

HOUSTON CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE PILLARS

FALL 2022

IT'S OFFICIAL!
**HOUSTON
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

**Morris Family
Center for
Law & Liberty
NOW OPEN**

HOUSTON CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



This past week Sue and I were with some HCU friends at a restaurant. As we all walked out, another patron who had eaten there with his wife approached us and said, "Congratulations on the name change. You know, there's a lot of Christians out there who aren't Baptists." Then he laughed and added, "And I have been just about all of them!"

I thought his kind comments implied several interesting points. First, he knew about the name change. We are working to increase our visibility with a strong and still largely forthcoming marketing campaign, and we have been getting a lot of affirming feedback and attention because of the name change to Houston Christian University. It's understandable, of course, that some have expressed their initial reservations, but overwhelmingly the feedback has been very positive, and, like this gentleman, people understand why we've made the change: that is, we are still affiliated with Baptists, and those ongoing affiliations represent our heritage and history, but we have long appealed to Christians all across the spectrum in a

world where denominationalism has been declining since the 1970s. I'm confident that our efforts to grow significantly as a university will be rewarded by this name change, as it demonstrates and emphasizes our historic appeal to Christians of all denominations. At the same time, using the word Christian makes clear that we are still committed to all of the same scriptural and foundational truths that we have maintained since our very beginning. In that connection, I hope you will read some of our key documents, especially what the Board of Trustees has now officially designated as our Foundational Documents, including "Scripture and a Christian Worldview" and "The Ten Core Convictions." And, of course, the doctrinal commitments of our Preamble have not changed in any way.

Another exciting development garnering a lot of attention for the University has been the recent grand opening of the Morris Family Center for Law and Liberty. This amazing complex is already doing exactly what we expected—that is, drawing tourists, elementary school children, civic organizations, and other visitors to the campus to view the facility,

hear stirring lectures about the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, or hold a meeting in one of the beautiful new rooms. The visibility and the stunning quality of this new Center are matched only by its mission: to teach and educate our students and all who come to the facility about the American founding and especially the historic documents that were signed in Independence Hall—the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. We are committed to the aspirations and the principles of constitutional democracy, and this Center and the activities in it speak volumes about the nature of our university.

Thanks to so many of you for your support of HCU. We could not continue without your prayers, your financial contributions, and the positive conversations you're able to have with others about the Christian mission of this great university.

I know you're going to enjoy reading this issue of The Pillars. We have an outstanding staff and faculty and a remarkable and distinctive mission. We also have many things to accomplish as expressed in

our new vision document, The Ten Pillars 2030, and I hope you will consider what aspect of HCU stirs you the most and then make every effort to support us with your generosity.

In fact, I would ask you to consider including us in your end-of-year giving and in your estate plans. We live our lives by faith, one day at a time, but all of us also have to make wise plans regarding the future. As an estate lawyer once told me, "The way our tax laws are structured, every year and at the end of our lives, all of us are going to do some form of philanthropy—either the private philanthropy of our own choosing or the public philanthropy that the government will choose for us!" I hope you will reflect upon the life-changing quality of our mission for the sake of the next generations and support us with your prayers and philanthropy.

Robert B. Sloan

  @DrRobertBSloan

Core Convictions of HCU

- Pillar I: God, the Creator of a Good and Knowable World
- Pillar II: A Plan of Restoration
- Pillar III: The Importance of Human Agency
- Pillar IV: A Renewed People
- Pillar V: A Mandate to Understand the World
- Pillar VI: Learning and Teaching as Discipleship
- Pillar VII: Life, Marriage, Gender, and Humanness
- Pillar VIII: Governmental Institutions
- Pillar IX: The Christian University
- Pillar X: The Mystery of Unity in Christ

PREAMBLE

The Preamble to the University By-Laws as stated below describes the distinctive nature of the institution.

Houston Christian University is a Christian liberal arts university dedicated to the development of moral character, the enrichment of spiritual lives, and the perpetuation of growth in Christian ideals. Founded under the providence of God and with the conviction that there is a need for a university in this community that will train the minds, develop the moral character and enrich the spiritual lives of all people who may come within the ambit of its influence, HOUSTON CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY shall stand as a witness for Jesus Christ expressed directly through its administration, faculty and students. To assure the perpetuation of these basic concepts of its founders, it is resolved that all those who become associated with Houston Christian University as a trustee, officer, member of the faculty or of the staff, and who perform work connected with the educational activities of the University, must believe in the divine inspiration of the Bible, both the Old Testament and New Testament, that man was directly created by God, the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the Son of God, that He died for the sins of all men and thereafter arose from the grave, that by repentance and the acceptance of and belief in Him, by the grace of God, the individual is saved from eternal damnation and receives eternal life in the presence of God; and it is further resolved that the ultimate teachings in this University shall never be inconsistent with the above principles.

Approved by the Board of Trustees, February 1961

OUR MISSION

The mission of Houston Christian University is to provide a learning experience that instills in students a passion for academic, spiritual, and professional excellence as a result of our central confession, "Jesus Christ is Lord."

Unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees September 20, 2022

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IT'S OFFICIAL! HOUSTON CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



Houston Baptist University has changed its name to Houston Christian University, announced President Robert B. Sloan during an open forum with faculty, staff, past and present trustees and students on September 21, 2022.

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

"We are committed to being a distinctively Christian university that welcomes all Christians to benefit from our excellent academic programs. This historic university appeals to people all across the spectrum of Christian denominational life, and this new name clarifies who we are," said Dr. Sloan.

The renaming is part of a growth campaign to expand HCU's residential campus to 4,200 students and online campus to 5,800 students.

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

According to Dr. Sloan, the University has considered a name change several times over the last 16 years, but in the last two years, a University task force of trustees arrived at this new name after two years of consideration, research, and prayerful review. On May 17, 2022 the Board of Trustees officially approved the switch.

The University is partnering with Carnegie, a leading higher education marketing and enrollment strategy firm "to take our brand of traditional Christian higher education to the next generation of students," said Dr. Sloan.

During Wednesday's forum event, Dr. Sloan also affirmed the University's core convictions, saying HCU's historic Christian commitments have not and will not change.

"We believe that authentic and faithful Christian higher education, rooted in a scriptural worldview, is ever more critical in a fractured society in need of reconciliation, hope, and healing," he said.

"By changing to Houston Christian University, we are striving to be even clearer about our convictions. We are committed to Jesus Christ. We are committed to

the Scriptures. We are committed to the Gospel and its power to draw all people to Christ. And we are committed to being 'salt and light' in the world," said Dr. Sloan.

HCU's mission statement is "to provide a learning experience that instills in students a passion for academic, spiritual and professional excellence as a result of our central confession, 'Jesus Christ is Lord.'"

The recent name change marks the second time university leaders have changed the institution's name.

Originally launched in 1960 as Houston Baptist College by Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr., the University was renamed to Houston Baptist University in 1973.

Dr. Morris, one of the University's "Founding Fathers," enthusiastically approved the name change.

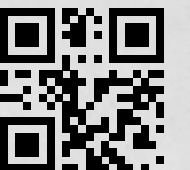
"I believe the name Houston Christian University is perfect. I am especially proud that the word 'Christian' will be in the name since it truly represents who we are, a university where everyone is welcome," said

Dr. Morris.

"I am excited about the progress and plans, and I believe the Founding Fathers would have all approved as well," said Dr. Morris. "I applaud Dr. Sloan and the Trustees. God bless HCU!"

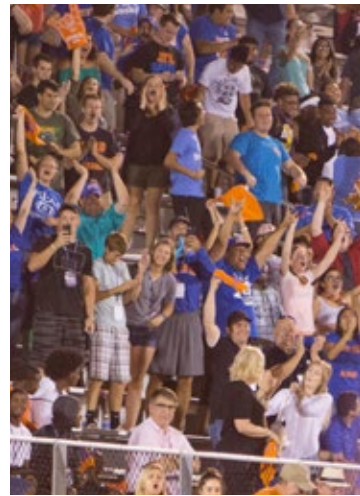
For more information, visit HBU.edu/HC.

"We believe that authentic and faithful Christian higher education, rooted in a scriptural worldview, is ever more critical in a fractured society in need of reconciliation, hope, and healing."



REFLECTIONS ON THE NAME CHANGE

WE ARE ONE



When the Christian church was scarcely twenty years old the apostle Paul asserted something in one of his letters that very few people in his time would have agreed with. In Galatians 3:28 Paul declared: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Greeks and Romans would have found such an assertion utterly laughable. Most Jewish leaders and teachers would have found it appalling and just plain false. After all, according to this thinking, God made a covenant with Israel—not with Gentiles! Before his conversion Paul—at one time a Pharisee and a strict interpreter of the law of Moses—wouldn't have agreed with any of it either.

So where did Paul get these radical ideas? He got them from the risen Jesus whom he met on the road to Damascus, an encounter that changed his life and changed his thinking. He went from a man who believed that Jews were superior to Gentiles, that slaves were inferior to free people, and that women were less important than men. Jesus prayed that his disciples be "one," that is, *unified* (John 17:11, 22). Paul embraced this truth, declaring that in Jesus the Messiah, we "are all one."

This is why it is so important for Houston Baptist University to become known as Houston Christian University, for in

Christ, there is neither Baptist nor Presbyterian, neither Methodist nor Pentecostal, neither—I think you get the point. Houston Christian University is open to all students who meet proper academic standards. All students are welcome. Denominational distinctions have their place, to be sure, but a Christian university is not a church. Houston Christian University is a community of learning, where everything is taught from a Christian perspective, where students—whatever religious convictions they may have—are welcome to become part of this community and to learn and grow within it. I have been part of this community of learning and discipleship for seven years and I have found it stimulating and refreshing. And one of the reasons for this is because faculty, staff, and students come from many denominations—not just Baptist. Our hope is that in



changing the University's name more students will want to become part of this exciting community.

