

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

THE PILLARS

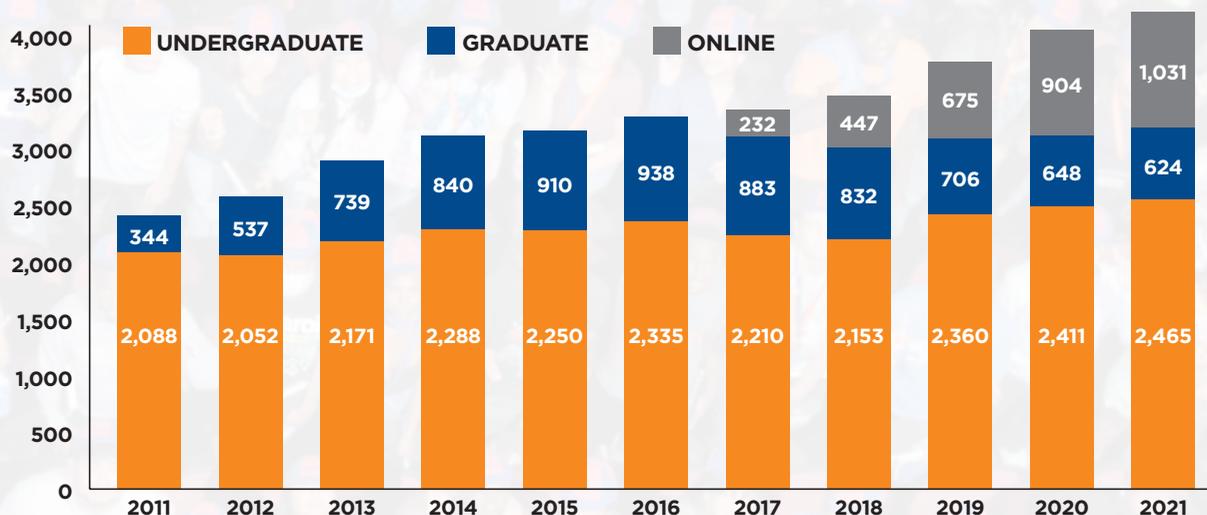
FALL 2021



A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY WORLDVIEW



RECORD ENROLLMENT



Houston Baptist University (HBU) enrolled a record class with 770 new freshmen this fall out of 2,465 total undergraduates, the largest in the University's 60-year history.

Jason Fletcher, HBU's Director of Recruitment, Enrollment Management credits consistent and strategic approaches to recruitment, financial aid literacy, and events for the 3 years of strong enrollment HBU has experienced. "I have been blessed to have a dynamic team that has learned how to transform processes to serve students and families during even the most difficult times," said Fletcher.

Dr. James L. Steen, HBU Vice President, Enrollment Management echoed similar sentiments and

described HBU's record enrollment as an amazing accomplishment to achieve in the midst of a pandemic." Enrolling a record freshman class, literally on the heels of a year in lockdowns and virtually no in-person recruitment, is remarkable. The enrollment management team did a phenomenal job pivoting and overcoming the odds to admit and yield this amazing class of new HBU students," said Steen.

HBU is also pleased to announce the University's highest total enrollment with 4,120 students for the Fall 2021 semester and the highest online enrollment in HBU's Pampell Online College for the fifth consecutive year, with over 1,000 online students.



The overarching moral and theological commitments of HBU have not changed since our founding in 1960, but it is certainly true to note that the values, beliefs, and accepted ethical practices of our society have shifted dramatically. Family structures, as well as beliefs as to what defines, for example, marriage and gender, have evidenced a breathtaking rate of change during the last decade. It is therefore all the more necessary for us to clearly identify the kind of university we are and the practices, morals, and values we uphold.

In this issue, you will find HBU's new vision document, known as *The Ten Pillars 2030*. An important distinction to note between this 2030 version and the initial vision document, titled *The Ten Pillars: Faith and Reason in a Great City* (which began in 2008 and concluded in 2020), involves a significant shift in nomenclature.

Originally, our references to the Ten Pillars pointed to some important clusters of emphasis that included various projects related to students, faculty, staff, the integration of faith and learning, academic programs, and HBU's impact on our community and beyond. Those areas of activity are still emphasized in *The Ten Pillars 2030* and, as initiatives and programs, will be laid out very clearly with regard to strategies, tactics, personnel, and necessary funding in forthcoming documents.

Given the dramatic upheavals in our culture, however, and the absolutely critical need to clearly identify who we are as a university, we have begun this 2030 version of our vision document by describing the biblical, Christian worldview that we espouse. And, equally as important, we are now using the metaphor of the "Ten Pillars" to refer to "Ten Core Convictions" that express our essential beliefs and give shape to our strategic plans and the transformative projects we hope to undertake during the next ten years.

Furthermore, as we state our worldview and our convictions and pursue these transformative projects, we are not withdrawing from our responsibilities in the world. Indeed, our Lord described the status of his disciples as being "in the world, but not of the world" (John 17:14-16). We do not submit to the fads and fashions of this world, but we are committed to the truth that is found in Jesus (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:20-23), and we seek to maintain the faith that was once delivered to the saints (Jude 3).

We are not, therefore, isolationists. We believe that we have a place and a responsibility in the world as we find it, as disturbing as it sometimes may be. We are told in Scripture to let our gentleness be known to all people and to be children of light in the midst of a crooked generation (Philippians 4:5; 2:15). Paul



specifically uses terms found in both Jewish wisdom and Stoic philosophy, especially key words found in the writings of the Roman moralist Seneca, to remind the Philippians that even as they suffer for the cause of Christ (1:27-30) and maintain their core convictions and moral habits derived from the gospel (4:9), they cannot withdraw from their surrounding culture. At the same time, however, they are to reflect upon things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and admirable. And as they consider these things, they must evaluate them for all that can be found (in keeping with what they've been taught in Christ) that is excellent, virtuous, and worthy of praise (4:8).

Though we as Christians are told to separate from the darkness and evil of our world, we intend HBU's new vision statement and its Ten Core Convictions to reflect the fact that this is still God's world and we have a mandate to serve it and to witness to the work of God in Christ. We therefore seek to be the kind of university that carries out this mandate: one that embraces fully all the great traditions of thought, freedom, learning, and aesthetic beauty, while maintaining our deepest commitments to God's work through his Son, the work that forgives us of our sins, heals our brokenness, cleanses us from evil, and offers the only hope of true restoration and wholeness that our world will ever find.

Robert B. Sloan

Dr. Robert Sloan
HBU President



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Left to right, top to bottom: Michael Tims, Diane Tezeno, Jared Jones, Michael Taylor, Clay P

Vision, with it, you can do everything, a

In synergy, President Sloan, the Board of Trustees, Faculty, and Staff have articulated the forward vision of Houston Baptist University in the new vision document highlighted in this issue, The Ten Pillars 2030. As a team, we believe this is yet another important milestone in the history of HBU. Because this vision is the premise of the future training and growth of the University, we review the Ten Core Pillars in the hope that you will thoughtfully read them.

One of the proudest moments of my tenure at HBU was listening to Dr. Sloan review The Ten Pillars 2030 at the Faculty Symposium before the start of the fall 2021 academic year. HBU has not lost its grand heritage and conviction of belief. President Sloan courageously, and yet graciously, has done what a true leader does – lead. The future is clear, and there is no uncertainty in conviction and compassion to fulfill new echelons of growth for HBU. Positioned in the formidable, mighty city of Houston, there is no limit to what HBU can accomplish with the help of the Lord.

Unlike many of my colleagues at HBU, I have not had the life-long opportunity to live in Houston. After traveling to hundreds of America's cities, I must admit there



Clay Porter, Dr. Jerry Johnston, Olatokunbor Prather.

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, and without it, you can do nothing.

is no city quite like Houston. Its people are the nicest and kindest I have ever met. Blessed with the highest ethnic diversity in the nation, entrepreneurial spirit, medical and energy innovation, rarely a week goes by where the national media does not mention Houston. HBU in Houston has limitless growth opportunities. The University is a mirror of the city – beautiful, caring people.

My colleague in this picture, the gentleman standing behind me is Clay Porter, Senior Director of Media Technology. He is the personification of a Houston, Texas, gentleman. It has been an honor to work with him. Everyone at HBU loves Clay. I am asking for a special prayer for his wife, Susan. After 35 faithful years of employment, Susan is now fighting cancer. On the recommendation of alumnus Barbara Taylor Cox, MD, Susan's care is being administered by a superb oncologist at the excellent MD Anderson Cancer Center. Clay and Susan have been married 43 years and have two sons and two grandchildren. Please remember Susan in your prayers.

Dr. Jerry Johnston
 VP of Innovation & Strategic Marketing

THE TEN PILLARS 2030

A Christian University and Its Worldview



In the late summer of 1900, there was a man who lived in a thriving city on the Texas shore. People came from far across the ocean to visit this growing city, as it was a rising center for commerce, innovation, and trade.

One day, with no warning—for those were the days before forecasts and radar—the winds became a wild thing, and the sea began to rise. A great storm was coming, and the people were not prepared.

The man and many of his fellow citizens took shelter at the courthouse where his father was a judge, behind the thick granite columns that held up the house of law, and prayed for the best. The rain fell, the flood waters rose, and the wind blew and slammed against the building. But the pillars held.

The thriving coastal city was Galveston; the man was the father of HBU's founder Stewart Morris; the storm, the Great Galveston hurricane, was the deadliest natural disaster in the history of the United States and was later named "The Storm of the Century."

Houston Baptist College was founded in 1960, and today you can see ten of those same granite columns at the center of the HBU campus, a gift from the survivor's son. Given in the fall of 1969 at the height of the Cold War and cultural upheaval in the United States, they are more than merely relics of the past. They are a constant reminder that our ability to weather fierce storms depends upon solid foundations.



Universities in the Midst of the THE WHIRLWIND

Many universities have lost the ability to organize themselves around a unifying purpose or a singular vision for human life and society. But this incapacity has not diminished their immense cultural influence. Universities retain great cultural power, but they sometimes wield this power chaotically, with no constructive purpose. Their impact is significant and undeniable, but it often resembles the scattered wreckage left in the wake of a hurricane rather than the refuge of wisdom that is needed in the midst of the storm, the respite to be found in the good, the true, the just, and the beautiful.

Thus, many universities end up serving especially, if not solely, to provide credentialing and networking, often sustained largely by athletic enthusiasm. In these instances, university values are too selective, relative, and subject to cultural whims. For some, the institution's only unified purpose is as an economic engine for the given state in which it resides. For others, the university's mission appears more oriented to teaching and training for political activism around prescribed and, thus, limited points of view. This latter role tends toward utopianism and often leads to the suppression of contrary perspectives, promoting a uniformity of speech and behavior achieved by social pressure and even force, not evidence and reasoned debate. Such patterns of intellectual coercion are at odds with the long history of universities and their purposes.

The Christian university is a different kind of university. It is not one that has added a few religious practices (chapel, for example) or a few extra courses (Bible and theology) to an otherwise standard curriculum. As Richard John Neuhaus has argued, "There is no such thing as a university pure and simple." All universities have a character, a personality, and a culturally conditioned identity. No university, however, should fail to promote the good faith engagement of discovery, research, creativity, writing, speaking, and new ideas. Such failure not only leads to authoritarian practices and dishonest outcomes—as may be seen historically when the interests of power or money control the voices of free speech and righteous learning—but it also lacks the necessary humility required for doing discovery, teaching, and all the practices of thought and dialogue that are at the core of the university experience and purpose.

