadfast commitment has strengthened our academic foundation, expanded our facilities, elevated our teaching and research capacities, and opened doors for generations of students who have come to HCU seeking opportunity, purpose and a future filled with promise. For the past three years, Cullen has provided funding to expand HCU's community impact through literacy initiatives in Houston Independent School District elementary schools. HCU students across all majors had the opportunity to tutor and mentor students who were performing below grade level in reading and writing. A total of 3,200 hours per semester were collectively logged by HCU students in the schools, resulting in measured improvement in student performance and school climate.

Members of the Covenant Society have chosen to support HCU through their wills, trusts and other planned gifts. This year, two legacy commitments generated more than $780,000 in support of the University. As Jane Jester '68 and Stephen



We want to pass on the blessings God has given us to HCU, knowing its spiritual and educational legacy will continue as it has been for over 60 years.

Jane Jester '68 and Stephen Marmion

Marmion noted, "We want to pass on the blessings God has given us to HCU, knowing its spiritual and educational legacy will continue as it has been for over 60 years."

The Don and Colletta McMillian Foundation continues a legacy established by two of HCU's earliest champions. Among our earliest Covenant Society members, Don McMillian, a Founding Trustee, and Colleta McMillian, a University Trustee and the first president of the President's Advisors (now The Guild), helped shape the University's future through their leadership and service. Today, their foundation continues to impact HCU through support for scholarships and key University programs.

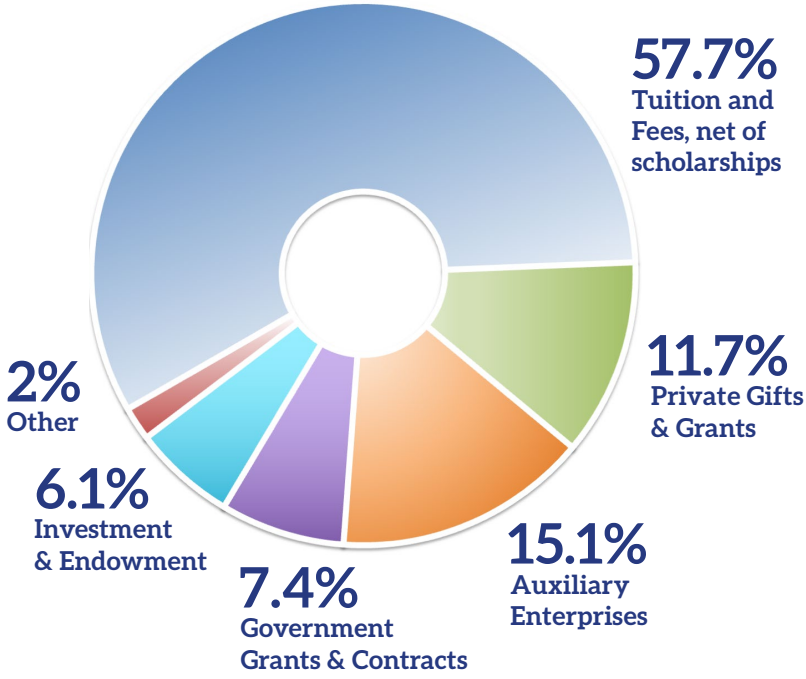


FINAN

The *Power* of Giving

HCU remains focused on strengthening its financial foundation to support the University's continued success and long-term sustainability. Through responsible stewardship of resources and strategic investments in growth, we are committed to building on our institutional strengths, expanding opportunities, and securing a strong financial future for the University.