Dr. Craig A. Evans
John Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins School of Christian Thought

A LEGACY OF FAITH

As a recent past Chair of the Board of Trustees, it has been an honor to serve for the past nine years. I have seen God's hand on this University and the leadership of Dr. Robert Sloan. With the recent name change, you can be assured that the Mission Statement, Scripture, Christian Worldview and the Ten Core Convictions are still in place for Houston Christian University. The name change is all that will be taking place and is more definitive of what is happening today in Christian higher education. We want to reach a broader base of future students who want to be educated at a university that upholds their core beliefs and principles.

Parents can be assured that their children will be warmly welcomed, given good direction in the field they choose, and will have excellent instructors. We are prepared to continue to be a light in the City of Houston, the state of Texas and the great United States of America. May revival start at HCU.



In His name,
Judy C. Graham

A SOLID FOUNDATION

"There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male, and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians -3:28, New Living Translation

Globalization is real. What used to take a day, now takes an hour, what used to take hours, is now realized in nanoseconds. Houston Baptist University was founded in a time of the onset of air-conditioned shopping malls, the early stages of America's civil rights movement, and before man had placed his foot on the lunar surface. Yet, the same founding principle remains steadfast today, the University's foundational pursuit of academia in a Christian environment.

The occasion of a name change, transcending from Houston Baptist University to Houston Christian University, though monumental in some respect, is simply a testament to the seventh pillar of the University's governing Ten Pillars, which states: "Bring Athens and Jerusalem Together". That is, recognize the collective environment we all operate in. But remain committed to a principled approach to education, learning from each other, and working together in community, in the nation, suspended in a universe, occupying the small speck of land we call "Earth".

As we march into new calendar years and decades, pursuing the constant journey into the future, we realize the shrinking nature of our life existence. As humans, as society, as a social experiment, we increasingly encounter each other due to globalization, are therefore more

dependent on each other, and more aware of our diversity in cultures and understandings.

The one constant remains, Christ Jesus. And it is through that prism, that I, as an alum, though years removed from day-to-day campus existence, remain convinced that we can rely on the old adage "The more things change, the more they will remain the same" at my alma mater.

This name change represents a proud and historic milestone in the history of the original Houston Baptist University. But a milestone nevertheless, to be traveled through and beyond as more minds are educated, more lives are influenced, and more standard-bearers in all fields of study are sent out.

Apostle Paul's writing to the Galatian church was to address differences, detailing how the collective is always better than the individual. Houston Christian University is and will continue to be a proud and great experiment for delivering first-rate academia in an ever-expanding environment, built on the foundational belief in Christ.



Roy D. Jones '83
HCU Alumnus

A man in a grey suit, white shirt, and orange patterned tie stands in front of a large brick building with a prominent clock tower. The man is looking upwards and to the right with a slight smile. The background shows a clear blue sky and some greenery on the left.

The INSPIRATION

behind the Morris Family Center for Law and Liberty



Independence Hall at Houston Christian University stands as an outward and visible symbol of the University's commitment to teaching our nation's history and founding principles. The new building will house the academic programming and classes associated with the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty. The Center is an initiative of the School of Humanities and was started in 2011 under the leadership of the Dean at the time - Dr. Chris Hammons. He and several of his colleagues were concerned about an increasing number of students who had little understanding and interest in American history or our nation's founding principles. "It was increasingly apparent that fewer and fewer of our students understood the importance of our constitutional system of government," says Hammons. "The Center was started as an academic initiative to address that problem and make sure our students understood the beauty of our nation's founding principles."

The Center began offering academic programming such as special lectures, historic travel programs, and book groups for students as well as workshops for teachers. One of the earliest activities was a mock Constitutional Convention where students would debate ratification of the Constitution. "I got a small grant from a national organization to buy some 18th-century looking tablecloths, quill pens, parchment, and other decorations and we recreated on campus a room that looked like where the Constitution was created and debated," says Hammons. Hammons says the event was a great success and that students were more engaged in the activity than he thought they might have been otherwise. "Being in that

room really gave students a sense of time and space which is often lacking in discussions of history," said Hammons. It was this event that was the genesis for the idea of bringing Independence Hall to HBU.

As Dean of the School of Humanities, Hammons made the Center's mission a priority and began talking with University leadership about the possibility of creating a building on campus to house the Center's activities. "When we began looking at buildings to house the Center for Law & Liberty, Independence Hall was a natural draw," says Hammons. "Independence Hall is an iconic building that is central to the story of our nation and easily recognizable." With the blessing of University President Dr. Robert Sloan, Hammons began over a decade-long campaign to raise funds to bring this historic building to the campus. He spoke all over the city, state and even in other states, explaining the importance of the mission of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty and the value of the Independence Hall building on a campus as diverse as HCU. Hammons estimates he has spoken to over 100 civic groups across the nation in sharing this vision.

"I just knew this was such a unique opportunity and the timing was right and if I could find the right people who shared this vision, we could make it happen. I just wasn't sure what that timeline would look like," says Hammons. He made a trip to Philadelphia in 2013 at his own expense to secure the blueprints to the original Independence Hall and take a tour of the historic building. Those blueprints became the basis for several years of meetings with potential donors and other interested parties to generate interest in the Independence Hall project.

Hammons envisioned not only a building modeled after Independence Hall but also construction of additional classrooms and office space in a complex devoted to the teaching of American history and government, as well as creation of a unique event space on campus.

Hammons put together a committee to help promote the idea and one of the instrumental people on that committee was Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr. Unbeknownst to Hammons, at the time, the entire Morris family had a deep love and interest in American history and had commissioned the recreation of several historic buildings across the nation. "I didn't know at the time that the Morris family had such a love of historic architecture. I was just hoping they could help me meet people who might support the project," shared Hammons. He organized and held numerous fundraising events over the years and the Morris family always made a point of attending and helping to promote the project. Hammons says they were early believers in the vision and helped advocate for construction of the building from the very start. "I really feel like the Lord connected us for this project," says Hammons.

Hammons spent the next five years promoting the project through numerous fundraising events. "I think we had breakfasts, lunches and dinners with every civic and business group in town," jokes Hammons. Members of the Morris family and University leadership were often present. After having been involved with the endeavor for a few years, the Morris family decided to make a major gift to the project. With that transformational gift, Hammons says it was much easier to secure additional funding to complete the project. The Center was formally renamed

the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty to honor the generosity and shared vision of the Morris family.

Construction of the complex began in 2021 and was completed by fall of 2022. The main building will be used for special lectures, events, banquets and tours for the public and local school kids. Hammons is developing curriculum for 5th graders (who study the American Revolution as part of their curriculum) to come tour the building and learn about the nation's history. The complex will also host two classroom buildings. The first classroom building opened for fall classes and a second classroom building is planned for construction in the very near future.

Hammons notes that the instantly recognizable building is now the tallest point on campus and easily visible from the highway. "I've always believed that this project was important beyond just the teaching of American history and government. It brings new visibility to the University and beautifies our campus. The illuminated tower at night is beautiful," Hammons says.

Having worked on the project for over a decade, Hammons, Director of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty, says he is glad to see it come to fruition. "Beyond just teaching American history, our nation's founding principles, and the importance of the free enterprise system, it's a great feeling to see people smile when they walk into the building." Hammons hopes the complex will be a place where students and visitors can learn about our nation's history, discuss important questions about our nation's future, and leave feeling good about their country.

MORRIS FAMILY CENTER FOR LAW & LIBERTY

HOUSTON CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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 Monica Meyberg
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 Giles Vick

*deceased

Thank you to our benefactors who made this dream a reality.



Dr. Robert Sloan greets keynote speaker Judge Ed Kinkeade, District Judge of the North District of Texas.



The Gallery



Student Foundation, Josephine Tsai, Dan Return, Katie Pogue and Davin Sanchez



The Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty Grand Opening

Houston Christian University celebrated the grand opening of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 15, signaling the official opening of the multi-million-dollar complex. The complex's central attraction is a main building modeled after Philadelphia's iconic Independence Hall. An adjacent administrative building provides classroom space for students to study the humanities.

The complex was established to educate individuals on the principles that make America an exceptional nation; train and equip teachers, lawyers and the business community to articulate our nation's founding principles; and facilitate civil discourse among diverse groups on politics, public policy and our nation's future.

HCU Founding Father and lead donor, Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr. and the Joella and Stewart Morris Foundation were recognized for their contributions to the complex as well as the impressive list of donors, including The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation, University friends, alumni, faculty, staff and members of the community.



Dr. Robert Sloan, Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr. and Judge Ed Kinkeade, District Judge of the North District of Texas



HCU administrators, the Morris Family, HCU Board of Trustees and University donors



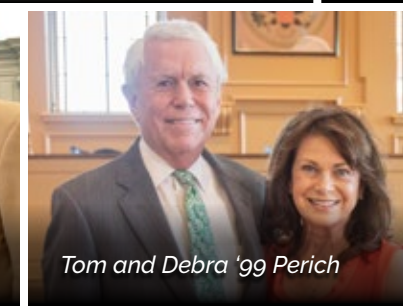
Kristi Cooper, Stewart Morris, Jr., Joy Morris, Faith Morris '13, Stewart Morris III, Sue Sloan, Dr. Robert Sloan, Lisa Simon '76, Jerry Simon, Lisa Hartman and Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.



Jill and Kerr Taylor



Geren & Judy Graham and Guy Jackson



Tom and Debra '99 Perich



Jisu Byan, Dr. Kristie Cerling and Esther Wong



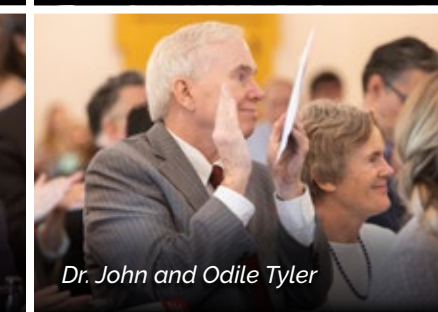
Kaye '72 and Jack Busiek



Dr. Chris Hammons and The Honorable Edith H. Jones



Anne and Hank Roper



Dr. John and Odile Tyler



HCU's Independence Hall - The 16,547 sq. ft. near-replica of Independence Hall on the HCU campus features Georgian-style architecture modeled after the original Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The 170-foot-tall structure stands over a foot taller than the original in Philadelphia with the help of a strategically selected weathervane that sits atop the structure's clock tower.