The Christian university shares these commitments to humble truth seeking and does so with the grounding of historically distinctive core convictions. A Christian university is a certain kind of university, whose belief that Jesus Christ is Lord over all things, visible and invisible, reflects theological givens but in no way suppresses the institution's ability to look at all of reality. Indeed, our convictions support and encourage the investigation of the world around us, as well as ordered methods to understand it. We desire as a Christian university to be a witness to and a preserving influence for the functions historically common to all universities properly so called.

Scripture and a

CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

This understanding of the vocation and mission of a Christian university is a consequence of what the Scriptures teach about God and his purposes for the creation. The Christian belief in one true Creator God, whose act of creation leaves nothing outside the results of his initiative in speaking the worlds into being, demands a worldview that is comprehensive, orderly, curious, and humble. The creation of human beings, male and female, as uniquely formed in the image of God and given a delegated responsibility to care for and manage his creation demands a submissiveness of mind and heart that engenders an intellectual humility—a truth-seeking pursuit of coherence that promotes just and loving communities of work and worship. The reality of the Fall and its consequent pervasive effects of human alienation and brokenness reinforces the need for humility and honesty in all matters of faith, thought, and learning.



A Christian worldview is a way of looking at reality in all the ways we categorize it, whether visible or invisible, and according to all the disciplines of learning known or yet to be defined. Such a worldview of necessity draws upon the

central sources of Christian faith and tradition for normative guidance. Nearly every Christian tradition relies upon and appeals to the Christian Scriptures (with some variation as to the books that should be counted as authoritative) as the foundational point of departure for Christian thinking and living. Christians differ as to the interpretation of the Scriptures, though the church throughout its long history has generated bodies of theological knowledge and tradition that, though subject to review and reformation, at the most basic levels have gained general consensus and attained their own authority over time.

With recognizable variations, all Christian traditions in theory, though in different mixes and measures, point to the authority of the Bible and rely upon the work of the Spirit and a community of faith (either historical or contemporary) to read and interpret the Scriptures. In so doing, they seek constantly to reflect in more accurate and relevant teaching the thinking and lifestyle demanded by the Scriptures themselves.

A Christian worldview, then, must be derived from the Scriptures at some foundational level; and though it can be questioned and analyzed, it ought to reflect the most comprehensive ways possible of looking at the world. Like eyeglasses, which allow us to see everything else more accurately, a worldview should enable us to see (take in) all that is and provide a frame of reference for deriving coherence from all the data that surround us. We normally don't look *at* our glasses; we look *through* them. Of course, if our glasses need cleaning or repairing, we look at them and make adjustments. The same is true of a worldview. It can be modified as part of a cycle of thinking and learning, but its primary function is as an enabling tool to discover, interpret, understand, and comprehensively assimilate all that can possibly be observed and known about every conceivable sphere of reality.

A Christian worldview is a way of looking at reality in all the ways we categorize it, whether visible or invisible, and according to all the disciplines of learning known or yet to be defined.



Human beings, made in his image, are by that fact given a divine mandate and are responsible to him to protect, govern, and work in his world (the garden is the original temple of his presence) and extend the frontiers of his rule to all the earth.



We therefore intend to make central use of the Scriptures in constructing a worldview. This is a practice common to all Christian traditions, but it is particularly true of our tradition and founding as a Christian university (see the “Preamble” to HBU’s Letters of Incorporation, 1960) born in the mid-twentieth century in a major American city and within the cross currents of Baptist history and evangelical theological traditions.

The larger narrative of Scripture, the story of the Bible, presents an inextricable link between belief and practice. In Scripture, the story of the Bible is, in effect, the story of God’s mission in the world. It is presented in the form of a plot-shaped history, and it begins with the creation of the world, visible and invisible, and all things in it. There is nothing outside the creation, the total sum of reality made by the word, power, and fiat of the one true God.



This act of creation includes the creation of human beings, male and female, made in his image (*imago Dei*), where “image” refers primarily to the functional responsibilities of the man and woman to govern and rule God’s world. It is a delegated responsibility that presumes God as king over the creation. Human beings, made in his image, are by that fact given a divine mandate and are responsible to him to protect, govern, and work in his world (the garden is the original temple of his presence) and extend the frontiers of his rule to all the earth.

We say above that the biblical narrative, what we are describing as a Christian worldview, is plot-shaped, and by that we mean that creation is good—“God saw all that he had made and it was very good” (Genesis 1:31)—but, as in all stories, the original setting soon endured conflict and rebellion. What is traditionally known as the Fall—a moral rebellion by the humans—provoked expulsion from the garden for the man and the woman, a curse of decay and mortality placed upon them and the entire creation (Genesis 3; Romans 8:18-25), and the inability of humans to fulfill their divinely mandated mission.

It is precisely here that many views of the scriptural story are truncated. It is popularly said that the story of the Bible is something like the following: “We were made for a relationship with God; sin spoiled that relationship, but Jesus has come to forgive and restore that relationship so that when we die we can go to heaven.”

Such a truncated view narrows the purpose of God in creation to our “relationship” with him, often neglects the mission of God for human beings—that is, to extend the frontiers of his rule to all the earth—and largely omits much of the rest of the story of Scripture (except as background stories that generate good examples for moral living and a few typological anticipations of the coming of Christ), especially the middle. As with all stories, the middle is crucial for developing the strategies that move toward plot resolution, including the full drama and power of the climax. These strategies in turn are critical for shedding light both backward and forward and thus enabling a better understanding of both the initial tension and the climax.

In the remainder of the opening narrative, things go from bad to worse—the murder of brother by brother, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel (Genesis 3-11). The appearance of Abraham, however, in Genesis 12 marks a new and major subplot in the macro narrative of Scripture. The promises made to Abraham serve as the template of God’s plan for restoring the whole world. This plan of restoration involves not only a reversal of the Fall and the forgiveness of

sin, but a return to the mandate given to human beings in Genesis 1.

The covenants with Abraham (see Genesis 12-18) thus anticipate the reversal of humankind's failure and initiate the divine plan of rescue: to bless and restore all the nations through the seed and offspring of Abraham—ultimately Israel and Jesus the Messiah (cf. Galatians 3:15-16, 23-29). These storied goals, developed with surprising plot twists in the narrative of Scripture, involve the shocking death of the Messiah, his vindication, enthronement, and the coming of God's Spirit as the Spirit of Christ to his people, his renewed temple. The promises to bless and restore the world will be fulfilled with the return of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, and the restoration (new creation) of heaven and earth (Romans 8:21-22; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Philippians 3:20-21). These climactic events initiate the renewed circumstances within which human beings once again pick up God's mandate to govern faithfully his creation, to be co-heirs with Christ the king (Romans 8:17; Revelation 1:6; 5:9-10; 20:4-6; cf. 1 Corinthians 6:3). These promises, once fulfilled, reinstate through a new creation (begun with the resurrection of Jesus and the gift of the Spirit) human beings as able and enabled to do God's work in the world.

By overlooking the rest of the Old Testament story—from Abraham through the ongoing agonized longing of postexilic books like Ezra, Nehemiah, and Malachi—the foreshortened view of the narrative of Scripture fails to appreciate the theologically shaped history of Israel. As God's people, Israel receives and preserves the oracles of God's work in history, especially his promises to Abraham—and thus to Israel—to bless Israel and the nations. It also thereby fails to contextualize the good news announcement in the Gospels (beginning with John the Baptist) of the coming of the kingdom of God. This announcement, continued in the preaching of Jesus, points then to Jesus as the Messiah of Israel who inaugurates the long-anticipated kingship of God.

This good news of God's imminent and dawning reign was not only the spoken message of Jesus

but was reinforced and signified by his actions, including especially his conflicts with Jewish and Roman authorities, miracles, and demon exorcisms. His crowning achievement was his obedience through death to the will of his God and Father. Because of his faithfulness, God vindicated him by the resurrection and through him inaugurated the new creation, redefining for his followers the standards for exercising power and achieving status in the reconstituted empire of God. Now enthroned at the Father's right hand, he establishes the rulership of God and, by sending his Spirit to his followers, enables them to carry forward the divine mission.

A foreshortened view lacks the full, storied basis for stating that Jesus is himself the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham (2 Corinthians 1:20), the presence of Yahweh as king, the one who overcomes Satan and restores the temple/garden, the initiator of the new creation, and the one who as the image of God accomplishes in his submissive death human obedience to God's mission. It is this long-awaited new covenant restoration that also recommissions forgiven human beings to resume their calling to do God's work in the world.

A narrative description of a Christian worldview as grounded in the story of the Bible therefore incorporates both the content of belief—about God, the world, human brokenness, social structures, nations and societies, human psychology, gender, marriage, families, the goodness of life, the church as God's Spirit-empowered agents in a still broken world, and the hope of restoration in this age and in the one to come—and the divinely given mandate for human beings with respect to their work. The Christian university, as an act of discipleship and as a reflection of the mission of the church in the world, participates in precisely that mandate.

Although in our brokenness we never fully understand it or accomplish it, such a worldview tells us, especially since the inauguration of the restoration of all things in Christ, what to believe and how to live. It similarly gives content and purpose to the character and mission of a Christian university.

Because of his faithfulness, God vindicated him by the resurrection and through him inaugurated the new creation, redefining for his followers the standards for exercising power and achieving status in the reconstituted empire of God.

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THE
TEN PILLARS

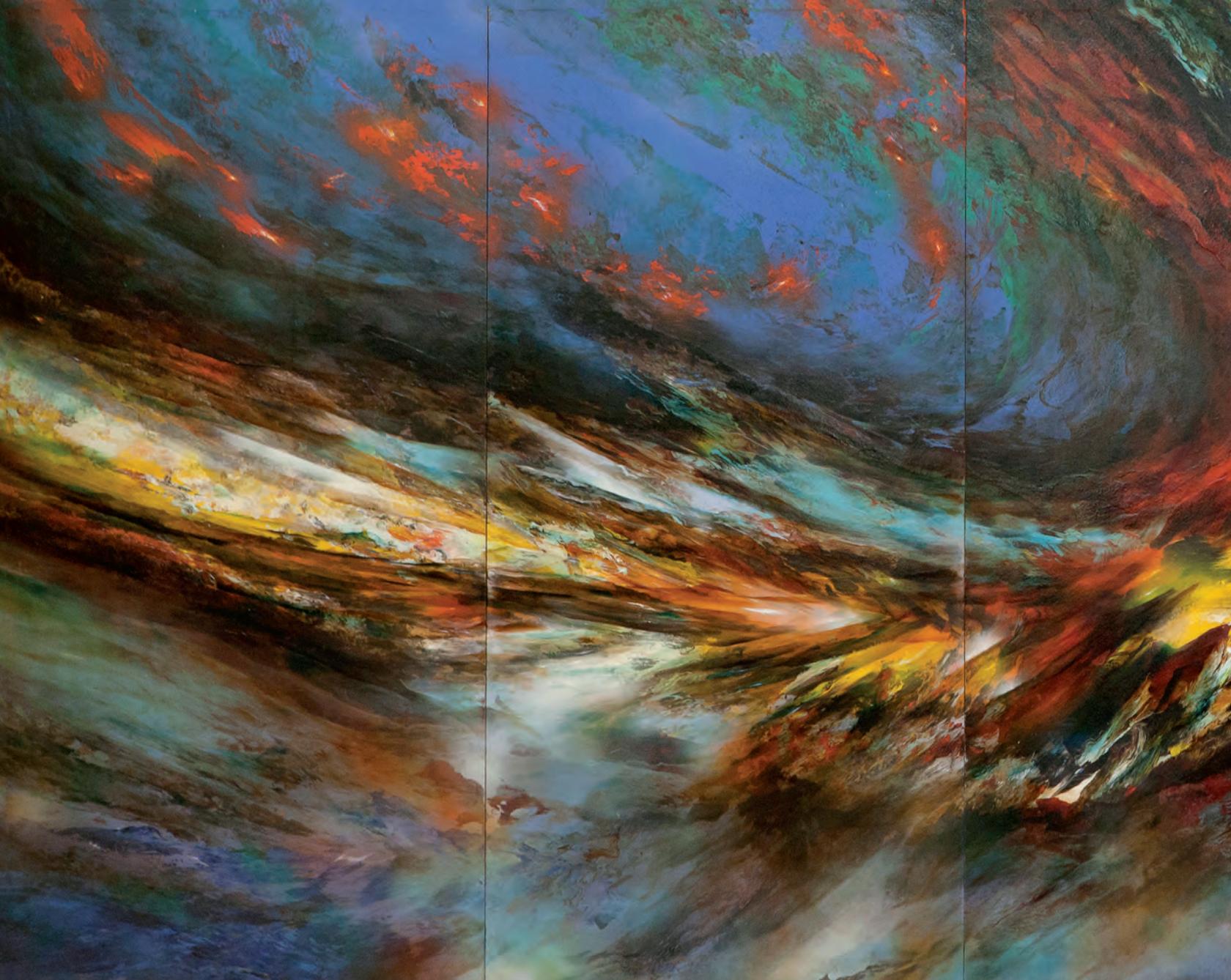
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CONVICTIONS