Sources of Funds



CIAL *health*

Statement of Financial Position

AS OF FISCAL YEAR ENDS 2026 AND 2025

	2026	2025
ASSETS		
Current Assets	216,675,296	237,602,244
Non-Current Assets	199,772,433	162,638,561
Total Assets	**416,447,729**	**400,240,805**
LIABILITIES		
Current & Non-Current Liabilities	129,235,572	132,926,002
Total Liabilities	**129,235,572**	**132,926,002**
NET ASSETS		
With Donor Restrictions	167,696,089	151,468,699
Without Donor Restrictions	119,516,068	115,846,104
Total Net Assets	**287,212,157**	**267,314,803**





Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets

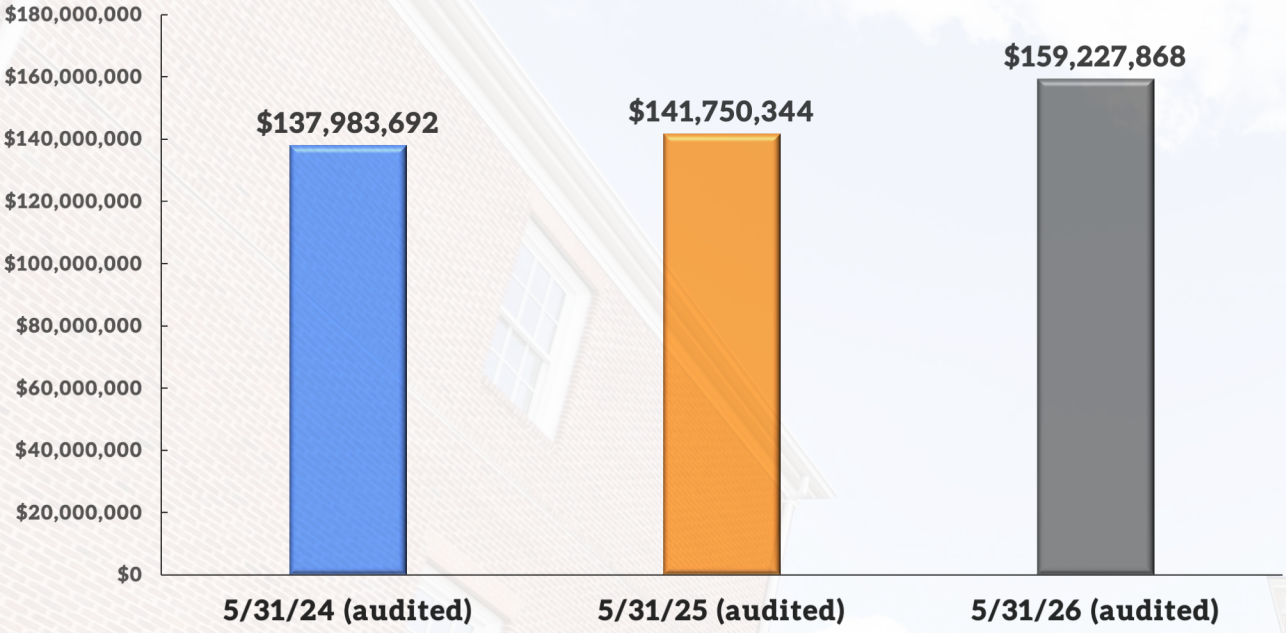
AS OF FISCAL YEAR ENDS 2026 AND 2025

	2026	2025
REVENUE	94,618,954	101,821,015
OPERATING EXPENSES	93,239,691	90,132,746
Use of Funds for Operating Expenses	87,301,352	84,957,703
Depreciation	5,938,339	5,175,043
INCREASE IN FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS	17,249,429	6,497,003
OTHER NON-OPERATING INCOME	1,268,660	1,059,096
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	19,897,354	19,244,368
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	267,314,803	248,070,435
ENDING NET ASSETS	287,212,157	267,314,803