A Salute to the Past, A Model for the Future

Houston Christian University celebrates the opening of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty

The Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty is a vision whose time has come. The multi-million-dollar complex, a one-of-a-kind nexus of learning and education, opened its doors to its first class of students for the Fall 2022 semester on the Houston Christian University (HCU) campus.

What began as an academic initiative of the School of Humanities spurred by the vision of then, dean, Dr. Chris Hammons and blessed by HCU President Robert Sloan, will enable the University to inspire a deeper appreciation of American history and promote our nation's founding principles and the study of free enterprise in a new and innovative way.

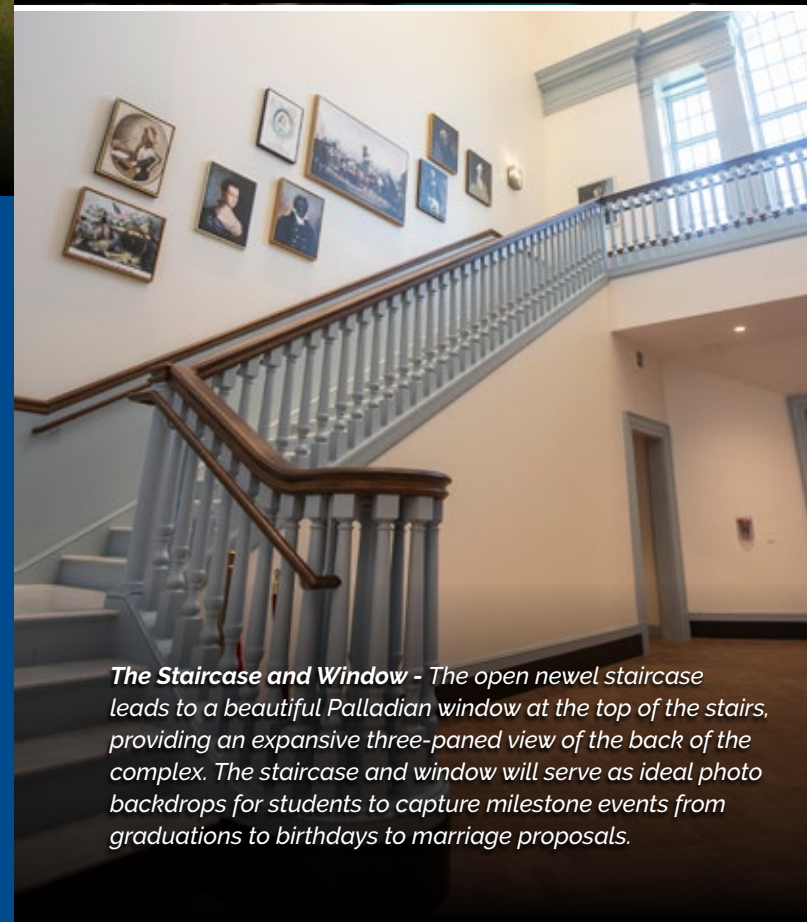
The complex is named in honor of the University's

Founding Father, Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr., and his family. The Center's mission is to 1) educate all people about the principles that make America an exceptional nation, 2) train and equip teachers, lawyers, and the business community to articulate and defend our nation's founding principles, and 3) facilitate civil discourse among diverse groups about politics, public policy and the future of the United States of America.

Students are offered classes in the humanities, including history, political science, law, philosophy, economics, sociology, and more, and have opportunities to participate in mock trials to engage in lively discourse on American history and the principles that shaped our nation.



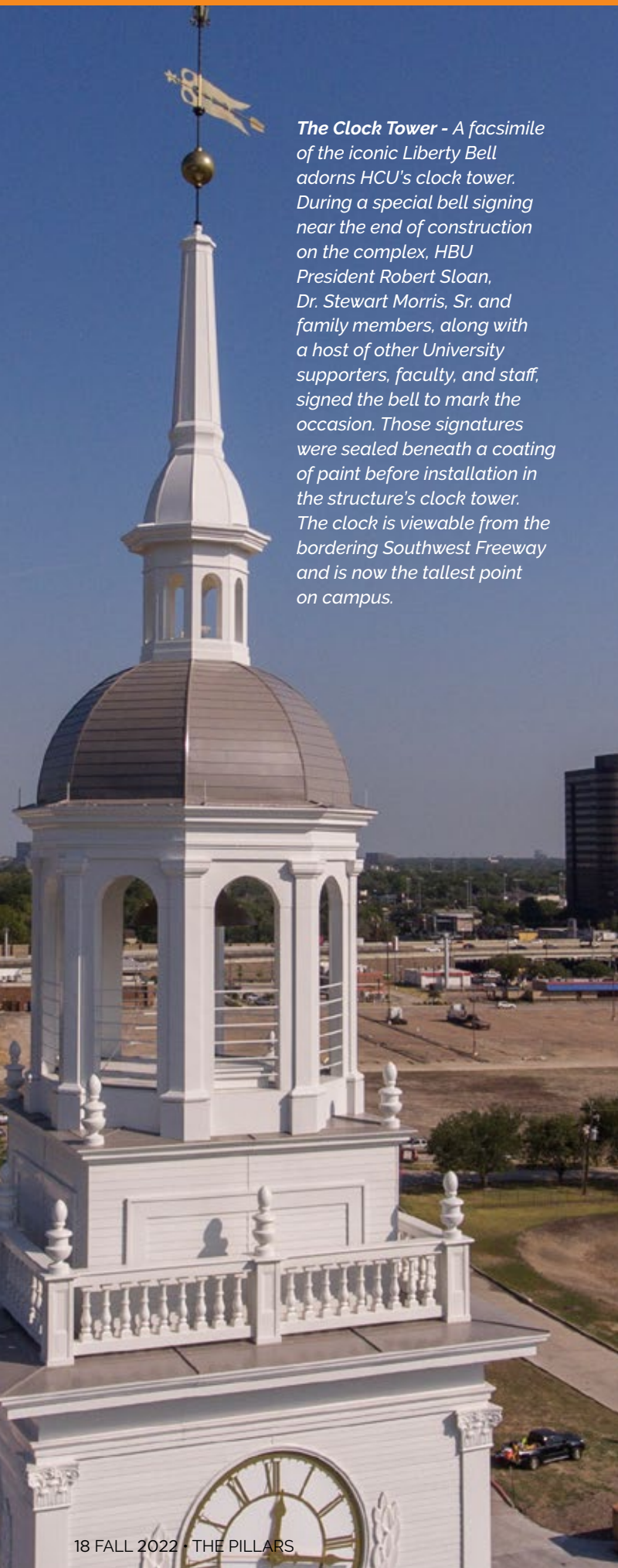
The Assembly Room - The famous Assembly Room is where the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were debated and forged. Great detail was taken to recreate the original room, including contracting with the master craftsman in charge of furnishings for Independence Hall in Philadelphia, who replicated the furnishings in the room, down to the famous Rising Sun Chair. The decorative elements in the room, including the green tablecloths, quill pens and artifacts, were brought in to match the décor of the original Independence Hall. The room will be used for special class lectures and to teach visiting school groups about the importance of the nation's founding principles.



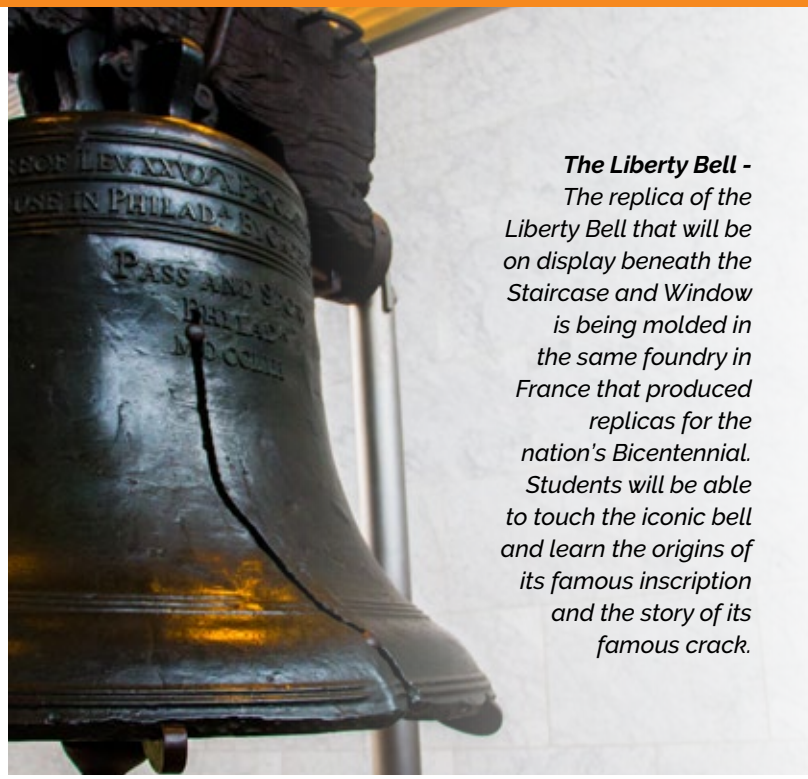
The Staircase and Window - The open newel staircase leads to a beautiful Palladian window at the top of the stairs, providing an expansive three-paned view of the back of the complex. The staircase and window will serve as ideal photo backdrops for students to capture milestone events from graduations to birthdays to marriage proposals.



The Courtroom - The Courtroom, modeled after the historic Pennsylvania Supreme Courtroom, honors the American judicial system and serves as a venue to educate future lawyers and judges on the importance of the Constitution and the rule of law. Visiting school groups can also learn about the components of the American judicial system as well as hear stories of famous trials.



The Clock Tower - A facsimile of the iconic Liberty Bell adorns HCU's clock tower. During a special bell signing near the end of construction on the complex, HBU President Robert Sloan, Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr. and family members, along with a host of other University supporters, faculty, and staff, signed the bell to mark the occasion. Those signatures were sealed beneath a coating of paint before installation in the structure's clock tower. The clock is viewable from the bordering Southwest Freeway and is now the tallest point on campus.