Houston Baptist University has a history of affirming these particular ways of thinking and living, which we hereby describe as Ten Pillars. These convictions are an essential part of the traditional beliefs and commitments of the University. They are set forth here to bring to mind the ten physical pillars that are now iconic on our campus and thus represent the durable historical and theological commitments that undergird our practices and enable us to translate our worldview, Preamble, and mission into academic programs, curricular structures, and habits of the mind and heart. HBU confesses and takes shelter under these Ten Pillars.





PILLAR I

God, the Creator of a

GOOD AND KNOWABLE WORLD

The world was created and is sustained by God the Father and through Jesus Christ his Son. It reflects his presence and power and is good, orderly, and can be known. Human beings, male and female, are made in God's image and given responsibilities to preserve, protect, and order God's creation. The world and God's ways constitute the arena and object of our academic goals for learning and teaching.





Abstract artist Leonard Nierman's painting, titled, "The Creation," on display in McNair Hall in The Morris Cultural Arts Center at Houston Baptist University.



PILLAR II

A Plan of RESTORATION

The world is fallen and, because of human rebellion, under a condition of chaos and brokenness, but God's plan of rescue, effected through the history of Israel and the nations and culminating through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, is one whereby God will unify all who trust in Christ and will one day restore the entire creation—heaven and earth, nations, peoples, and ethnicities—through him.





HBU student participates in Hurricane Harvey service project.



PILLAR III

The Importance of **HUMAN AGENCY**

God acts through the processes of history, and, as disorderly and chaotic as the world is, his work can still be done in it. Human beings, and especially his followers, are God's agents of restoration and possess certain capacities of will, talent, and giftedness. We are thus made to do his work in the world, and we attain to our greatest flourishing when we are submissive to his plans and purposes as revealed in Christ and Scripture.



Death could not hold you do



PILLAR IV

A Renewed **PEOPLE**

Through Christ and the Spirit, the church was created as the people of God who fulfill the promises made to Abraham. It is comprised of men and women from all segments of human societies and of whatever racial, ethnic, economic, national, or religious origin who confess allegiance to Christ and follow him as agents of God, empowered by the Spirit to worship, encourage, and teach one another to carry out God's restorative plans in the world. The church therefore labors with persistence to reflect now the love of God, whose purpose is the restorative summing up, the reunification, of all things in Christ. The church accomplishes its mandated mission, directed to all nations and peoples, by acts of healing, charity, service, teaching the gospel, and worshipping the Father, in the power of the Spirit, through Jesus Christ the Lord. The church does its work in a broken world and in anticipation of the return of Christ, who will raise the dead, judge the earth, and heal the nations, having subjected all things to himself.



HBU's "Refuge" leads faculty/students in worship at IGNITE conference.



PILLAR V *A Mandate to Understand* **THE WORLD**

The Christian university as an arm of the church participates in God's plan of rescue and does so in the sphere of long-term commitments, not immediate activism. As a university, we patiently trust God's working in history and confess that this is his world and he will accomplish his merciful intentions for it, however difficult they are to discern. God's purposes involve his use of all things good and evil and frequently require decades, centuries, and even millennia in their outworking. We nonetheless believe that his world and his ways are discernible and that, in spite of our own fallen state, we may make progress in knowledge. However, even with the ability to know, we now know only in part and must humbly examine our assumptions, methods, and conclusions, realizing that we are often mistaken, while awaiting the restoration of all things, when we will understand more fully the ways of God.

Our task is to understand all that we can of the world and his ways in it. We research, we teach, and we reflect upon the Creator, his world, and the peoples in it. We think about its origins and nature, its peoples and their histories. We study and analyze human beings, their social and political thought and behavior, their languages, philosophies, governments, and literature, and their beliefs and failures. We work for more than technological proficiency and professional expertise, as instrumental as these practices are. We preserve and retain the traditional arts of freedom—the liberal arts—to understand our purpose as humans, to build social structures of civility and justice, and to experience the liberty that enables us to be agents of order and peace, fulfilling God's purposes in the world. These tasks we do in an environment of faithful tolerance and intellectual freedom.





PILLAR VI

Learning and Teaching as **DISCIPLESHIP**

We believe that all forms of instruction, whether by teaching, counseling, performance, coaching, training, or research, are best done not only by reading and lecturing but by a kind of practicing discipleship. Professors and counselors are intended to be academic and professional leaders, well trained in their fields, knowledgeable experts who are able to teach. We also affirm that the transmission of knowledge occurs through human interaction and example, is empowered by relational engagement, and aims toward accountable and disciplined learning that produces transformed behavior and thinking. “The life of the mind” is not the cultivation of thinking and reflection in isolation. Those valuable disciplines of deep work and thought flourish in community and are intended to engender synthesis, communication, apprenticed learning, and constructive, purposeful behavior aimed at fulfilling God’s mission for the world. Work therefore is a divinely mandated expression of what it means to be truly human. It is an expression of vocation, and whether compensated or voluntary, it is an act of worship, stewardship, and obedience.



PILLAR VII

Life, Marriage, Gender, and **HUMANNNESS**

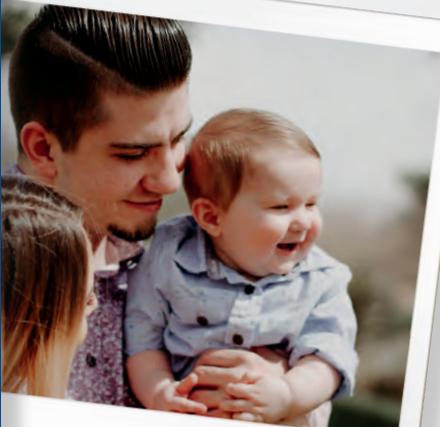
God created man and woman in his image and commissioned them as stewards and managers of his good creation. Life is therefore a purpose-driven gift of God, and we affirm the dignity of all people and the goodness of life from conception forward.

Marriage is a lifelong union of one man and one woman who are committed to each other in loving intimacy and constitutes the beginning of human community in service to God. We therefore believe in male and female genders as a gift of God reflected biologically in the genetic differences that are specific to an individual even before birth. Though the fallenness of this world and the curse of mortal corruption under which it exists can produce emotional confusion in individuals, we believe that gender identity is not self-determined or discontinuous with the bodies with which we were conceived and born.

We believe that full humanness was lost in the Fall, but incarnate in Jesus Christ, who is the very image of God. We believe that in Jesus, God has revealed the full humanity to which we are called and into which we will be transformed when we receive a resurrection body like Christ's. We believe in forgiveness through Christ, the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit, and the moral necessity to pursue even now the purity, blamelessness, and holiness that will accompany our restored humanity when God re-creates heaven and earth at the return of Christ.

We therefore believe the promised restoration of true humanness at the return of Christ stands in contradiction to all human efforts to create human beings in the image and likeness of artificial technologies, as in for example the practices of transhumanism as it aims toward a post humanist world.

We believe that living according to God's creational intent is central to purity and holiness, whereas violating God's laws, ways, and wisdom leads to the corruption of our humanness and, finally, death. The only remedy for such moral and physical corruption is the redeeming and re-creating power of God through Jesus Christ.





Rendering of The Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty Complex which is currently under construction and slated to open July 2022.



PILLAR VIII

Governmental

INSTITUTIONS

We believe in governmental institutions as established by God for the purpose of justice and human flourishing. We believe in the necessity of accountability in social life, as determined by just and fair structures of government, while also insisting that the freedoms of conscience, speech, and religious liberty in all matters of faith, practice, and belief must be maintained and supported. We seek always to honor the just and necessary constraints of a civil society and will work within the social contract to fulfill our responsibilities, though always subordinating all social and political demands to our loyalty to God and his will.



PILLAR IX

The Christian **UNIVERSITY**

We believe that a Christian university is a particular kind of university but it also shares certain historic functions common to all universities properly so called: a respect for the conscience of others, a love of learning, and the provision of an environment conducive to listening, debate, and the preservation, discovery, synthesis, and dissemination of knowledge. These functions represent intrinsic goods worth preserving, defending, and enabling to flourish.

The Christian university also exists at the interface between the church as God's imperfect but representative people and the world in its brokenness. We will therefore seek to translate the cultural, world-shaping mandates embedded in our Christian worldview as far as possible into the traditional structures of higher education, while also seeking to adapt and transform those structures in ways that are faithful to the pursuit of truth in every sphere of reality and that enable us efficiently to accomplish our purpose and mission as a Christian university, redeeming and re-creating power of God through Jesus Christ.



HBU faculty/staff attend service in HBU's Belin Chapel located in the Morris Cultural Arts Center.



PILLAR X

The Mystery of **UNITY IN CHRIST**

The restoration of the world involves, at its deepest levels, the reversal of human alienation from God, from other people, and from the creation. The rebellion of the human heart against God and the consequent corruption of the creation permeate the personal, social, and physical structures of human existence. Human societies embody these patterns of brokenness and are divided, racist, greedy, lustful, violent, and perverse, reflecting an idolatrous will to power. But these evidences of human pride have been denounced in Christ, the crucified and resurrected Son of God, who has conquered the powers of darkness, inaugurated the reign of God, and established his church, a community that, though itself still broken, best exemplifies in its Lord and the effects of the Spirit the beginning of a new creation, the restoration of all things. All peoples in Christ are united to one another, freed from the enslaving forces of lust, materialism, class, race, and power. Christ is reversing the prideful consequences of the Tower of Babel and creating a new people, his body, who no longer reflect the status distinctions of nations and ethnicities, slave and free, male and female, educated and foolish, Jew and Gentile. The walls of division that separate the human family are broken down in Christ, who thus establishes the true peace of God. This peace from oneness, a mystery begun in Christ and worked toward by the church, will be fully revealed at the return of Christ, when “the glory of God will fill the earth like the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14; cf. Isaiah 11:9; John 12:20-32; Ephesians 2:1-3:21; Philippians 3:20-21).