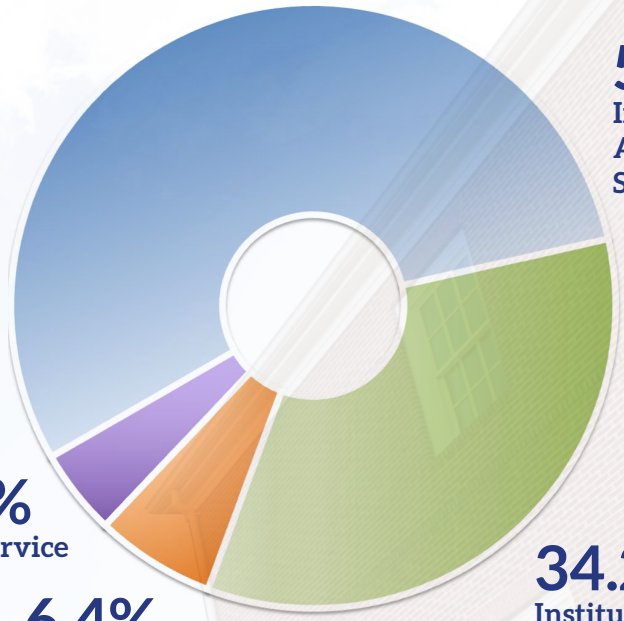


Endowment Funds





Uses of Funds

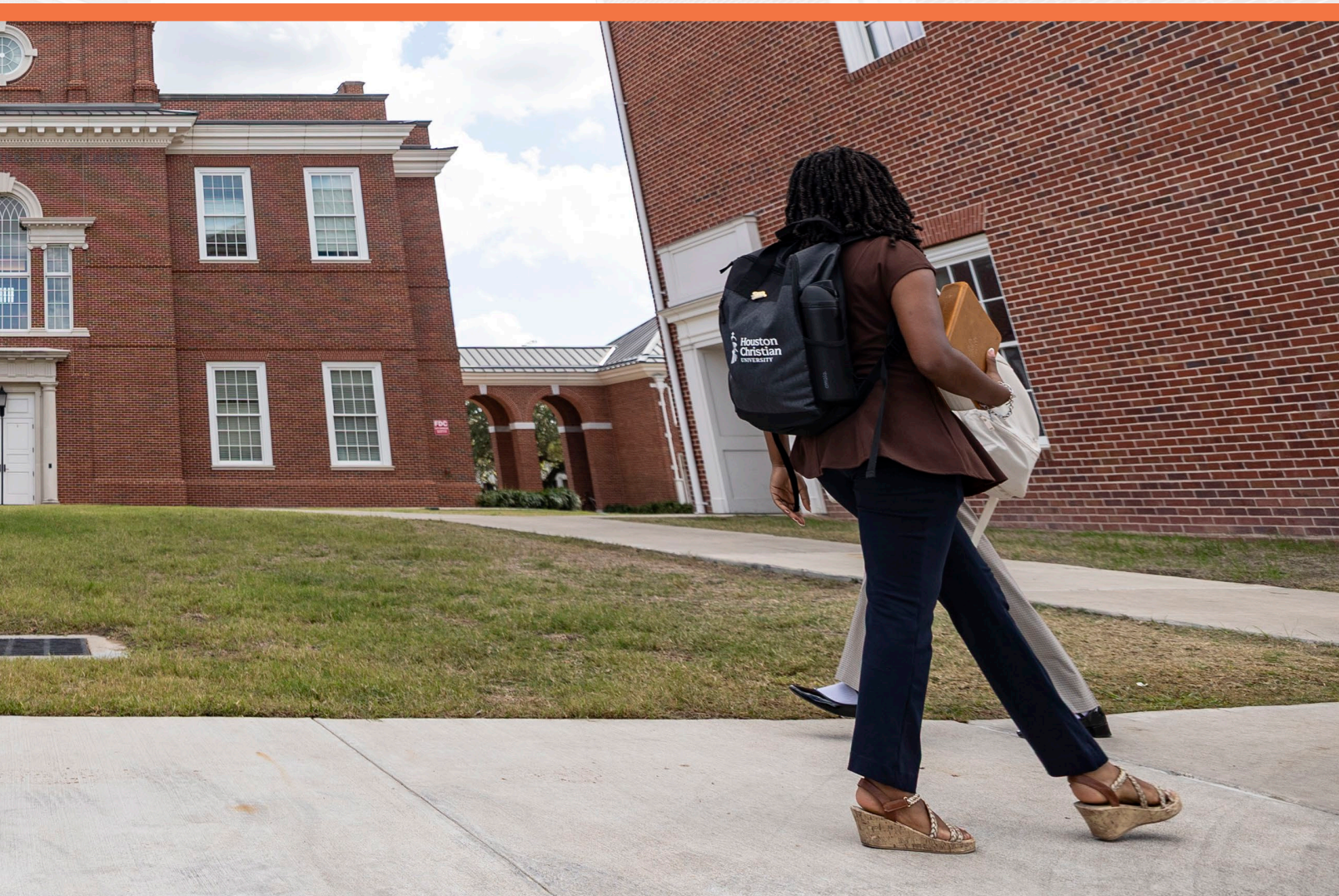


54.8%
Instructional, Academic Support & Student Services

34.2%
Institutional Support & Auxiliary Enterprises

6.4%
Depreciation

4.6%
Debt Service





ATHLE

Husky Excellence on the Field and in the Classroom

The 2025-26 athletic year saw several strong seasons and numerous individual accomplishments across the HCU athletic department. The Huskies finished their 13th year as members of the Southland Conference with 11 teams advancing to their respective conference tournaments. HCU captured one conference title and one runner-up finish and saw 19 student-athletes honored with All-Conference distinctions, including four who captured some of the league's top individual accolades.

In addition, the Men's Soccer program completed its third season as an affiliate member of the Ohio Valley Conference by producing a second straight runner-up finish as well as seven All-Conference accolades and three individual honors.

Women's Soccer, in year two under the direction of Head Coach Nick Whiting, claimed the 2025 SLC title by rolling through the tournament as the tournament's fifth seed. The Huskies allowed just one goal in three matches and won the title 1-0 over Stephen F. Austin with a golden goal by Olivia Rossman in the first overtime period. HCU then advanced to its third-ever NCAA Tournament, where it lost to LSU, ending a historic season with a 12-9-2 mark that set a new program record for single-season victories.

TICS

The Men's Soccer team advanced to the Ohio Valley Conference championship match for the second straight year, losing in penalties at Lindenwood. HCU finished the season with an 11-5-3 mark, the most victories in a single season since 1990.