The Liberty Bell - The replica of the Liberty Bell that will be on display beneath the Staircase and Window is being molded in the same foundry in France that produced replicas for the nation's Bicentennial. Students will be able to touch the iconic bell and learn the origins of its famous inscription and the story of its famous crack.

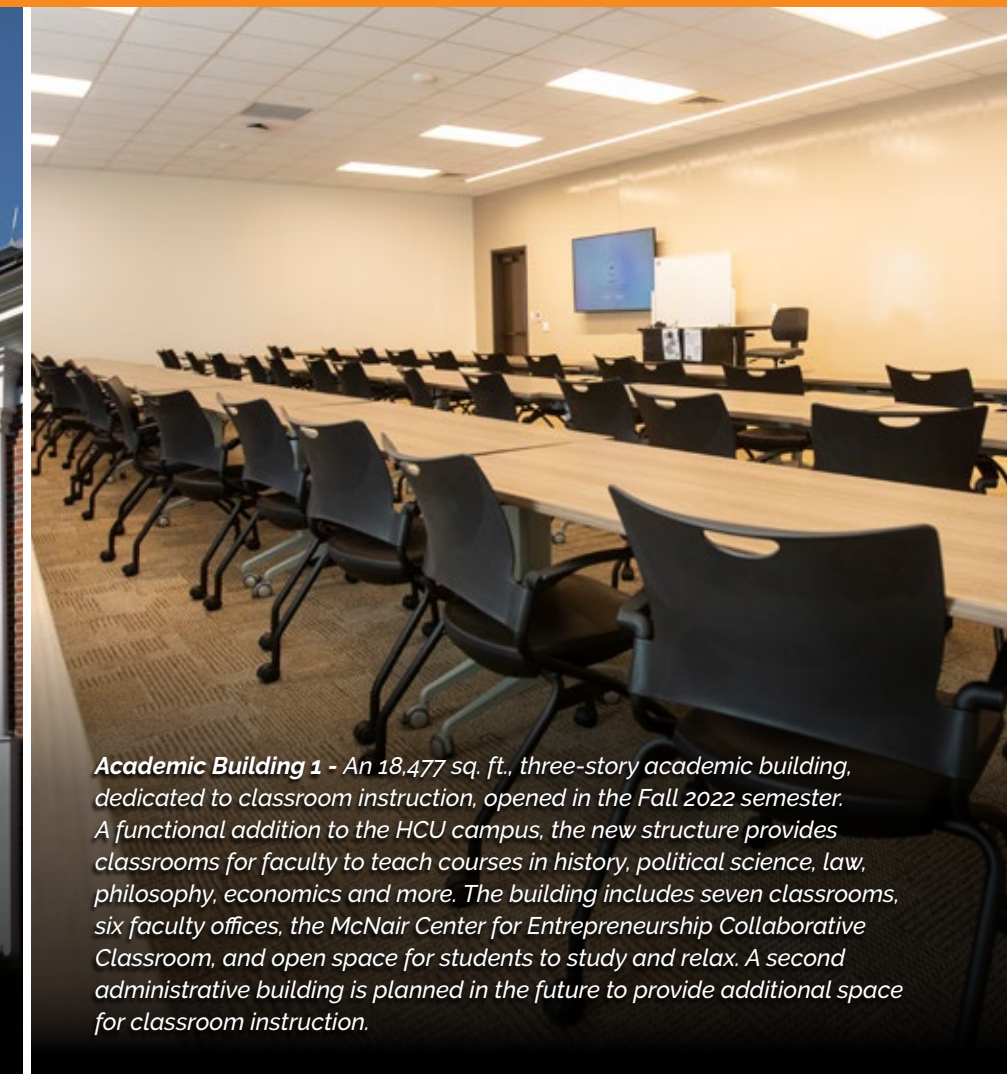


Visit [HBU.edu](https://www.hbu.edu) to learn more details about the mission of the Morris Family Center of Law & Liberty and go on a self-guided tour for additional information on the history of the iconic building that inspired the construction of HCU's Independence Hall.

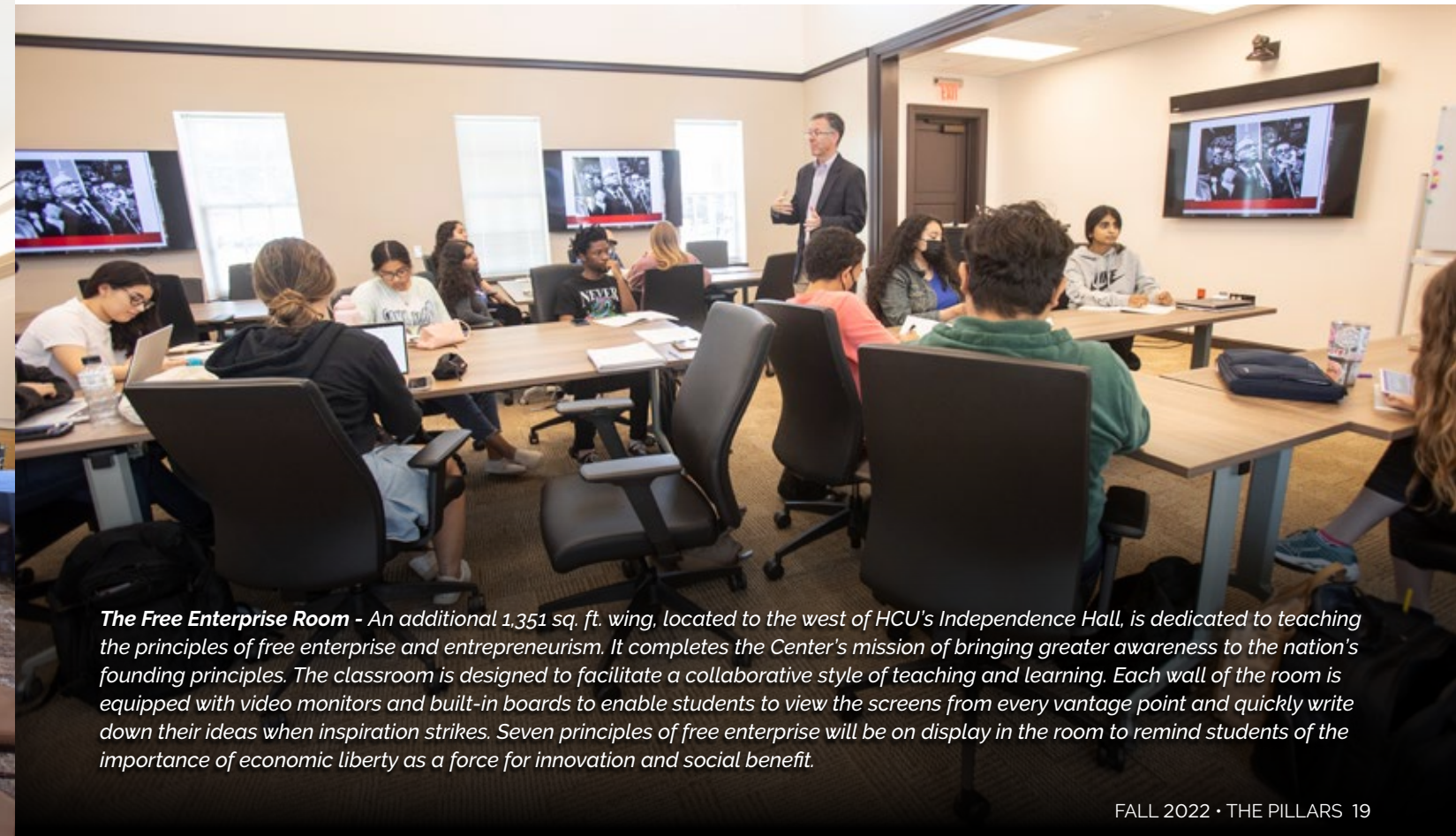
The Gallery - In addition to providing a vibrant and interactive locale to educate and empower students and the community with knowledge and insights on American history, the second floor of the main building has been re-purposed to provide an event space ideal for galas, banquets, and special events. The space contains a kitchen for meal preparation and can also be used for lectures, seminars, and corporate events.



Welcome Center - A 1,351 sq. ft. wing to the east of HCU's Independence Hall provides space for a Welcome Center for campus visitors. The vision is for school groups, teachers, and general visitors from across the city, and beyond, to visit the iconic building and learn about America's founding in this unique "Liberty Laboratory" that emphasizes the principles of our Constitution and their importance.



Academic Building 1 - An 18,477 sq. ft., three-story academic building, dedicated to classroom instruction, opened in the Fall 2022 semester. A functional addition to the HCU campus, the new structure provides classrooms for faculty to teach courses in history, political science, law, philosophy, economics and more. The building includes seven classrooms, six faculty offices, the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship Collaborative Classroom, and open space for students to study and relax. A second administrative building is planned in the future to provide additional space for classroom instruction.



The Free Enterprise Room - An additional 1,351 sq. ft. wing, located to the west of HCU's Independence Hall, is dedicated to teaching the principles of free enterprise and entrepreneurship. It completes the Center's mission of bringing greater awareness to the nation's founding principles. The classroom is designed to facilitate a collaborative style of teaching and learning. Each wall of the room is equipped with video monitors and built-in boards to enable students to view the screens from every vantage point and quickly write down their ideas when inspiration strikes. Seven principles of free enterprise will be on display in the room to remind students of the importance of economic liberty as a force for innovation and social benefit.

Pursuit of Justice

Alum Carving Path in Legal Field



Grace Braun was born in China and adopted from a Chinese orphanage when she was a year old. Her parents raised her and her sister with Christian faith and values and always encouraged them to share their gifts and talents with others. As a child, when asked ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ she would answer, ‘A mighty woman of God.’ In high school, her natural love for reading, writing, and research ignited her interest in pursuing a career in the legal field.

A member of HBU’s Honors College, President of the Pre-Law Society, and member of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Braun graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0-grade point average in 2020 with a degree in Legal Studies.