HBU is situated on a 158-acre campus in the southwest area of Houston, Texas, the nation's fourth-largest city, minutes from the downtown district.

EPILOGUE

Like every confession of enduring convictions, this one, too, has emerged from a particular historical context. This vision document for Houston Baptist University grows out of listening sessions and information gathered over the last several years, but these words are being written during the COVID-19 crisis, whose end we have yet to foresee. The pandemic has changed much of how we manage and deliver the content of higher education and affects greatly our ability to project trends for the future. In addition to the virus-related social and economic turmoil and the subsequent conditions of rapid change that it has generated and under which all of us operate—whether in higher education or other enterprises—this document is being composed on the heels of the most divisive, rancorous, and bitterly fought national elections since the reelection of Abraham Lincoln in 1864. The United States is experiencing a cultural divide of significant proportions; one even hears use of the word “secession.” This social chasm did not suddenly occur. We are reminded more than ever that politics is downstream from culture and that

the divisions we are now experiencing, though no doubt exacerbated by the recent election cycle, have a longer history, going back many decades at least. We didn't get to this point of national crisis overnight, and it will not be repaired with a series of court decisions or legislative maneuvers.

All of us, in our families, work environments, professional associations, voluntary societies, and political organizations, must consider and reflect upon the roots of these chaotic days and look for deeper sources of renewal whereby some modicum of peace and unity can be achieved. We must undertake painstaking and patient efforts at considering the things that truly matter. Political structures, parties, and leaders have great influence, but unity and renewal will not happen through new laws, suppression, censorship, or political mandate; nor do we require or want superficially contrived methods of uniformity. Rather, we need at a minimum good faith discussions of honest differences within contexts of mutual respect and freedom. These are long-term projects.





We are not utopians. These problems are deeply embedded within the human situation, individually and socially; but we also believe that universities, though they too have contributed to our social ills, can provide (as can the family, houses of worship, and other voluntary societies) a context for approaching these age-old problems of human brokenness. Universities by their very nature and historical disposition are well situated to undertake this kind of long-term work by recommitting themselves as models and laboratories of freedom, thus reflecting the human capacity to tolerate vigorous differences. American universities must preserve and in some cases restore their historic practices of protecting and exercising the freedoms of conscience and speech. These historic behaviors and commitments can begin to renew the role

of education, including university education, in our culture. Honoring these values will engender and in some cases restore public respect for the university and its mission. The university must, by conversation, reflection, research, writing, and teaching, exemplify those unifying commitments that can draw us together into a just and tolerant society, modeling what it means to be truly human.

Houston Baptist University endeavors to be just such a university—founded and framed by the convictions of these Ten Pillars, animated and sustained by our central confession that Jesus Christ is Lord. By God’s grace, we will be a place of stable shelter where wisdom may flourish even as the winds blow and the nations rage.

¹ Some phrases and themes borrowed from “The Ten Pillars: Faith and Reason in a Great City,” Houston Baptist University, amended August 2016, <https://hbu.edu/about-hbu/the-ten-pillars/>.

² Richard John Neuhaus, “The Christian University: Eleven Theses,” *First Things*, January 1996, <https://www.firstthings.com/article/1996/01/the-christian-university-eleven-theses>.

³ Analogy borrowed from N.T. Wright, *Paul and the Faithfulness of God* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013), 463. See also N.T. Wright, *The New Testament and the People of God* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992), Ch. 3.

⁴ The word *worldview*, if narrowly understood, would privilege the notion of viewing or looking. However, we include in our use of the word other senses (physical and intuitive) and ways of knowing (individual or communal), such as listening to music or touching material objects, to enable the gathering and assimilation of data.

⁵ For a fuller summary of the biblical narrative and its implications, see *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*, Ch. 7.





PASSION for The Pillars

*By Dr. Stanley Napper, Provost and
Vice President of Academic Affairs, HBU*

It is an honor and a calling to serve as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Houston Baptist University. The mission of HBU is unique, motivational, and desperately needed in the world of higher education. The history of HBU, as recorded by my predecessor in the role, Dr. Don Looser, is truly "An Act of Providence." Serving here is an "act of providence" for me personally, as well as a calling, a miracle and an opportunity.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE AND CALLING

I came to HBU in 2017 on a mission, a calling from God to start an engineering school; this mission is still a driving motivation for me, and we look forward to having our first graduates in May 2022. In 2019,

President Sloan asked me to lead a new College of Science and Engineering, formed from the still new engineering school and the long-respected College of Science and Mathematics.



Additionally, God has provided me with experience, wisdom, ideas, and confidence gained through raising a family (Vicki and I have been married 41 years; we have eight children who were homeschooled, five of whom are married, and we have four grandsons and a baby granddaughter). God has also nurtured

my leadership by allowing me to serve at my local church in various capacities, and to pursue scholarship and academic training (BS and PhD in Biomedical Engineering).

ROLE OF THE PROVOST

As Provost, I view myself as the Chief Learner; I look forward to constantly gaining new knowledge and confronting the challenges that arise from the subjects in all our colleges. I have the privilege and the responsibility to learn about all the disciplines and programs and faculty, as well as learning new aspects of executive level administration in higher education. I also hope to be a facilitator of the organization, sustainability, and excellence of HBU's academic processes and programs. The Provost must also be a facilitator of the Christian mission and purpose of the University. In doing these things, the Provost serves as a representative of the administration (the Executive Council), of the faculty and staff, and of the students.



PASSION FOR LEADERSHIP

When I was interviewed for my first dean's job in 2004, I asked God to help me understand what was needed and how to lead that organization. I believe He showed me some ideas that have been practical and very useful to me since that time, and likely for the remainder of my administrative service. To a large degree, these principles define my leadership style.

P - PURPOSE = the reason, the motivation, the goal, the concise statement of vision and mission, for a person, or a committee, or an organization. Stating and knowing the purpose makes decision-making, especially in hard times, clearer. It makes committee meetings more focused and makes personal prioritization of time and effort clearer.

A - ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT = striving to improve by knowing where you stand and evaluating if you are making progress. It helps in this effort to be accountable to friends or to objective observers. To be the "best," you must know the standards, know when you are not meeting the standards, and when you are improving.

S - SERVICE TO STUDENTS = adjusting methods and attitudes and priorities to place the role of serving students as our top priority. Even scholarship, research, publication, or service can and should be motivated by its benefit to the students. This is also an expression of our surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ, as an expression of our service to Him.

S - STRATEGIC PLAN = a structure for moving forward with many different and sometimes competing activities and tasks in a framework for assuring completeness and accomplishment. A strategic plan flows from the vision and mission, but it is expressed in tasks and actions, metrics and timelines, rationale and results.

I - INTERDISCIPLINARY INTEGRATION = bringing together diverse disciplines, diverse perspectives, and diverse experiences that complement and sharpen everyone on the team.

O - ORGANIZATION = structure and process and expectation and order; expressed in forms, committees, minutes of meetings, and deadlines.

N - NEW IDEAS (FLEXIBILITY) = innovative processes and expectations and curricula; based on assessment and structure, but not bound by structure; involves accepting risk and novel ideas.

& PASS IT ON = COMMUNICATION, the last but not least of the PASSION leadership principles; it is a reminder that internally and externally, effective communication is a priority and a challenge and a routine.

"I hope our alumni and supporters can see in these principles and priorities ways that you can pray for HBU, and to engage and support us in our shared mission."

– Dr. Stanley Napper, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, HBU



I am committed to pursue our Christ-centered education mission, to identify the needs that HBU's academic programs can address, and to find the methods that will bring the deepest impact to today's students and culture. We will endeavor to use resources (faculty, staff, students, equipment, space, and funding) effectively and strategically; to collaborate and support each other across academic units; and to provide the information and motivation to support each program. We will continue to innovate our degree programs, delivery methods, and our view of revenue and resources. We will find ways to integrate people and programs and to demonstrate to our students that the liberal arts are vital to every meaningful human endeavor, including the professions.

I hope our faculty and students have already observed these leadership principles and style in the last year (four years at HBU). I hope our alumni and supporters can see in these principles and priorities ways that you can pray for HBU, and to engage and support us in our shared mission. I hope our HBU family would find that I am objective, honest, candid, and transparent; thoughtful and open-minded; faithful and dependable; responsive to research and data; able and willing to share decision-making and responsibility; organized, but flexible; creative, but receptive; willing and capable of leading, but willing and capable of following; willing to offer and try new ideas, and willing to back off when there is no consensus; willing to ask hard questions and make hard decisions; and willing to receive and attempt to answer hard questions.



HBU Executive Council and Trustees at College of Engineering Lab Dedication.

PRIORITIES FOR THE PROVOST

With four new deans, and new leadership in Student Affairs, we are working together to evaluate and improve our academic programs and student success initiatives. We recently launched the Center for Learning Innovations and Teaching Excellence (C-LITE), a faculty-led professional development center to help all our faculty more effectively use instructional technology and pedagogical methods which meet the needs of Gen Z students and adult learners.

We are also continuing a long, sustained effort to implement strategic activities such as: a more streamlined academic administration; growing emphasis on the integration of faith and learning; more well-integrated partnerships between online & residential divisions of HBU; innovative and functional models for budget preparation and management; responsiveness to the changing demographics of the student body and the support needed for first generation students; routine academic program review; a recommitment to "build on the classics"; and building key programs to a level of national influence.

Obviously, these are significant goals, and we do not expect to accomplish all of them in one year, and some

projects may take years. Here are some of the initiatives that are underway:

- **Long-Term Sustainability of HBU:** We are assessing the possibility of future changes in federal funding, restrictions or requirements for religious institutions, declining economy, changing demographics, or other factors that impact the affordability or the viability of the institution and its programs.
- **Ten Pillars for 2030:** The foundation narrative of the document was written by Dr. Sloan. He identified 10 core convictions that will guide the University for the next 10 years, and a number of spheres of influence in which HBU could and should make an impact for the kingdom of God. A series of listening sessions and input opportunities in October of 2019 resulted in pages of innovative and strategic ideas. The Executive Council dedicated three full days at the beginning of 2021 to begin prioritizing these ideas, to evaluate trends and possibilities over the next few years, and to develop a framework for a new plan. Teams of faculty and staff worked



2018 College of Engineering Advisory Board

tirelessly this fall to complete the plan in order to share it with the Husky family.

- **Faculty Hiring for 2021-2022:** In recent years, due to a number of compounding circumstances, the number of full-time faculty has decreased during a time when the number of students has increased. A focus for 2021-2022 will be to meet some urgent needs for professors in certain areas. We have hired 22 new faculty since Fall of 2020 (of which over one-third are from under-represented minorities.)
- **Fund-Raising for STEM Building:** This is a \$50M project for which \$21M has been pledged. This project could be transformative, not only for science, engineering and nursing programs, but also for every program on campus as it draws good students and teachers to the campus and meets the high demand for graduates of these programs.
- **Launching The Morris Family Center for Law and Liberty:** Construction on the first phase of the Center's permanent home in a full-scale replica of

Independence Hall is planned to finish by Fall 2022. The center will include two adjacent academic buildings. This will bring thousands of new visitors to our campus every year and will widen our ability to inculcate a deeper appreciation and application of America's democratic and constitutional ideals in a time when these are highly contested.