Women's Golf earned a runner-up team finish at the SLC Tournament, while freshman Sara Pihlajamaki won the individual crown to become the third Southland individual champion in program history.

The track programs boasted several individual champions as well. On the men's side, SJ Marais (110-meter hurdles), Raphael Aureau (800 meters) and the distance medley relay team all claimed Southland titles, while on the women's side, Layloni Watson earned a championship in the triple jump.

HCU saw 12 of its 19 Southland All-Conference student-athletes earn first-team distinction. Women's Golf led the way with four first-teamers and also claimed Golfer of the Year (Ploy Makmanee), Freshman of the Year (Pihlajamaki) and Coach of the Year (Jordan Jeffers) accolades.

Men's Soccer also had four first-team selections in the OVC, as well as the Goalkeeper of the Year (Alex Aitken), Midfielder of the Year (D'Alessandro Herrera) and a third consecutive Freshman of the Year (Joby Reid).

The athletic year also saw the end of two eras. Mary-Ellen Hall, HCU Softball Coach and HCU alumna, announced her retirement after 35 years leading the program, and David Shuster did the same following the end of the HCU Golf campaigns after directing the Men's and Women's programs since their reinstatement in 2007.

AND IN THE CLASSROOM

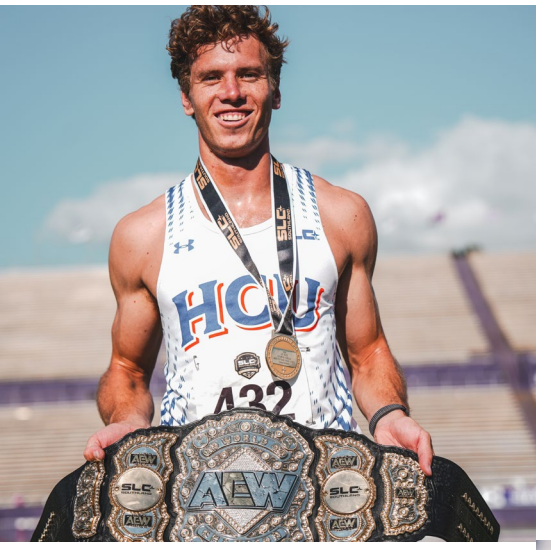
HCU athletics has, for years, seen student-athletes across all sports excel in the classroom while also representing the University in exemplary fashion on the field or court. The 2025-26 academic year was no different. Impressive team and individual academic accomplishments permeated the entire athletic department.