Led by her faith and her desire to help others, Braun traveled to Vietnam and visited orphanages with Grace & Hope for Children board members to investigate the possibility of starting foster care programs in Vietnamese orphanages, an issue close to her heart. She is currently pursuing a Juris Doctor degree at the University of Texas (UT) School of Law and serves as Managing Editor of the Texas Review of Law and Politics and Associate Editor of the Texas Law Review. She is also a member of the Texas Federalist Society. Braun was designated by the UT School of Law as one of the top 16 students in her class. She also applied for and accepted two clerkships (one for a federal district judge and a second with a judge on the Circuit Court of Appeals) which means that she will have the qualifications to potentially clerk on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In this special Q & A, Braun shares a personal account of her journey at HBU and the foundation the University provided in her pursuit of a legal career, her thoughts on the Morris Family Center for Law and Liberty, and her desire to activate her faith to help others.

Q. What led you to enroll at HBU and how was the University pivotal in preparing you for a career in the legal field?

A. I chose to attend HCU because of its Legal Studies program, which Dr. Tyler described as teaching students how to become lawyers. The Legal Studies program taught me the history, principles, and ideals of the Anglo-American legal system, and Dr. Tyler’s

classes were foundational to my belief in originalist and textualist methods of interpretation. I also was an Honors College student, which prepared me well for the heavy reading loads and Socratic method of law school.

Q. What are your thoughts on the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty complex?

A. I love the idea of studying the law in a building modeled after Independence Hall. As an originalist, I believe that the correct meaning of the Constitution is the meaning that the words had at the time they were written and ratified. Learning about the American Constitution and laws in an environment that pays homage to the Founding era is perfect to get into that mindset. I hope the new Center will draw students interested in the history of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and our great legal system to HCU and encourage them in their studies.

Q. What would you say to a prospective student about attending your alma mater and pursuing a degree in the Legal Studies program?

A. I would highly recommend pursuing a Legal Studies degree at HBU [recently renamed Houston Christian University]. It was incredibly beneficial to me to learn about the foundational values and history of the legal system, and I think very highly of all the professors in the program. Dr. Tyler, in particular, has been an incredible mentor to me, and I am so grateful that he encouraged me to come to HCU.

Q. Where do you envision yourself in 5 years?

A. I am currently in my third and final year in law school, and then I will spend a year clerking for Judge Hendrix and a year clerking for Judge Elrod. After that, I plan on practicing in Big Law in Houston as a trial or appellate litigator.

Q. What impact would you like to have in your future legal career and what issues do you hold close to your heart?

A. I certainly don’t know what the future will hold, but I do know that I want to be the best attorney I can be for clients and for the less fortunate. I am very interested to see how the jurisprudence around abortion and substantive due process changes after *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, although I’m not sure what role I might play there. Whatever I do, I hope to live up to the ideals and values that my parents and mentors have instilled in me and will trust God to lead me on the way.

Built on a Solid Foundation

Daniel Cadis never imagined that a mock constitutional convention in 2011, coordinated by HBU Government Professor Dr. Chris Hammons, would lay the foundation for creation of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty which recently celebrated its grand opening in September.

What began as an academic initiative of the School of Humanities would serve as a model for educating and bringing greater awareness to America’s founding principles and the vision of the nation’s founding fathers. Political science students, like Cadis, who took part in the mock constitutional convention brought green tablecloths and quill pens to mirror the look of the Assembly Room in Philadelphia’s iconic Independence Hall. They also immersed themselves in impassioned arguments surrounding the U.S. Constitution, similar to the ones that took place before the signing of one of the nation’s defining documents.

Thanks to Hammons’ leadership as, then, Dean of the School of Humanities, and the generosity of HBU’s Founding Father Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr., the University is now home to a new educational complex where a new generation of students will learn about America’s founding principles in the same manner as Cadis and his classmates did years earlier.

“In an era when constitutional rights are being eroded and constitutional norms challenged, it is wonderful to have a building in Texas that will remind us of the vision of the Founding Fathers of America when they signed the Declaration of Independence and later drafted the U.S. Constitution, which resulted in the formation of our constitutional republic,” said Cadis.

A 2012 HBU Honors College graduate with a degree in political science and mass communication, Cadis obtained his juris doctor for the University of Texas School of Law in 2017. He now works as a corporate lawyer in the Austin office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, specializing in mergers and acquisitions for private equity clients across a variety of industries, including renewable and clean energy, infrastructure, technology and manufacturing,

and conventional energy and oilfield services.

Cadis said he appreciates the wealth of knowledge he gained from Dr. Hammons, now the Director of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty, and the many professors who invested in him and served as invaluable mentors during his undergraduate studies.

“Education has been the gateway to opportunities I could only have dreamed of when growing up, and I wouldn’t have those opportunities without the guidance and investment from teachers and mentors, like Dr. Hammons, who saw potential in me,” said Cadis.

As a corporate attorney, he plans to continue working to provide positive outcomes for his clients while providing mentorship and guidance to law students and young attorneys and also serving the needs of pro bono clients.

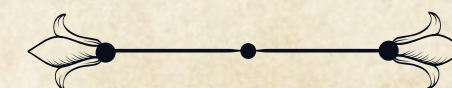
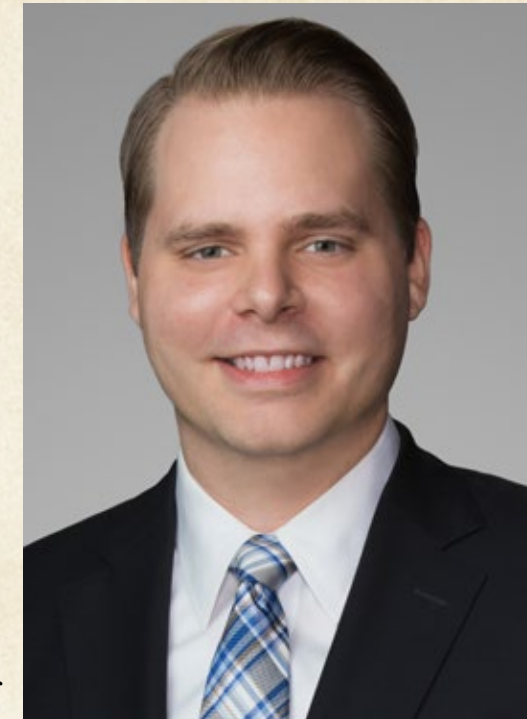
“Being able to mentor law students and young attorneys is a highlight of my career so far,” said Cadis, who makes a conscious effort to remain grateful for the

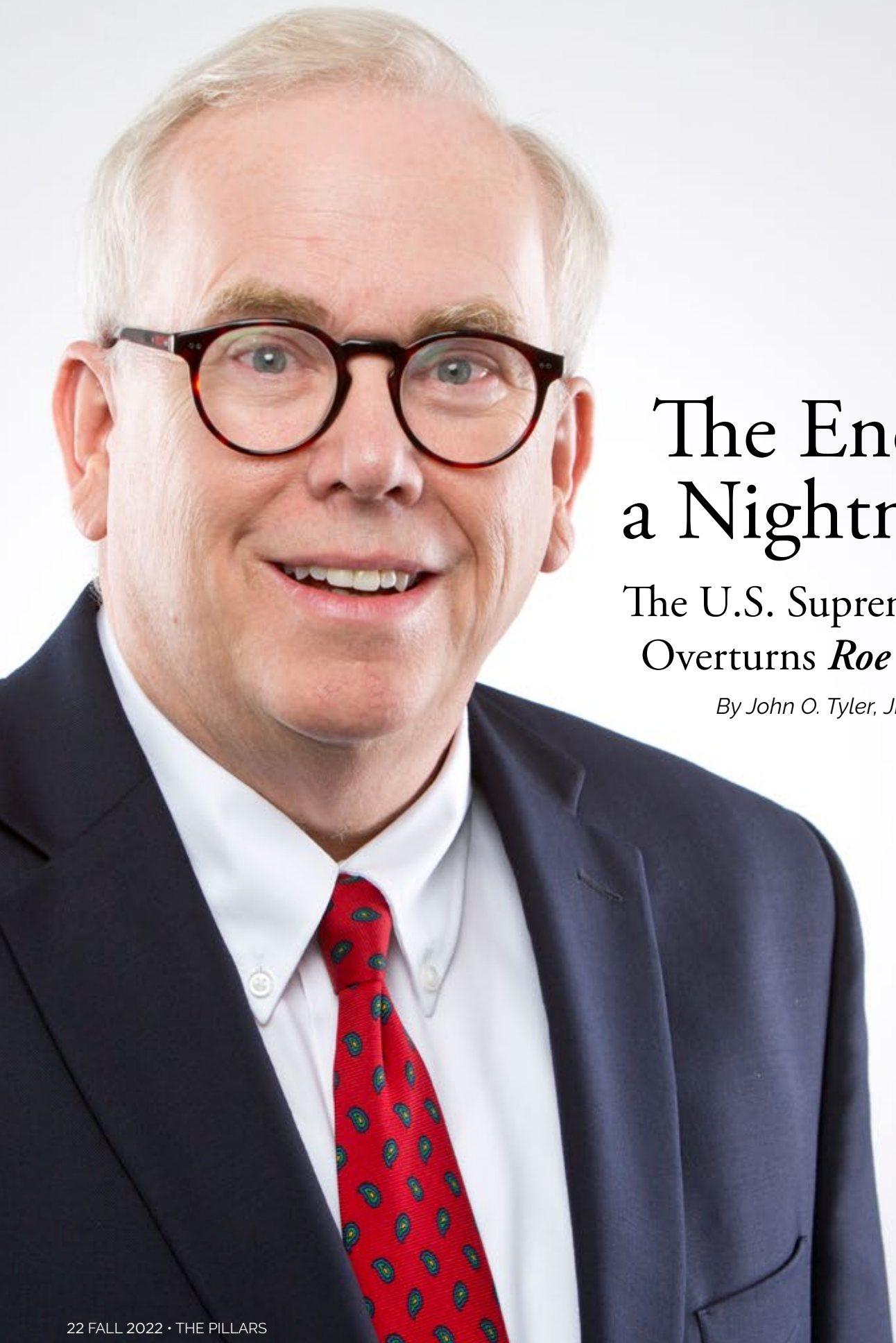
opportunities he has been afforded.