- **Provost's Excellence Fund:** \$100,000 has been budgeted in 2021-2022 to support innovative projects that lead to excellence in any aspect of academic affairs or student affairs. Up to ten awards will be made from these funds. The purpose of the Provost's Excellence Fund is to encourage and support innovative proposals that advance Christian worldview integration, cross-disciplinary integration, service to students leading to student success, or organizational efficiency. We hope that these pilot or preliminary projects could lead to new programs, services, technology, or teams that serve the mission of HBU.

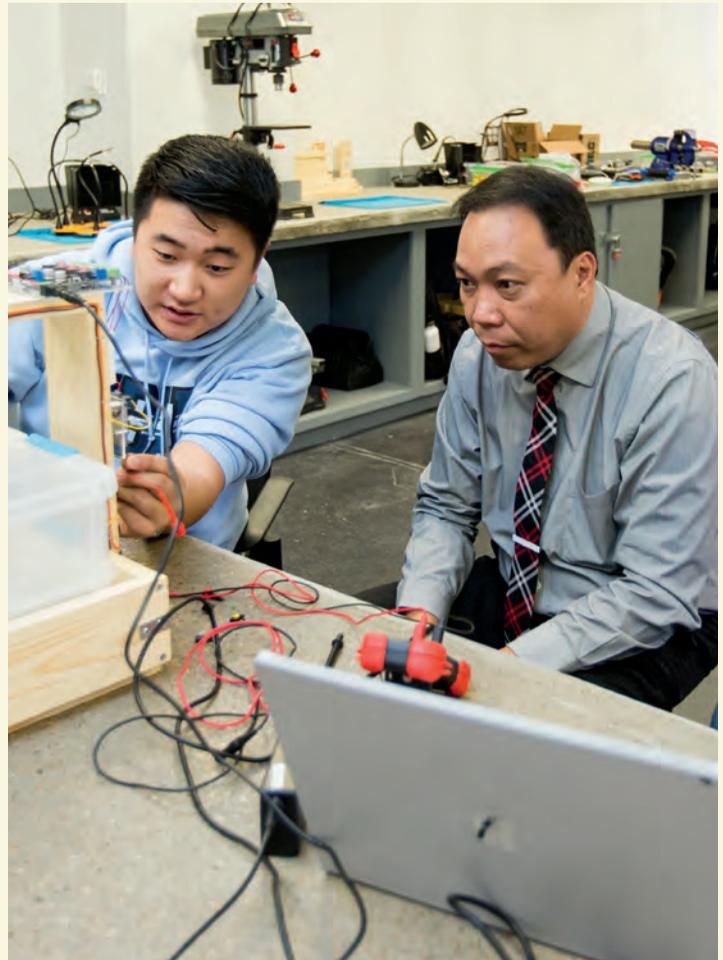
VISION FOR THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

My "vision" for the academic programs at HBU derives from the University's mission statement. We should strive to be the best college in the world for demonstrating and building academic, professional, and spiritual excellence. Academic excellence is demonstrated by faculty and students in courses, undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees, online learning, active learning, and Gen Z learning. Professional excellence is demonstrated in service to our academic disciplines, service to the University, scholarship and research, and developing future professionals. Spiritual excellence is demonstrated by communicating the Lordship of Jesus Christ and its implications for every sphere of life and human knowledge, communicating the presence and power of God's Spirit, and communicating the way, the truth and the life found in God's Word and His Son.

A truly Christian university exhibits a clear Christian identity, is led by core convictions, is accountable to the larger Christian community, and is an extension of the heart of the church. The faculty of a Christian university must be committed to its Christian purpose and must search for truth in the many ways God reveals it. The Christian university, while plural in expression, is unified in faith and in truth, recognizing that all genuine truth is found in God. The faculty must be willing and able to address hard questions about truth, and to demonstrate



how every discipline is enlightened by Christ. These principles are taken from "The Christian University: Eleven Theses" by Richard John Neuhaus (<https://www.firstthings.com/article/1996/01/the-christian-university-eleven-theses>).

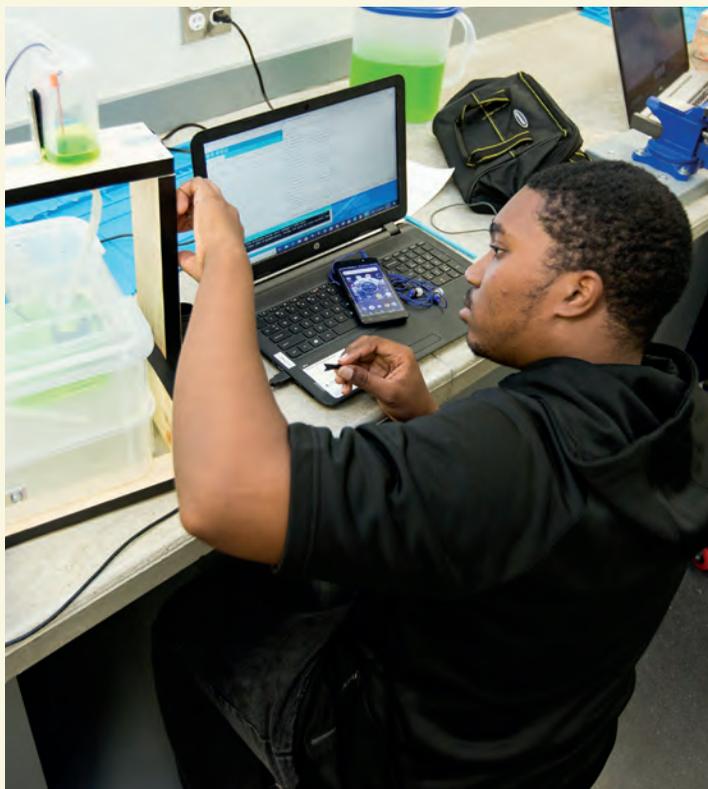


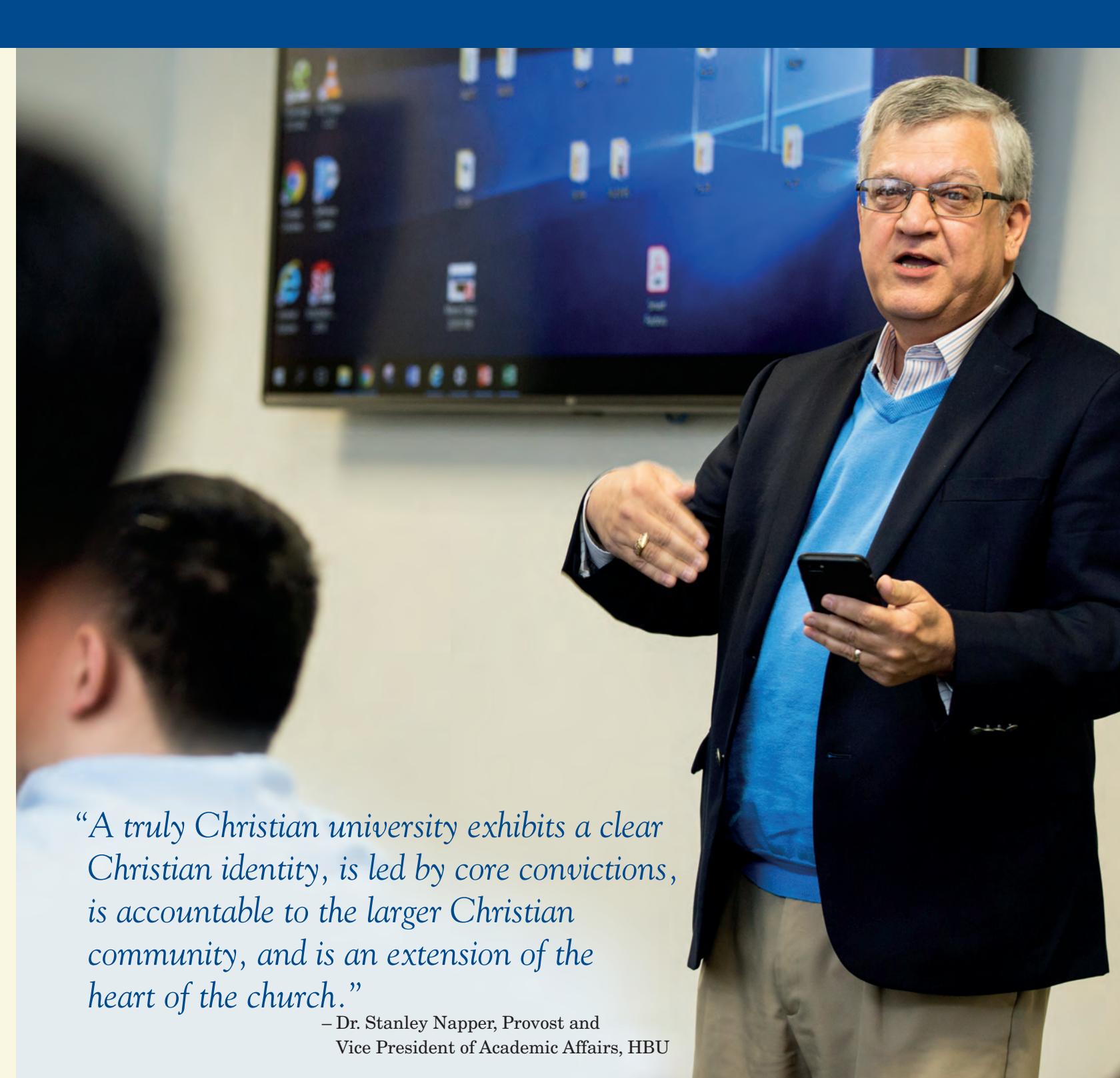
VISION FOR THE FACULTY

Dr. Sloan's vision for faculty hiring begins with the understanding that "curriculum is important, but faculty are more important." Each new, and continuing faculty member at HBU should:

- Express a robust Christian faith
- Enthusiastically prefer to be at a Christian university with a biblical foundation and mission like HBU
- Care about the transformation of students and serve as a mentor and friend to students
- Offer good credentials; from their past work and with evidence that they are still learning and growing professionally
- Help the University recruit and hire other faculty who embrace our core convictions and mission

As Provost, I fully endorse these criteria and seek to identify and employ as our teachers and mentors those who exhibit all five of these criteria. In addition, I would like to hire role models for our students who can relate to their backgrounds and cultures, who can become mentors and encouragers to our diverse student population, and who can adapt their methods for the mission field we serve. I enjoy the opportunity to interview every final faculty candidate, to consider student evaluations in the search process, and to rely on strong communication between dean and candidate during the entire search process. We are placing a renewed emphasis on teaching and mentoring as forms of discipleship.





“A truly Christian university exhibits a clear Christian identity, is led by core convictions, is accountable to the larger Christian community, and is an extension of the heart of the church.”

– Dr. Stanley Napper, Provost and
Vice President of Academic Affairs, HBU

FINAL WORDS

I hope that, as Provost of HBU, I can serve as the Chief Learner, and as a role model; still reading, studying, and learning. After having served almost fifty years as a choir accompanist, I hope I can demonstrate the attitude of a good accompanist - someone who skillfully plays his instrument while others direct and perform, but also having occasional opportunities to introduce, or conclude, or interlude. I hope I can continue to be Dad to my adult children

and my small grandchildren, but employ some of the same concepts that make fatherhood incredibly important and rewarding in my work at HBU - looking ahead, protecting, leading by example, finding resources, working in a team, leading those you serve toward independence from me and dependence on God. Above all, I hope can continue to be a disciple - desperately praying, needing God, willing to go anywhere and do anything.