The HCU Women's Golf team put a major stamp on the end of the school year with a July 23 announcement by the Women's Golf Coaches Association that the Huskies posted the highest collective team grade point average of any women's golf team across all three NCAA divisions. Sophomore Ploy Makmanee was named Southland Conference Student-Athlete of the Year and was one of five Huskies named Academic All-Conference.

As a department, HCU had 67 total student-athletes receive Southland Conference All-Academic honors. The Southland Conference also recognizes all eligible student-athletes who maintain a 3.0 grade point average during the semester in which their sport's championship takes place, putting out a Commissioner's Honor Roll for both the fall and spring. The spring Commissioner's Honor Roll featured an HCU record 141 student-athletes. For the two semesters combined, HCU had 269 honorees for a full-academic-year record.

HCU student-athletes carried collective GPAs above 3.40 for both semesters of the 2025-26 academic year while also maintaining cumulative GPAs above 3.40, with both outperforming the complete student body of the school.





269

Recognitions

Southland Conference Commissioner's

HONOR ROLL



11

TEAMS ADVANCED

to conference tournaments



67

SOUTHLAND

All-Academic

honorees



7

MEN'S SOCCER

All-Conference

accolades in the OVC





Beyond THE SCOREBOARD

by Steve Moniaci

When I arrived on campus in the spring of 2007, Dr. Sloan had only been here a couple of months. He had already conducted listening sessions across campus, and everyone I met was talking about what that meant to them. Within athletics, people spoke of his vision to use Division I athletics as a way to raise the visibility of the entire University.

Coach Ron Cottrell told me that Dr. Sloan wanted to visit about returning the University to NCAA Division I. When we met, he asked if I would prepare a report outlining what it would take to make that happen. Dr. Sloan reiterated that he believed campuses with Division I athletics were simply viewed differently and that the move would strengthen the University's profile. The report was presented to the Board of Trustees and, after it was well received, Dr. Sloan was charged with moving forward with the transition. He then asked if I would come aboard to help in that endeavor.

What followed revealed a great deal about the man.

After we began the NCAA reinstatement process, the NCAA unexpectedly informed us that what had been a three-year transition would instead require seven years. For an institution, our size, seven years without conference membership or championship opportunities would have made recruiting extraordinarily difficult. Dr. Sloan had several choices: stay where we were, accept the ruling or fight it. He chose to fight because he did not believe the decision was just, and he did not want to wait. The University ultimately settled with the NCAA on a four-year transition, but by then we were already well on our way. Looking back, I honestly wonder whether HCU athletics would be where it is today had Dr. Sloan not been willing to stand firm when it mattered most.

One thing I quickly learned about Dr. Sloan was that he had the greatest memory, literally, of any human I have ever met. That became crystal clear during an NCAA rules compliance session in Atlanta. We had been listening to a lengthy discussion about an obscure NCAA rule when Dr. Sloan leaned over and quietly said, "Steve, I think I'm going to duck out of this session. I helped write this rule 15 years ago. I probably don't need the refresher." That was when it really hit home just how much knowledge he had about the inner workings of the NCAA and what an incredible resource it was to have him as our leader.

Dr. Sloan helped transform HCU athletics, but more importantly, he never allowed us to forget why we were doing it."

Steve Moniaci
FORMER DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

As an athletic director, one often finds himself speaking alongside the university president. I eventually made it a rule never to speak after Dr. Sloan because there were very few public speakers better than he was. I also frequently introduced him by saying that if I quit that day and he decided to run the athletic department himself, he would be 10 times the athletic director I was. I meant it every time. Most university presidents are outstanding leaders but are not usually versed enough in athletics to make informed decisions without a great deal of consultation. Dr. Sloan knew the world of intercollegiate athletics almost as well as he knew the Bible.