“This is a small thing, but I leave a sticky note up on my desk that reads ‘Thank You.’ It’s a simple daily reminder for me to view the world through the lens of gratitude, even when work or life may be stressful,” said Cadis.

He calls the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty an important reminder of “the vision of the Founding Fathers of America” and hopes that generations of future students gain a greater understanding and appreciation for America’s founding history and principles.

“Being able to walk in the footsteps of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, James Madison, and more, will hopefully inspire future students to do great things on behalf of their country and communities, even when they are young,” said Cadis. “Jefferson was only 33 when he drafted the Declaration of Independence. You don’t have to wait until you are older to start making a positive difference in the lives of the people around you.”





The End of a Nightmare.

The U.S. Supreme Court Overturns *Roe v. Wade*

By John O. Tyler, Jr., PhD



“I believe that *Roe* is a jurisprudential nightmare... As a matter of constitutional interpretation and judicial method, *Roe* borders on the indefensible. I say this as someone utterly committed to the right to choose, as someone who loved *Roe*’s author like a grandfather.” **Edward Lazarus, former Law Clerk to Justice Harry Blackmun, the author of *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973).**

In 1973, Justice Harry Blackmun delivered the 7-2 opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973). The Court struck down a Texas criminal statute that prohibited abortions except when necessary to save the life of the mother. The Court did not strike down the Texas statute for violating any right contained in the Constitution or the Bill of Rights. Instead, the Court said the Texas statute violated a new right created by the Court, a “right of privacy.”

The *Roe* opinion admitted that the right to privacy was *not* contained in the Constitution: “The Constitution does not explicitly mention any right of privacy.” 410 U.S. at 152. Furthermore, the *Roe* opinion did *not* give a pregnant woman the right to abort her child. It gave that right only to her *doctor*. “The abortion decision and its effectuation must be left to the medical judgment of the pregnant woman’s attending physician.” 410 U.S. at 164.

The *Roe* decision was a moral nightmare. Between the *Roe* decision

in 1973 and January 2021, according to data from the CDC and the Gutmacher Institute, an estimated 62,502,904 unborn children were aborted in the United States. This number is *94 times* the number of all Americans who have died in combat since 1775.

The *Roe* decision was a *jurisprudential* nightmare as well, intensely criticized even by legal scholars who advocate for a legal right to abortion. Edward Lazarus, former Law Clerk to Justice Harry Blackmun, the author of *Roe v. Wade*, wrote, “I believe that *Roe* is a jurisprudential nightmare... As a matter of constitutional interpretation and judicial method, *Roe* borders on the indefensible. I say this as someone utterly committed to the right to choose, as someone who loved *Roe*’s author like a grandfather.”

Yale law professor John Ely described *Roe* as “a very bad decision... It is bad because it is bad constitutional law, or rather because it is not constitutional law and gives almost no sense of an obligation to try to be.” Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe wrote, “One

of the most curious things about *Roe* is that, behind its own verbal smokescreen, the substantive judgment on which it rests is nowhere to be found.”

Overturing *Roe*

The U.S. Supreme Court finally overturned the *Roe* decision on June 24, 2022 in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, 597 U.S. ___ (2022). The *Dobbs* Court held that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. The *Dobbs* Court upheld Mississippi’s Gestational Age Act, which provides:

Except in a medical emergency or in the case of a severe fetal abnormality, a person shall not intentionally or knowingly perform . . . or induce an abortion of an unborn human being if the probable gestational age of the unborn human being has been determined to be greater than fifteen (15) weeks.

The full *Dobbs* decision, including dissenting and concurring opinions, is 213 pages long. In summary, the *Dobbs* Court reached two main conclusions. First, the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. Second, the Constitution permits the people’s elected representatives, such as state legislatures, to decide how abortion should be regulated in their state.

Regarding *Dobbs*’ first conclusion, that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion, the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment prohibits states from depriving any citizen of their life, liberty, or property without due process of law. The Court found that the right to obtain an abortion, however, is not a liberty protected by the Fourteenth Amendment.

As the Court explained, the Fourteenth Amendment protects two categories of liberty interests. The first category consists of the rights expressly listed in the first eight Amendments of the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights does not list a right to obtain an abortion.

The second category of liberty interests protected by the Fourteenth Amendment consists of “fundamental rights.” Fundamental rights are rights that are *both* “deeply rooted in our history and tradition” and “essential to the Constitution’s scheme of ordered liberty.” Examples of fundamental rights include the right to vote, the right to travel freely between states, and the parents’ right to make decisions regarding the care, custody, and education of their children.

The right to obtain an abortion, however, fails both of these requirements. The Court explained that prior to *Roe*, “there was no state constitutional provision or statute, no federal or state judicial precedent, and not even a scholarly treatise” supporting a right to obtain an abortion. On the other hand, “by the late 1950s at least 46 States prohibited abortion ‘however and whenever performed’ except if necessary to save ‘the life of the mother.’” When *Roe* was decided in 1973, “similar statutes were still in effect in 30 States.”

Regarding *Dobbs*’ second conclusion, that states are free to

regulate abortion, the Court stated, “It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people’s elected representatives. ‘The permissibility of abortion, and the limitations upon it, are to be resolved like most important questions in our democracy: by citizens trying to persuade one another and then voting.’ That is what the Constitution and the rule of law demand.”

Restoring the Constitution

Dobbs is a monumental decision. In addition to ending the moral nightmare that *Roe* created, the *Dobbs* decision takes a giant step towards restoring Constitutional government and ending the jurisprudential nightmare that created *Roe*. *Dobbs* begins this process by recognizing that the Supreme Court should follow the Constitution *as written*, and *as ratified*, by We the People.

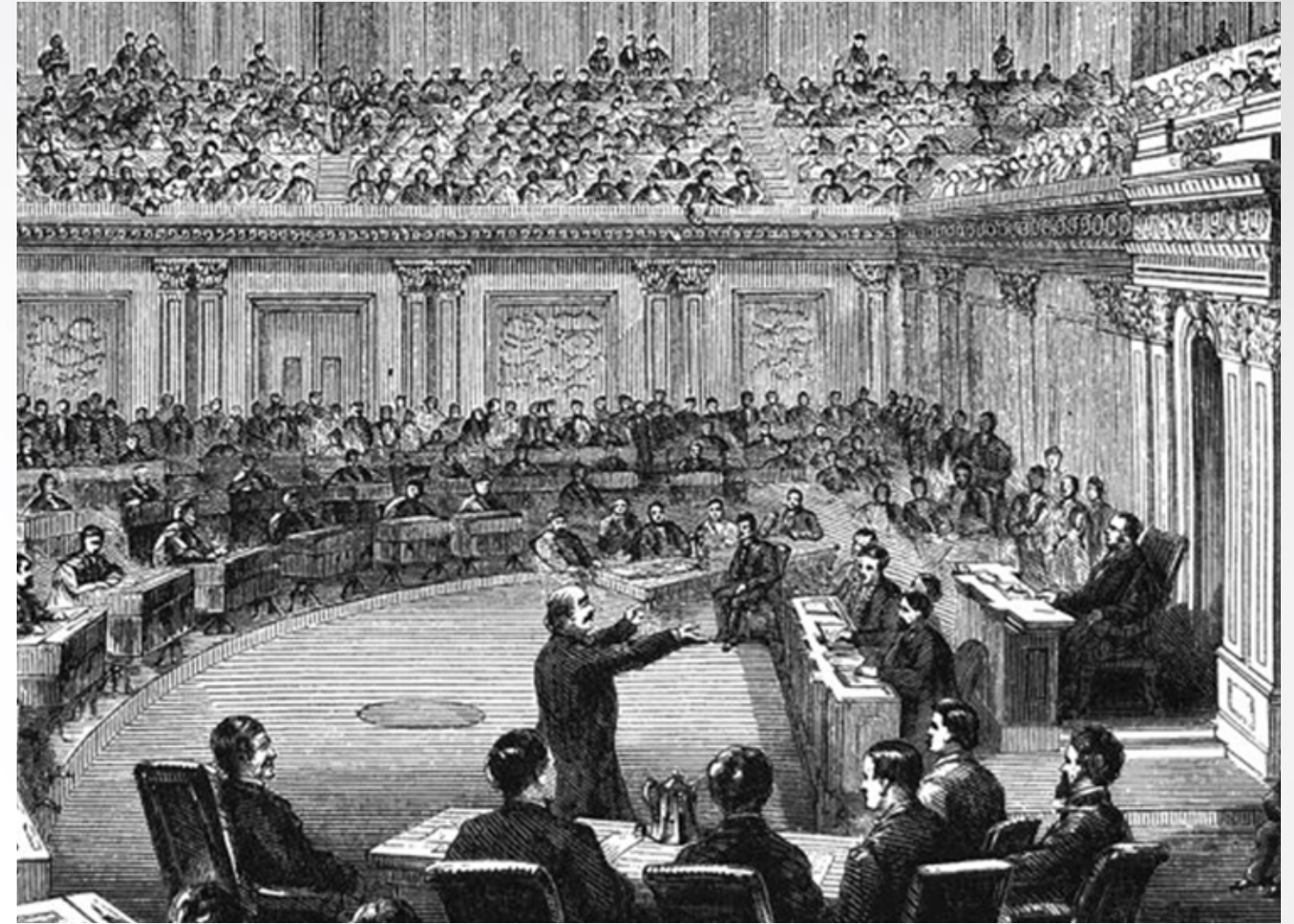
In 1788, during the ratification debates on the Constitution, New York state judge Robert Yates argued that Article III, which establishes the judicial branch, did not contain sufficient checks and balances on the Supreme Court. Recognizing that men are not angels and that power can corrupt even the best of men, Yates predicted that the Supreme Court would increase its power, and the power of the entire federal government, beyond that granted in the Constitution.