HBU Provides Unique Path to Ministry



Houston Baptist University provides a unique path to ministry with the launch of the 5 Year BA-to-MDiv Degree program which combines the Bachelor of Arts in Christianity and the Master of Divinity. Spearheaded by Dr. Jason Maston, Associate Dean of the School of Christian Thought and former dean, Dr. Todd Bates, the program provides an innovative and cost-effective way for students entering vocational ministry to reduce the time associated with obtaining a degree from an average 7-to-8 years to 5 years.

"The program began with the felt need for undergraduates to be able to move toward ministry in an efficient and cost-effective way without sacrificing the quality of their learning," said Dr. Philip Tallon, HBU Dean of the School of Christian Thought, who commended Maston, current director of the program, and Bates for their efforts in developing the degree plan.

Launched in 2019, the BA-to-MDiv program is an intense 156-hour academic program that allows students to complete their undergraduate and graduate degrees in five years. Built on HBU's liberal arts core curriculum, the degree plan provides students with a broad foundation for lifelong learning while preparing them for ministry through

in-depth biblical and theological studies in the context of practical hands-on training. The program's dual-degree format reduces the time it takes to obtain a degree and, as a result, saves ministry students thousands in tuition costs.

"One of the best gifts a future minister can receive is high-quality education with little debt. The BA-MDiv can save a student 3 years and over \$30,000, both of which can be spent in developing the next stage of their careers," said Dr. Tallon.

Candidates who pursue this innovative dual degree have the opportunity to intern with local churches and ministry partners to gain practical, hands-on ministry experience that empowers them to grow spiritually with the guidance of a mentor.

"There aren't many programs like this in the country," said Dr. Tallon. "Given the desire for many ministers to go on and seek additional qualifications and degrees, the 5-year program gives students the gift of more time and opportunity to develop their career throughout their adulthood."

In the Spring 2022 semester, HBU is preparing to graduate the University's first cohort of students who will



The 5 Year BA-to-MDiv is a 156-hour program that combines the Bachelor of Arts in Christianity and the Master of Divinity

- An intense 5-year academic program designed to teach you the Bible, theology and ministry
- The dual degree could save you \$30,000 dollars in tuition costs
- Work together in a ministry cohort and develop life-long friendships
- Intern with local churches and ministry partners to get hands-on ministry experience
- Spiritual formation and mentorships
- Complete both degrees in 5 years rather than the normal 7-to-8 years

Possible MDiv careers in ministry after graduation

- Pastor
- Church Planter
- Church Staff
- Missionary
- Youth Pastor
- Non-profit

For more information, visit [HBU.edu/ba-mdiv](https://www.hbu.edu/ba-mdiv).

be headed into ministry across the world.

Daylon Piper started the BA-to-MDiv program at the beginning of his sophomore year. Piper values the ministry experience he is receiving through the program and appreciates that it is grounded in a solid academic foundation that he hopes will enable him to successfully pursue his PhD and equip him for pastoral ministry. He also is a member of HBU's Honors College and has been able to handle the busy schedule entailed in both programs.

"Being able to complete a 7-year process over the course of 5 years has developed me into a far more disciplined person. The workload, though great at certain points, has definitely been manageable, and has helped me develop a better schedule. It has also taught me to manage multiple responsibilities at once, as my internship and school work often bring different challenges to the table," said Piper.

Erin Shelly, another BA-to-MDiv degree candidate, describes the program as an absolute blessing. "I knew my second year into my biblical studies degree that I wanted to get a master's degree in the field of theology, but realistically and financially, I knew that it would take

me a couple of years after I graduated to be able to go back to school," said Shelly.

Not sure that she wanted to wait that long, Shelly was elated when she learned that HBU would be launching the unique dual-degree program and knew immediately that she wanted to apply.

Shelly is set to complete the program in May 2022 and looks forward to being among the first group of program graduates. "I couldn't have been blessed more. The classes are amazing, the professors are superb, and it lifted the financial worry off my shoulders. I would recommend this program to any theology student who is starting their undergrad degree and knows that they want to pursue a master's after their undergraduate studies," shared Shelly.

Dr. Tallon has high hopes for the BA-to-MDiv program's continued success and believes it is an attractive option for students seeking to serve in ministry.

"We hope that this will become a hallmark program from HBU's Theology Department, attracting eager future ministers from around the country. In years to come, we expect hundreds of stories about successful ministries launched by this innovative program," said Dr. Tallon.



**An Inside Look at
HBU's New Doctor of
Ministry Program with**
Director Benjamin C. Blackwell

Preparations are underway for the launch of a new Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program at Houston Baptist University (HBU). Championed by two long-time faculty members, Dr. Philip Tallon, Dean of the School of Christian Thought, and Dr. Benjamin C. Blackwell, Director of HBU's Houston Theological Seminary (HTS), HBU's new DMin program is set to launch in the Fall of 2022 to provide a Kingdom-focused experience where leaders participate in a community of learning to gain specialist expertise and to be formed spiritually.

The program will be the fourth doctoral program offered by HBU, which will move the University to Degree Level VI, the highest degree level available for research universities under the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, shared Dr. Blackwell, who will serve as director of the new doctoral program.

Not only will this program influence the life of the seminary, but it will help the wider HBU community foster a research environment where the Christian faith is recognized as the foundation for all academic pursuit, shared Dr. Blackwell.

DMin degree candidates will embark on a 3-year journey of intense biblical study, traveling to the HBU campus one week each semester for residential study and also joining research seminars virtually twice a month via synchronous video. The program is founded on HBU's core conviction that the whole Bible coherently speaks to God's redemptive work in the world. This climaxes in Jesus as the Messiah-King establishing the Kingdom of God in the power of the Spirit. Working from that central foundation students will explore the nature of God's redemptive work through one of two tracks—New Testament and Faith & Culture.

"These tracks build on our distinctive strengths in both areas since we have one of the largest New Testament faculties and also one of the largest Apologetics faculties in the US," said Blackwell.

Dr. Tallon has led HTS's Apologetics program since

he joined HBU as a faculty member, and Dr. Blackwell has served as director of HTS since its founding. Both have provided years of investment in HBU's students and will serve as key faculty in the program. The new doctoral program will benefit from Dr. Tallon's expertise in the intersection of theology, culture and the arts and Dr. Blackwell's focus on the application of the New Testament in different cultures through time.

The DMin program will also draw from the breadth and depth of all HBU faculty, particularly those with expertise in New Testament and Apologetics. Dr. Craig Evans, the John Bisango Distinguished Professor

of Christian Origins, brings a lifetime of study of the NT in its historical context with a distinct expertise in Jesus' Jewish context, such as that evidenced in the Dead Sea Scrolls. In Apologetics, Dr. Michael Ward likewise represents the best of contemporary scholarship on C.S. Lewis and his approach to how theology engages the modern world.

At the heart of the new doctoral program is a support system for Christian leaders who are guiding the church in increasingly complex times. The aim is to provide doctoral degree candidates with ready access to a peer community designed to serve as a sounding board for ideas and also a source of challenge and consolation in difficult times.

"As we support leaders within their Kingdom pursuits, we want to be a place of healing, encouragement, and strengthening so they can supernaturally pursue their calling. We intentionally intermix leaders within both tracks—NT and Faith & Culture—so they can mutually

benefit one another," said Dr. Blackwell.

Students will have a ready community that encourages them to be more solidly grounded in the truth of Scripture and, at the same time, help them to discern how to lead the church through cultural challenges to fulfill HTS's mission to ground leaders in biblical truth, form them to have a beautiful faith, and



Dr. Philip Tallon

A distinct aspect of the program will be its intentional focus on developing thought leaders who are great practitioners.



Doctor of Ministry Scholarships Honoring Colonel Newt Cole

We are very pleased that the new Doctor of Ministry Program (DMin) has garnered the support of friends of HBU. Jerry & Kay Cox created an endowed scholarship in honor of Colonel Newt V. Cole, a friend of the University who passed away this year. Col. Cole was a retired Air Force Chaplain with a lifetime of faithful ministry. Before he passed, Col. Cole also made a very generous gift to support DMin students and an extremely generous estate gift that will carry on his legacy of service and love for the ministry. We are thankful to both parties for their commitment to helping refresh and support working ministers.



prepare them for a flourishing ministry.

A distinct aspect of the program will be its intentional focus on developing thought leaders who are great practitioners.

"DMin programs usually focus on helping leaders become better practitioners, and we want to continue in that tradition. We, however, recognize that the church needs leaders who are not just focused on specific ministry settings. There has too long been a divide between PhD programs focused on the conceptual underpinnings of theology and culture and DMin programs focused on the practical implementation in a particular setting," said Dr. Blackwell.

As Director of HBU's DMin Program, Dr. Blackwell's goal is to support those who want to bridge the concept-practice divide as the program helps practitioners to become thought leaders.

"This wider vision means that our program will not just benefit local churches and ministries, but "the Church" as she navigates the wider world. The church needs visionary leaders who can speak to our most pressing challenges that arise from wider cultural movements. As a result, we want to engage pastoral leaders as well as those in less traditional ministries because we know the church needs thoughtful and grounded leaders in many areas of life," he shared.

Dr. Blackwell believes that the bridge between theology and practice should be at the heart of the purpose of any seminary, an integration that he embraces at HTS. He is excited about the opportunities that the DMin program will represent for the wider seminary community because this will more fully integrate the churches and ministries into the life of the seminary.

As with medical schools that demand both academic engagement at the highest level and excellence in the practice of this knowledge, Blackwell wants to bring both aspects together.

"Having these Christian leaders in our wider community will allow us to integrate academic study with the practice of ministry more fully, particularly with use of case studies for those studying for future ministry," he shared.

"Houston is a wonderfully diverse city, and it is often described as a harbinger of American culture in the next 50 years as the rest of the U.S. experiences increasing ethnic and social diversity. As Houston's Seminary, we want our



programs to reflect that trend-setting nature. We want our programs to be nationally recognized for setting out the vision for integrated training. That is, we strive to be a community that integrates academic excellence with the practice of faith and ministry, such that our students are holistically formed into the image of Christ—not just intellectually (head), but also loving God (heart) and loving others (hands)," shared Dr. Blackwell.

Blackwell believes that HBU's new doctoral program will be successful to the extent that Christian leaders are faithfully serving the Kingdom of God in a wide variety of areas according to their spiritual gifting. Not only that, he believes that they need to be visionary leaders who expertly understand and communicate how Christians can embody the biblical narrative in this complex world. In this way, leaders will be formed in such a way that they can stand up in the midst of challenges internal and external, adds Blackwell.

"For instance, the church is facing a coming crisis among leaders because longevity in ministry seems harder and harder to attain. We want to embed leaders in healthy peer communities so they can sustain through the challenges of ministry. In that way that ministers struggle to sustain their ministry, the Church often struggles to maintain its commitment to truth and holiness. We not only want to encourage leaders but also the Church itself through visionary leaders committed to biblical truth," he said.

Cultural changes present challenges for ministry, but also opportunities, said Dr. Blackwell, who envisions opportunities to interact with the global church in new ways.