That knowledge showed itself in every coaching search. He wanted to interview virtually every candidate because he wanted to know they would be a great fit for the University, but also because he understood athletics well enough to evaluate them himself. He asked pointed questions about coaching philosophies and the game itself that often surprised candidates. More than one coach told me they had never had a university president ask those kinds of questions—and then have an informed opinion about the answers. Very rarely did we disagree on a hire, and when we did, he rightfully made the final decision. Looking back, he was usually right.

Something else I learned early on was just how competitive he could be. I remember asking whether we should schedule a guarantee game against a Big 12 school, to be left unnamed, that was willing to pay us well to play them. Dr. Sloan said, "Steve, I don't want to play them until you tell me we can beat them. I don't care if they're willing to pay us." I pointed out that might take us a while, and he simply replied, "I don't care. We're going to be playing at this level for a long time." That determination shaped the culture he wanted us to build.

What always impressed me most, however, was how personally invested he was in our student-athletes. He never just asked how a team was doing. He asked how specific players were doing, referring to them by name, asking about their progress, their hometowns, their parents and even their academic majors. There were times he remembered those details better than I did. One of his great joys was getting to know as many of our student-athletes as he could.

Although other responsibilities often kept him from traveling to away games, he faithfully followed our teams. Once ESPN+ began carrying so many of our contests, I would often receive a text or phone call from him during or immediately after a game asking about a particular play or decision. I always knew he was watching.

While Dr. Sloan was intensely competitive, he never lost sight of what mattered most. He constantly reminded me that at HCU our standards were higher than wins and losses. We expected our coaches not only to win and graduate student-athletes, but also to help lead those young men and women in their individual faith walk. He knew those were the victories truly worth celebrating.

Dr. Sloan helped transform HCU athletics, but more importantly, he never allowed us to forget why we were doing it. His vision, his leadership, his courage and his unwavering commitment to our student-athletes continue to shape this University today. I will always be grateful to have served alongside him.

Leading WITH PURPOSE

SERVING WITH HEART

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Keith Garvin MAA '23, DMin '27



After more than two decades in broadcast journalism, Keith Garvin answered God's call to deepen his faith and education at HCU. He earned a Master of Arts in Apologetics from HCU in 2023 and will complete his Doctor of Ministry in 2027, becoming a double-degree alumnus.

Since joining KPRC-TV in 2012, Keith has become one of Houston's most respected journalists, earning two Emmy Awards, an Associated Press Award and an Edward R. Murrow Award for excellence in reporting. Beyond the newsroom, he has shared his talents with HCU as a master of ceremonies, narrator for various University productions and ambassador for initiatives such as Huskies Give Big. Keith exemplifies integrity, professional excellence and a Christ-centered commitment to serving others.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE ALUMNA AWARD

Mary Sapp Fischer '79



Mary Sapp Fischer has dedicated nearly five decades to serving HCU and the Houston community. A longtime volunteer and advocate, Fischer serves as president of The Guild, is a member of the Linda R. Dunham School of Nursing Dean's Council and remains active with the American Museum Society and other civic organizations.

After retiring early from her accounting career in 2005, she devoted her time to causes including Child Advocates, Baylor College of Medicine and the Society for the Performing Arts. Guided by her faith, Fischer's commitment to service reflects a deep belief in strengthening others and advancing the communities she serves.

Homecoming is a celebration of the people whose faith, leadership and service reflect the University's mission long after graduation. Each year, the HCU Alumni Association recognizes alumni, students, faculty and staff whose lives demonstrate a lasting commitment to Christ and serving others. This year's honorees represent different seasons of the HCU journey, yet each embodies the character, purpose and servant leadership that define the Spirit of HCU.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE ALUMNUS AWARD

John Speanburg '85



John Speanburg has built a distinguished career while remaining deeply connected to HCU. As Vice President of Global Partner Group at Cargill, Speanburg applies the servant leadership principles he developed as an HCU student. A proud alumnus who wears his class ring daily, he welcomes prospective students and families into his home each year alongside his wife, Joni.