Yates made four specific predictions. First, the Supreme Court would ignore the text of the Constitution. Second, the Court would expand its power by expanding its jurisdiction beyond the jurisdiction granted in Article III. Third, the Supreme Court would expand the power of the federal government by expanding the power of Congress beyond the power granted in Article II. Lastly, the Supreme Court would usurp the power of the states to make and enforce their own laws.

All four of Judge Yates’ predictions came true. The result was an activist Supreme Court that legislated from the bench, gradually but steadily increasing its own power, gradually but steadily increasing the power of Congress, and gradually but steadily usurping the power of the states.

Roe v. Wade (1973) was the direct result of the Supreme Court’s wrongful expansion of its judicial power and its wrongful usurpation of state powers. Furthermore, the Supreme Court’s power grab knowingly violated three fundamental principles on which our Constitution depends. These three principles are the sovereignty of law, the separation of powers, and federalism. The following discussion briefly explains these three principles, and why these three principles are essential to the Constitution’s stated purpose of securing “the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.”

The first Constitutional principle violated by activist courts is the sovereignty of law. The U.S. Constitution establishes a government of laws, not men. This is an ancient and fundamental principle of good government. Sovereign laws have three



characteristics. First, sovereign laws wield supremacy over political rulers. Second, sovereign laws bind political rulers to the same degree as they bind any other citizen. Third, political rulers must enforce the laws.

Plato wrote in the *Laws* (c. 360 BC) that the sovereignty of law, more than any other factor, determines whether a society is preserved or ruined. Aristotle wrote in the *Politics* (c. 350 BC) that a government of laws is superior to a government of men. When men are beset by passion, Aristotle explained, they are the worst of all creatures, and even the best of men is beset by passion from time to time. Well-formulated laws, on the other hand, are the products of reason free from passion. Aristotle concluded, therefore, that “well-formulated laws must be the final sovereign.”

The Constitution adopts the sovereignty of law in multiple provisions, including the Supremacy and Oath Clauses of Article VI, the Due Process Clauses of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, and the Take Care Clause of Article II, which requires the President to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed.” The Supremacy Clause of Article VI provides that the Constitution, federal statutes, and federal treaties are the supreme law of the land. Supreme Court justices are subject to their provisions like any other citizen.

The second Constitutional principle violated by activist courts

is the separation of powers. Like the sovereignty of law, the separation of powers is also an ancient and fundamental principle of good government. The separation of powers provides stability in government by splitting the legislative, executive, and judicial powers among different branches. Governments in ancient times usually reposed all three powers in a single, “simple” constitution, with the result that they were highly unstable. Athens, for instance, had six violent revolutions and regime changes between 411 BC and 403 BC.

Rulers and states sought a solution to this “cycle of revolutions.” Lycurgus, the king of Sparta, found the solution *circa* 700 B.C. Lycurgus adopted the separation of powers in the constitution of Sparta. To ensure that Sparta would not abandon the separation of powers, Lycurgus announced that he was going to visit the oracle at Delphi. Before he left, however, he obtained an oath from every citizen that Sparta would not change Sparta’s constitution until he returned. When Lycurgus visited the oracle, he asked the oracle if he had given Sparta a good constitution. When the oracle assured him that he had, Lycurgus starved himself to death rather than return to Sparta, thus forcing Spartans permanently to honor their oath. Sparta’s constitution, stabilized by the separation of powers, lasted 800 years until the Romans conquered Sparta. Sparta still holds the world record for constitutional stability.

The separation of powers, as described by Montesquieu in *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748), provides the basic blueprint for the Constitution. Article I of the Constitution gives all legislative power to Congress, and *only* to Congress. Article II gives the executive power to the President, and *only* to the President. Article III gives the judicial power to the courts, and *only* to the courts.

When an activist Supreme Court strikes down a federal statute without showing the statute violates the Constitution, it violates the separation of powers by usurping the legislative power of Congress to enact or repeal laws. It also violates the separation of powers by usurping the executive power of the President, whose consent is required to enact or repeal laws. The first time the Supreme Court did this was *Marbury v. Madison* (1803).

The third Constitutional principle violated by activist courts is federalism. Federalism, as described by Montesquieu in *The Spirit of the Laws* (1748), intentionally divides government power between the federal government and state governments. This allows a union of many states to function efficiently despite their large territories and large populations.

The central federal government has the advantage in solving large problems that affect the entire nation, such as national defense. State and local governments, however, have the advantage in solving local problems because they are more responsive to the needs of the people. State and local governments are also more accountable to voters and less susceptible to corruption than the central federal government. The genius of federalism under our Constitution is that it ensures the advantages of both federal and state governments, while avoiding the disadvantages of both.

History also proves that a federal system permitting self-government over local issues reduces the threat of factions and insurrection. When founded in 509 BC, the Republic of Rome covered only 1.3 square miles and ruled a territory of about 300 square miles. By 50 BC, the Roman Republic ruled a territory of almost 750,000 square miles, but it never adopted federalism in its government. The problems associated with ruling such a vast territory with one central government facilitated the rise of political and military factions. A series of insurrections and civil wars plagued the Republic beginning in 88 BC, ultimately causing the fall of the Republic and the loss of all liberty in 27 BC. Our Constitution adopts federalism to avoid these problems.

The Constitution establishes federalism by “enumerating” or listing the powers of the federal Congress in Article I, the powers of the President in Article II, and the powers of the federal judiciary in Article III. The Tenth Amendment then provides that the powers expressly listed in Articles I, II, and III of the Constitution are the *only* legitimate powers of the federal government. The Tenth Amendment expressly reserves *all other government powers* to the states and the people. When an activist Supreme Court strikes down a state statute without showing the statute violates the Constitution, it violates federalism under the Tenth Amendment. The first time the Supreme Court did this was *Fletcher v. Peck* (1810).

The *Roe v. Wade* decision struck down the Texas abortion

statute without showing the Texas statute violated the U.S. Constitution. It thereby violated both the sovereignty of law and federalism. Just as Judge Robert Yates had predicted in 1788, the *Roe* Court ignored the text of the Constitution, expanded its power beyond that granted by the Constitution, and usurped the legitimate power of the states to make and enforce their own laws. *Dobbs* takes a giant step towards restoring the sovereignty of law and federalism.

Beware of Court-Packing

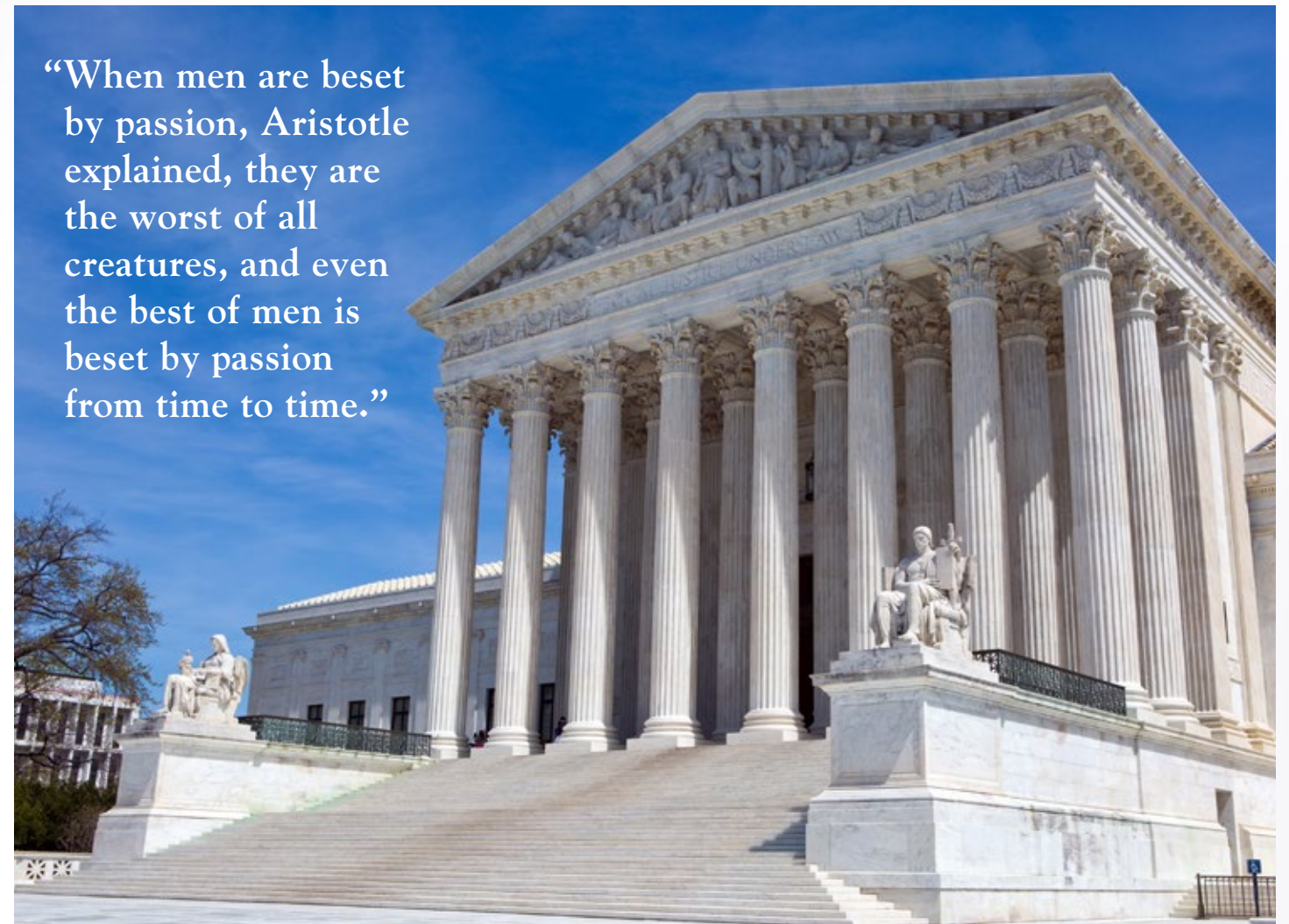
Looking to the future, many in Congress now advocate packing the Supreme Court with activist judges. Their motive is to destroy permanently the separation of powers and transform the Supreme Court into a vassal of Congress that enforces, not the Constitution and Bill of Rights, but the vacillating political will of Congress. This will transform the United States from a government of laws to a government of men.