"Our goal is that the DMin program would provide for students to engage global opportunities, not least in our planned trips to Israel, but also engaging international ministries. We also look forward to those ministering internationally to come and study at HBU, thus expanding the HBU influence more widely," said the HBU DMin Program Director.

Program Distinctives

Study Hard with the Experts

Our program, with tracks in New Testament and Faith & Culture, immerses you in subjects with leading experts who actively publish in our fields. Study with faculty like Craig Evans and Ben Blackwell in New Testament and Michael Ward and Philip Tallon in Faith & Culture.

Grow through Community

We intentionally foster personal connection through our courses, and the residentials include worship, prayer, and spiritual direction.

Be Inspired by Fresh Experiences

Our Doctor of Ministry program is designed to facilitate encounters with leaders and organizations engaging culture with the truth of the Gospel.

Core Program Structure

The core doctoral program (30 hours) can be completed in as few as three years. Most courses are semester-long and hybrid in format, focused on one-week residential intensives here in Houston. Some students may require leveling work before starting doctoral classes.

Scholarships

- Church/Org-matching Scholarship
- Program Scholarship – based on strength of application
- Alumni Scholarship – for any HBU/HTS alumni

For more information, see [HBU.edu/dmin](https://www.hbu.edu/dmin).
Or email bblackwell@hbu.edu
or call **281-649-3419**

Meet HBU's New Assistant Coaches



KAITY CUMMINGS

Men's & Women's Golf
Hometown: Waco, Texas
Alma Mater: HBU, 2019



BYRON RIMM

Men's Basketball
Hometown: Greenwood, S.C.
Alma Mater: Cal State-
Los Angeles, 1999



LO RIVAS

Women's Soccer
Hometown:
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Alma Mater: Rice, 2016



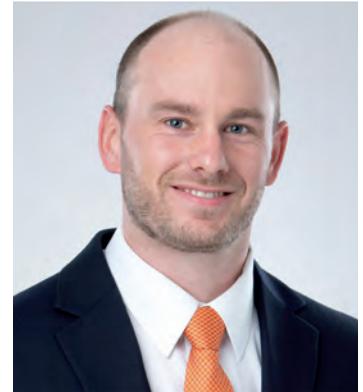
CLAY VANDERLAAN

Baseball
Hometown: Houston, Texas
Alma Mater: Graceland, 2014



KACIE CRYER

Women's Basketball
Hometown: Abbeville, La.
Alma Mater:
LSU-Shreveport, 2008



SHANE EACHUS

Football
Hometown: Aston, Pa.
Alma Mater: Ursinus, 2012



TYLER BREMER

Baseball
Hometown: Berkeley, Calif.
Alma Mater: Baylor, 2012



ARCHIE MASSEN

Men's Soccer
Hometown: Lincoln, England
Alma Mater:
UT Rio Grande Valley, 2016



DRAKE SMITHTON

Football
Hometown: Woodward, Okla.
Alma Mater: Emporia State, 2016

A New Era for HBU Women's Soccer



For the first time since 2006, the HBU women's soccer season started with a new head coach overseeing the program with Chris Dodd taking over after Misty Jones' retirement following the spring 2021 season. That's not to say that Dodd is not intimately familiar with HBU or the program he is now leading, however.

Jones started the current incarnation of the women's soccer program at HBU in 2006 (the University fielded a women's soccer team for two years in 1986 and 1987) with her husband, Steve, restarting the men's soccer program at the same time. Dodd first came to the HBU campus a year later, joining the men's team as a freshman goalkeeper in 2007. In four seasons with the Huskies, Dodd amassed 21 wins, 11 shutouts and 187 saves.

He pursued opportunities to play soccer professionally, traveling for a few trials with professional clubs and playing one season for FC Korsholm in Finland before returning to Texas in 2014 and living in San Marcos. At the time, he was searching for what was next professionally but hadn't yet viewed coaching as a career opportunity.

"Coaching was something I had always participated in in some form and I knew I had the tools for, but I hadn't really thought of it as a career ambition," he said.

That fall, in August of 2014, a conversation with Steve Jones led to a part-time position working with the HBU men's and women's goalkeepers during the week for the 2014 season. That following spring, it was Misty Jones who broached the subject of Dodd joining her and taking over the open assistant coach position on the women's staff.

"After the fall of 2014, I loved everything I was doing and the potential or opportunity to make that my job, to be coach soccer, to be around the University and this age group became a realization for me. When Misty talked to

me about the position, I did a lot of searching and a lot of praying. It was one of those things where as everything started to line up I looked back and realized I had kind of been working towards it the whole time and that this is what I was meant to do."

Dodd notes that a strong relationship with the Jones family, dating back to 2007 when he joined the Huskies as a student-athlete, helped ease the transition to collegiate assistant coach. Having spent time at the Jones home and knowing their children all helped he and Misty understand one another's personalities from the start as he took to the task of learning the responsibilities of coaching at the college level, from what the logistics and rules are for recruiting to how to fill out and turn in an expense report.

When it comes to learning on the job, Dodd got a terrific mentor in Jones. Jones racked up 126 wins in her 15 years at HBU, winning three conference tournament titles and twice reaching the NCAA Tournament.

He mentions the growth of the relationship between himself and his boss and a strong understanding of how to fill in the gaps for the other and work complementarily in their roles. He began to see increased mentorship on the part of Jones to help prepare him for head coaching responsibilities.

"Misty gave me more influence on what scheduling looked like, more tactical influence and overall direction of the program. I think as the relationship grew she saw the potential to be a head coach in me and I certainly felt that over the last couple of years."

Goals for his time as head coach include some things you might expect, like winning another conference championship and returning to the NCAA Tournament, while others include identifying old habits and redefining the culture. The importance is finding elements from the past that worked and that should carry over while also identifying things that didn't work and need to change. The challenge for Dodd and assistant coach Lo Rivas is how to make that happen when a majority of the roster was on the team last season with Dodd as associate head coach and Rivas a volunteer assistant, giving a great deal of familiarity and comfort in how things were done in the past.

Having seen a good portion of the history of the women's program first-hand, as a student-athlete on campus and then later as a coach, Dodd recognizes the importance of the past while looking forward.

"Knowing the history of the program and experiencing a lot of it, I know some of the highs and lows but also recognize what women's soccer represents at the University. It's certainly a high standard all the way around; academically, socially and athletically."



Trent Herman 200th Victory

On Sept. 18, HBU volleyball swept Grambling, 3-0 (25-19, 25-12, 25-18), in Nacogdoches, Texas, for head coach Trent Herman's 200th career victory.

Herman is in his 10th season at HBU and has recorded 157 of those 200 wins with the Huskies. He previously spent two seasons as the head coach across town at the University of St. Thomas.

This season has seen its challenges, beginning with assistant coach Molly Howard Gerwig's cancer diagnosis in May. Then, the Huskies were without three-time all-conference outside hitter Mikayla Vivens for the first month of the season, as well as other injuries to starters throughout September.

Despite the fluid lineup, HBU was able to pull off one of the most stunning victories during Herman's tenure as

the Huskies downed TCU, 3-2 (16-25, 25-22, 28-26, 16-25, 15-13), Sept. 10 in Fort Worth. Thanks to a stellar recruiting class and the steady leadership of junior setter Ellie Wipf, HBU was able to get out to a 9-5 start heading into Southland Conference play.

The volleyball program has been solid for the decade under Herman's leadership, advancing to the Southland Conference Tournament all eight seasons HBU has been in the league. While a Southland title has been elusive, the Huskies have advanced to the championship match once and the semifinals three times.

Southeastern was originally scheduled to host the Southland Conference Tournament in Hammond, but with storm damage throughout southern Louisiana, the event has been moved to Houston. The Huskies will host the championship for the first time Nov. 18-21 in Sharp Gym.

What is NIL?



Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) are three elements that make up a legal concept known as “right of publicity.” In June, the state of Texas passed a law, Senate Bill 1385 related to collegiate athletic NIL, which creates a framework to allow student-athletes to earn compensation for the use of their name, image or likeness.

The bill prohibits public or private institutions in the state of Texas from restricting a student-athlete's ability to earn compensation for the use of their NIL when the student-athlete is not engaged in official team activities, or prohibit them from obtaining professional representation, including representation by an athlete agent or attorney for certain purposes. The bill would also prohibit an institution from providing or soliciting a prospective student-athlete with compensation related to the athlete's NIL.

The HBU athletic department has created the HBU You Name, Image & Likeness Program to educate its student-athletes and help them navigate this new legislation. HBU has also partnered with NOCAP Sports to assist with the education and allow the student-athletes to maximize their opportunities.

FAQs

Will universities pay student-athletes for NIL?

No, endorsement deals are between the student-athletes and the company for which they are contracted.

Will the athletic department seek out opportunities for the student-athletes or offer them to prospective student-athletes?

No, according to SB 1385, institutions are not allowed to seek out opportunities for student-athletes – the student-athletes must secure endorsements on their own or with the assistance of a firm, such as NOCAP Sports.

What are the athletic department's responsibilities pertaining to NIL?

The athletic department is required to provide at least five hours of education to student-athletes annually about NIL-related topics and have secured the services of NOCAP Sports to assist with the process.

Are there restrictions on what student-athletes can endorse?

Yes, student-athletes are prohibited from endorsing alcohol, tobacco products, e-cigarettes, firearms the student-athlete cannot legally purchase, or products that promote gambling. They also cannot endorse products of competitors with university or athletic department contracts.

For more information on NIL, visit the Compliance page on [HBUHuskies.com](https://www.hbuhuskies.com).

Alum-A-Grams **Mark Your Calendars!** November 13

1970s

Ben Pickles '70 is a Substitute Teacher for Vallejo City Unified School District.

Claudia Burns '71 is a Counselor at Better Help.

Joseph Knight '74 is the Senior Sales Advisor for Home Depot.

Dr. Rhonda Goodman '75 is an Associate Professor at Florida Atlantic University College of Nursing. Dr. Goodman was selected by Sigma International to receive the 2021 International Audrey Hepburn Award for Contributions to the Health and Welfare of Children.

Jack Martin '75 is the Minister of Pastoral Care at Park Cities Baptist.

Richard Walters '77 is a Pastor at Oak Forest Baptist Church.

Bert Watson '78 is the Pastor at Crosby Church.

1980s

Eileen Stansberry '82 is the Chief Scientist at NASA Johnson Space Center.

Cindy Tatum '82 is a Pre-K Teacher at Annunciation Orthodox School.

Rev. Donald Brown '83 is a Pastor at United Methodist Church.

John Stephens '85 is a Realtor/Investor for Texas First Real Estate.

Mona Terrell '85 is the Transcript Evaluator at Houston Community College.

Deidra (Young) Brown '86 is the President/Team Leader for the Rich-Tone Chorus of Sweet Adelines International.

Barry Rosette '86 is a part of the Professional Security at Allied Universal Security Services.

Brena Bausmann-Gonzalez '87 is the Senior Director of Development for the University of Houston Law Center.

John Farah '88 is a Substitute Teacher for Spring Branch ISD.

Christopher Gomez '88 is a General Manager for TitleMax.

Randy Elum '89 is the President of Woodman's Investments.

Ophelia Binkley-Webb '89 is an Instructor of Psychology at Wharton County Junior College and is also the Founder/President of Restoration Life Project, a Christian non-profit organization that is working to combat human trafficking.

1990s

Michelle Alexander '90 is the Vice President of Programs for Star of Hope Mission.