A dedicated supporter of HCU Athletics and a Husky Football Founder, Speanburg invests his time, resources and leadership in the University's future, reflecting a lifelong dedication to mentoring others and advancing the HCU community.

EMERGING ALUMNUS LEADER AWARD

Adam Matthew Beck '17



From the earliest days of HCU Football, Adam Matthew Beck helped build something bigger than a team. As one of the program's "Original 13," he learned that leadership begins with vision, perseverance and a commitment to serving others.

Those lessons have guided an accomplished career in healthcare. Beginning as a territory manager, Beck advanced to Director of Client Solutions at ER2, where he leads enterprise healthcare sales strategy and growth initiatives. He has earned Sales Representative of the Year honors, Product of the Year recognition and multiple President's Club awards. His faith, integrity and collaborative leadership reflect the values cultivated during his years at HCU.

EMERGING ALUMNA LEADER AWARD

Maleena Bennett '23, MAP '28



For Maleena Bennett, education is an opportunity to transform lives. Her passion for serving students with special needs began in high school and has grown into a career with Fort Bend ISD's SAILS program, where she helps students develop academically and personally.

Bennett earned recognition as the 2026 Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators Teacher of the Year for Barrington Place Elementary. She helped develop the special needs ministry at her church, extending her heart for service to families throughout her community.

As she prepares for a future as a school psychology specialist, Bennett continues to expand her impact through graduate study at HCU. Her compassion, leadership and dedication to helping every student thrive embody the purpose of the Emerging Alumnus Leader Award.

EMMA KEY FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARD

Maggie Allyn Post '26



Called to ministry and gifted in music, Maggie Allyn Post has devoted her time at HCU to serving Christ and encouraging others in their faith. As student director and worship leader for Refuge, HCU's student praise and worship ministry, she helped foster a Christ-centered community through worship and spiritual leadership.

Her commitment to sharing the Gospel also led her to serve through Go Now Missions in New York and Texas and through Beach Reach with HCU's Baptist Student Ministry. Recognized as HCU's Outstanding Student in Theology, she was later selected as the Baptist Student Ministry's Campus Missionary, reflecting her academic achievement and servant's heart.

Named for Emma Claire Key, whose joyful witness continues to inspire the HCU community, the Emma Key Faithful Servant Award honors students who faithfully live out the Gospel.





HALLMARK AWARD – HONORARY ALUMNUS

Sgt. John David Camarillo H '26



For nearly 25 years, Sgt. John David Camarillo has faithfully served the HCU community with excellence, integrity and honor. As a leader within the HCU Police Department, he has earned the trust of students, faculty, staff and alumni through his steady presence, compassionate leadership and commitment to campus safety.

A lifelong learner and dedicated mentor, Sgt. Camarillo invests in professional development while helping prepare the next generation of law enforcement officers. His commitment to HCU extends beyond his daily responsibilities through longstanding support of the Husky Hustle scholarship fundraiser and countless acts of service that strengthen the University community.

The Hallmark Award recognizes faculty and staff members who build lasting connections between HCU and its alumni. As he is welcomed as an honorary member of the HCU Alumni Association's Class of 2026, Sgt. Camarillo is recognized for a legacy of faithful service that has impacted generations of Huskies.

ALUMNI HUSKIES! HELP US STAY CONNECTED TO YOU.

New address?

New email?

New job?

Recently married?

Welcomed a Husky Pup?

HUSKIES SUPPORTING HUSKIES.

If you own a business, add it to our Alumni Business Directory and gain visibility within the alumni community. We highlight a new alumni-owned business each month in Alum-a-Grams and are launching a small business owner roundtable just for alumni.





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From its earliest days to decades of campus transformation, the exhibit celebrates the people, convictions and defining moments that helped make HCU the University it is today.





Visit the Presidential Displays in the Hinton Center Lobby.

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