Kayo Nakano '91 is a Clinical Research Assistant at Lucille Packard Children Hospital.

Tim Bone '92 is an Area Business Manager for Pfizer.

Monte Cadle '92 is the President of Automationline.

Cary Dunham '93 is the President and Owner of NPH Development.

Holly Freeland '95 is the Manager for Special Projects at Enbridge.

Sharla Rogers '95 is the Principal for Reece Academy.

Camille Ardoin '97 is the IT Release Lead at ADNOC.

Sheri Gazitt '97 is the CEO & Founder of Teen Wise. Sheri started Teen Wise to support parents and their teens through adolescence by presenting to corporations, local news, youth organizations and school districts.

Lori Tucek '97 is a Supervisory Human Resources Representative for the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

Eric Lacy '98 is the CEO of Lacyworld Enterprises.

John Boggs '99 is the Dean of the Betty Howard Center at Washington Adventist University.

Sherri Cogbill '99 is the Deputy Division Director for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Brent Mercer '99 is the Senior Financial Analyst of Settlements for JERA America, Inc.

Amy Rowe '99 is the Director of Academic and College Advising at The Woodlands Christian Academy.

2000s

Christine English '00 is a Proprietor at Horse Riding and Leases.

Jeremy Benson '01 is the Systems Engineer for Peoplefluent.

Monica Carrasco '01 is a Teacher for Waller ISD.

Dana Keen '01 is a Literacy Interventionist for Fort Bend ISD.

TJ Maldonado '01 is a Teacher and Team Leader for Austin ISD.

Lisa Benavides '02 is the IT Compliance Coordinator at Phibro Animal Health Corporation.

Chris Cook '02 is an IT Manager for Apache Corporation.

Eveit Enard '02 is a Clinical Operations Partner for NMDP Be the Match.

Christy "CJ" Wood '02 is the Chaplin at Ascension Seton Healthcare System.

Tim Bird '03 is the Worship Leader and Tech Director for Sugar Land Methodist Church.

Melissa Brown '03 is the Senior Compliance Specialist at Texas Children's Hospital.

Crissy Siarski '03 is a School Psychologist for Klein ISD.

Jayna Desai '04 is the Director of the Office of Strategic Communications within FinCEN's Office of the Director.

Denise Garrison '04 is a Special Education Teacher for Alief Taylor High School.

Cynthia Spencer-Edwards '04 is an Evaluation Specialist for Houston ISD

Jincy Jose '04 started their own Real Estate Brokerage called Land and Luxe Realty.

Olga Yurick '04 is the VP of Finance at GMA Garney.

Hala Alameddine '05 is the Chief Clinical Officer at Kindred Hospital Sugar Land.

Aaron Garcia '05 is the Manager for Jeff Harmon Entertainment.

Laura Lofton '05 is a Culinary Arts Teacher at Anahuac High School.

Paula Niz '05 is the Missions Coordinator for First Methodist Houston.

Crystal Streety-Alarape '05 is a Billing Supervisor for ABM Industries Inc.

Marlon Green '06 is an Accounting Manager at Lyondellbadell.

Gary Horn '06 is an Assistant Professor of Radiology at Baylor College of Medicine.

Heather Alemán '07 is a Chemistry Teacher at Second Baptist School.

Jessica Culpepper '08 is the Senior Credentialing Representative for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas.

Kimberly Gutowsky '08 is a Physical Therapist at TIRR Memorial Herman.

Landria Jordan '08 is a Business Development Director for Firstline Brands.

Rebecca Peterson '08 is a Senior Compensation Analyst at Memorial Herman Health System.

Jonathan Powell '08 is a Principal for New Caney ISD

Brian Barnett '09 is a Writer and Editor for IGN.

Jaymesson Bezerra '09 is the Associate Director of Patient Relations at MD Anderson Cancer Center.



Andrew Picos '09 is an Account Manager Baker Hughes.

Brian Scott '09 is the Senior Pastor at Union Baptist Church.

Mfon Udo-Imeh '09 is a Project Delivery Manager for Deloitte.

Jennifer Walne '09 is an Operator Technician at Lyondellbasell.

2010s

Faye Abbott '10 is an Educational Diagnostician at Katy ISD.

Kristin Bates '10 is a School Nurse for CyFair ISD.

Hannah Stovall '10 is a Teacher for Fort Worth ISD.

William Sudarma '10 is an Attorney at Sudarma Law Firm PLLC.

Tristin Sylvester '10 is a Teacher for CyFair ISD.

Karla Isenberg '11 is a Detective for the City of Stafford.

Christina Mendoza '11 is a Registered Nurse & Virtual Pediatrics Systems Data Collector at Texas Children's Hospital West Campus.

Carlous Smith '11 is a 5th grade Reading/Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher for Alief ISD.

Candace Lara '12 is the President of Tariff Data Systems.

Drew McCall '12 is the Chief Operating Officer at American Cornerstone Institute.

Ashley Reed '12 is the Senior Manager and HR Business Partner for Karya Property Management.

Blanca Richardson '13 is a Teacher at St. Ignatius of Loyola ECC.

Gabriella Munoz '14 is a Registered Nurse at Memorial Herman.

Marco Olivares '14 is a Recreation Specialist for the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

Susan Bryant '15 is the Assistant Director of Student Ministries at Grace Bible Church.

Brittany Gomez '15 is a Senior Accountant for Ernst & Young LLP.

Chris Martin '15 is the System Director of Risk Management for the Texas State Technical College System overseeing all risk management and safety operations for 10 college campuses.

Daniella Rodarte '15 is a Teacher/Coach for Mesquite ISD.

Noemi Rodriguez '15 is a Teacher for Fort Bend ISD.

Jasmin Adams '16 is a Teacher for Aldine ISD.

Martin Davis '16 is a Mortgage Loan Officer at OneTrust Home Loans.

Morgan Dean '16 is the CFO of The Fitzpatrick Group.

Yamileth Hernandez '16 began her Pediatric Residency at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso.

Ashely Johnson '16 is a Teacher for Houston ISD.

Lorena Lozano '16 is the Nurse Patient Educator at Harris Health System.

Samantha Solis '16 is a Human Resource Analysis at Houston Methodist.

Cindy Aguilar '17 is a Financial Planner for FCA Corp.

Kali Fluke '17 is a Head Coach and Teacher for Spring ISD

Rosy Hernandez '17 has started her own marketing firm called Heritage Writing Co. Rosy is active in the international stage as Vice President of the Virtual Chapter of the Organization of Women in International Trade and as a member of the Marketing Committee.

Nadie Roberson '17 is the Owner and Psychotherapist at Freedom Psychotherapy and Wellness Services PLLC.

Iris Garza '18 is the Benefits Coordinator at Baylor College of Medicine.

Vivianne Macias '18 is a CX Account Executive for Qualtrics.

Ashley Plaeger '18 is the Director of College Counseling at St. Agnes Academy.

Kate Shealy '18 is the Director of Recruiting Operations for Texas Tech Football.

Raziel Villarreal '18 is a 5th Grade English Teacher at KIPP Courage.

Asly Guevara '19 is the Wraparound Care Coordinator for the Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD.

Nathaly Guzman '19 is a Registered Nurse at Houston Methodist.

Tara Litonjua '19 is a Registered Nurse for Memorial Herman.

Brittney Livesay '19 is a Teacher at Cypress Ranch High School.

Lupita Bustamante Martinez '19 is a Teacher for CyFair ISD.

Annie Nardone '19 is an Art, Literature, and Humanities Teacher at Harvester Teaching. She is also the Managing Editor at Cultivating Magazine and contributing to two books publishing this fall.

Jason Smith '19 is the Sr. Strategist in Marketing and Communications at Velentium.

Raven Towns '19 is a Registered Nurse at Houston Methodist.

Maria Zamora '19 is a Sr. Lab Assistant for UTMB Health.

2020s

Elizabeth Saldivar Lewis '20 is a Weekday School Teacher for University Christian Church Weekday School.

Emerance Murekatete '20 is the Clinical Placement Coordinator here at Houston Baptist University.

Michael Basquez '21 is the Coordinator for Advancement and Alumni Relations at HBU.

Joseph Blado '21 is a Research Assistant at the University of Notre Dame.

Veronica Camarillo '21 is the Senior Administrative Coordinator at UThHealth - Children's Heart Institute.

Alondra Garcia '21 works for MD Anderson Cancer Center in Patient Transportation.

Emily Hernandez '21 is the Youth Minister and Digital Content Coordinator at First Baptist Church Rosenberg.

LaShondra Jackson '21 is the Senior Manager of Instructional Continuity and Professional Development for Houston ISD.

Annie Johnson '21 is a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology for Klein ISD.

Vivian Langford '21 is a History Teacher for Lamar High School.

Lena Stewart '21 is the Senior Credentialing Specialist for CHI Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center.

Britney Turner '21 is the HR Talent Acquisition Specialist at Chevron USA.

Kimberly Young '21 works in the Sr. Patient Services/Lead Call Center for Houston Methodist Orthopedics.



Let us hear from you! You are encouraged to submit your news items about yourself — promotions, marriages, births, travels and other bits of news — HIGH-RESOLUTION PHOTOS WELCOME. Contact: HBU.edu/AlumniUpdate

IN MEMORIAM

George (Merrill) Blackburn '68 passed away on April 22, 2021. Merrill was a part of the first founding classes at Houston Baptist College and graduated with his Bachelors of Speech and English Degree.

Dr. Jack Bynum '70 passed away on August 2, 2021. Jack was a part of the first founding classes at Houston Baptist College and graduated with his Bachelors in English and Music Degree.

Patricia S. Walker '72 passed away on May 31, 2021. Patricia couldn't escape her ebullient and charismatic personality and will be missed greatly.

Henry (Hank) Krason '79 passed away on May 29, 2021. Hank graduated with his Masters in

Accounting from HBU and returned later as a Professor of Accounting.

Andrew (Frank) Armstrong '81 passed away on May 26, 2021. Frank graduated with his Bachelors in English and Masters in Clinical Psychology from HBU.

Eduardo Jose Prado '86 passed away in August of 2021. Ed was an ATO Brother and was loved by many.

Patricia Eleanor Gauthier '87 passed away on July 16, 2021. Patricia graduated with her Masters of Science degree from HBU.

Amanda Ransleben Cowan '95 passed away on August 4, 2021. Amanda graduated with her Masters of Liberal Arts from HBU.

Friends of the University:



Hilda Moffett passed away on April 5, 2021 in Katy, Texas. Hilda was a member of the HBU Board of Trustees from 1990-1999. She was such a delight, the greatest sense of humor and changed many lives.

Sharon Lewis passed away on August 8, 2021. Sharon was a former special faculty member in the college of education.

Richard (Dick) Parker passed away on August 22, 2021. Dick was a former staff member at Houston Baptist University.

HUSKY PUPS



Elizabeth Ajanel '12 and **Jesse Ajanel '12** welcomed their third child, Micah Ezekiel Ajanel on Sept. 23, 2020. Big brother Ben and sister Amelia are thrilled to have a new baby brother.



Audra and **Kevin Klotz '99** are now proud parents of a sweet baby girl! Ava Clare Klotz was born on July 19, 2021.

Elizabeth Cogburn '17 and **Andrew Cogburn '17** welcomed their second baby boy, Tikhon, to the world.



HOMECOMING
— 2021 —
November 13 • hbu.edu/homecoming



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER
TIM TEBOW

THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 11, 2021

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