Packed courts are the Samsons that pull down the pillars of liberty. In England, court packing with activist judges by James I (r. 1603-1625) and Charles I (r. 1625-1649) resulted in an infamous series of cases that violated the English constitution, increased the king’s powers, and destroyed established liberties. These activist court opinions led directly to the English Civil War (1642-1651) and Charles I’s execution for treason. The English Civil War killed a higher percentage of the English people than World War II.

Court packing with activist judges by James II (r. 1685-1688) resulted in another series of infamous cases that violated the English constitution, increased the king’s powers, and destroyed established liberties. These activist court opinions led directly to the Glorious Revolution (1688) and the forced abdication of James II. To prevent such cases in the future, and to protect their liberties, the English people adopted the English Bill of Rights in 1689.

In 2004, Hugo Chavez packed the Venezuelan Supreme Court, the *Tribunal Supremo de Justicia* or “TSJ,” increasing the number of judges from 20 to 32. The packed TSJ became the enforcement arm of Chavez’ government and enabled Chavez to force Venezuela into Marxism. The TSJ ruled in favor of Chavez in more than 45,000 cases, and never ruled against Chavez in a single case. TSJ rulings empowered Chavez “to take over basically the entire economy” by confiscating media outlets, oil and power companies, mines, farms, banks, factories, and grocery stores. In 2013, Venezuela was in a total economic collapse. In 2017, the TSJ declared the Venezuelan legislature illegitimate and transferred all legislative power *to itself*, creating a constitutional crisis.

In conclusion, the U.S. Constitution does not need to be *re-written*. It needs to be *re-read*. The Supreme Court does *not* make the Constitution; the Constitution makes the Supreme Court. No Constitution, however, can protect and defend itself. As George Washington observed, “No wall of words, no mound of parchment



“When men are beset by passion, Aristotle explained, they are the worst of all creatures, and even the best of men is beset by passion from time to time.”

can be formed to stand against boundless ambition aided by corrupted morals.” The Constitution cannot protect the liberty of its citizens unless its citizens use their liberty to protect the

Constitution. The duty to protect and defend the Constitution, to know its provisions, and to secure its blessings falls on each of us. It always has.

¹ Edward Lazarus, *Thoughts On the Author of the Landmark Decision: Was Justice Blackmun Correct, Or Is the [Roe] Decision Still Troubling?* FINDLAW LEGAL COMMENTARY (Jan. 23, 2003), <https://supreme.findlaw.com/legal-commentary/edward-lazarus-archive.html>; and *The Lingering Problems with Roe v. Wade, and Why the Recent Senate Hearings on Michael McConnell’s Nomination Only Underlined Them*, FINDLAW LEGAL COMMENTARY (Oct. 3, 2002), <https://supreme.findlaw.com/legal-commentary/the-lingering-problems-with-roev-wade-and-why-the-recent-senate-hearings-on-michael-mcconnells-nomination-only-underlined-them.html>.

² John Hart Ely, *The Wages of Crying Wolf: A Comment on Roe v. Wade*, 82 YALE L. J. 920, 935-937 (1973).

³ Laurence Tribe, *The Supreme Court, 1972 Term—Foreword: Toward a Model of Roles in the Due Process of Life and Law*, 87 HARVARD L. R. 1, 7 (1973).

⁴ Gestational Age Act, Miss. Code Ann. §41-41-191 (2018).

⁵ *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, No. 19-1392, slip

op. at 12 (U.S. June 24, 2022).

⁶ *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, No. 19-1392, slip op. at 35 (U.S. June 24, 2022).

⁷ *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, No. 19-1392, slip op. at 35 (U.S. June 24, 2022).

⁸ *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, No. 19-1392, slip op. at 6 (U.S. June 24, 2022), quoting *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833, 979 (1992) (Scalia, J., concurring in judgment in part and dissenting in part).

⁹ Antonio Canova Gonzalez, Luis A. Herrera Orellana, Rosa E. Rodriguez Ortega, and Giuseppe Graterol Stefanelli, *El TSJ al Servicio de la Revolución: La Toma, Los Numeros y Los Criterios del TSJ Venezolano* (2004-2013), [*The TSJ at the Service of the Revolution: The Taking, the Numbers, and the Criteria of the Venezuelan Supreme Tribunal of Justice 2004-2013*] ed. Ana Carola Fernández (Caracas: Editorial Galipán, 2014).

¹⁰ George Washington, Proposed Address to Congress, April 30, 1789.



Ignite



Kaleo Spiritual Life and Sugar Creek partnered in celebrating our theme of "United in Christ" for the annual IGNITE! conference held on Oct. 4-6. The event featured worship led by Sugar Creek's worship team and messages from the church's pastoral team. Students engaged in breakout sessions to discuss a variety of topics, including relationships, discovering your purpose and digging into God's Word. The life-changing event saw 49 students make full-time commitments to follow Christ, 221 students re-dedicate themselves to Christ, and 194 students inquire about Christian community and discipleship.



Houston Christian University hosts Ground Zero 360 Remembrance Exhibition

Houston Christian University hosted the Ground Zero 360 Remembrance Exhibition to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks.

The collaborative exhibit of global artists from 12 countries opened to the general public from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, in the Contemporary Gallery of the University Academic Center on the HCU campus, 7502 Fondren Road, Houston, Texas 77074.

HCU President Robert Sloan offered words of comfort at a 9/11 Worship Service in Belin Chapel in the Morris Cultural Arts Center. During the service, a moment of silence was held in recognition of the collapse of the Twin Towers. A 9/11 Memorial Ceremony took place outside of the Morris Family Center for Law and Liberty led by Master of Ceremonies Len Cannon of KHOU-11. Family members of victims dedicated a tree on the HCU campus in commemoration of all 9/11 victims. The Ground Zero 360 Remembrance Exhibition opened for viewing at 11 a.m. after the ceremony.

Visitors viewed harrowing visuals, heartbreaking "missing person posters" and a panoramic installation that gives insight into what eight million New Yorkers felt in the days following the 9/11 attacks. Visitors also had the opportunity to hear emergency radio calls from that morning and see a fragment of twisted steel and broken granite from the World Trade Center.

The curated art and history exhibition also displayed crosses and a menorah cut from steel from the World Trade Center by ironworkers, a flag that flew over Ground Zero, a "Survivor Tree" cast in bronze with steel from the World Trade Center along with personal artifacts lent by families of police officers and firefighters who lost their lives in the attacks.

The exhibition runs through Jan. 31, 2023, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Thursday on the HCU campus.

For more information on the Ground Zero 360 Remembrance Exhibition, visit groundzero360.org.





Homecoming and Family Weekend

Homecoming and Family Weekend celebrations brought hundreds of students, alumni, faculty and staff to the Houston Christian University campus for a weekend of cherished traditions, reunions, interactive games and the much-anticipated Husky Hustle 5K Run. This year, runners gathered in the evening for a Glow in the Dark version of the 21st annual 5K run hosted by the HCU Alumni Association to raise funds for scholarships. The weekend also featured the Association's annual Spirit of HCU Awards Dinner honoring alumni for their achievements and contributions to the University. Brandon Baca '00 was presented with the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2022, Micah Jimison '19 received the Emerging Leader Award 2022, and Noemi Martinez '22 was presented with the Emma Key Faithful Servant Award. Additionally, alumni, faculty, and staff were inducted into HCU's Walk of Honor. HCU Athletics also inducted individuals into the HCU Athletic Hall of Honor whose participation and contributions have enriched and strengthened the University's athletic program. Topping the weekend off, Christian Saldivar and Jessie Jimenez were crowned HCU's 2022 Homecoming King and Queen, respectively, during halftime of HCU's Homecoming game against Northwestern State.



2022 Hall of Honor



ALLISON ABENDSCHEIN was a four-year letterwinner at midfielder for the women's soccer team from 2013-2016. The Magnolia, Texas, native helped lead the Huskies to conference tournament titles and the program's first two NCAA Tournament appearances in 2014 and was MVP of the conference tournament in 2016.



ANDREW GONZALEZ played his final two seasons as a guard/forward with the Huskies' men's basketball program from 2009-11. The Pasadena, Texas, native ranks 14th all-time with 1,292 points and ranks third with 20.9 points per game. He averaged 22.9 points per game in 2010-11, which ranked sixth nationally. Gonzalez was a First-Team All-Great West Conference selection in 2009-10 and 2010-11 and was named the GWC Newcomer of the Year for the 2009-10 campaign.



ANNA STRICKLAND was a three-year letterwinner at center for the HCU women's basketball team from 2013-16. The Woodlands, Texas, native led the nation in rebounding with 14.2 per game in 2015-16 and earned All-Southland Conference Second Team honors. Strickland was a two-time SLC All-Defensive Team pick, a two-time Academic All-Conference selection and was named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll all three seasons. Her 31 rebounds in her final game set the all-time Southland Conference record and were the most rebounds in a single game in NCAA Division I during the 2015-16 season.



The 1986 4x800-meter relay of **CHARLIE FOREMAN**, Magness Fyhr, Sam Shimfessel and Alfredo Lahuerta ran a world-leading mark of 7:22.19 on February 16, 1986, at the Florida

Open. Their average legs of 1:50.5 are what current HCU head track and field coach Theresa Fuqua described as "lightning in a bottle." The mark qualified them for the NCAA Indoor Championships, where they finished fifth, but were disqualified for incidental contact during the race. The mark stood up as the world-leading mark through the end of the 1986 season and was second-fastest 4x800-meter relay ever run by a collegiate squad (Arkansas in 1983).



STEVEN KEY, an HCU alum, is the longest-tenured assistant coach in NCAA Division I basketball, entering his 29th season coaching and his 32nd overall at the school. The Savannah, Georgia, native helped lead the Huskies to 10 NAIA National Tournament appearances, nine conference titles and the nation's No. 1 ranking in 2003. In addition to his basketball duties, he served as the sports information director until 2008, building the department's first official website, which would go on to win several awards.

HCU Volleyball

Former Husky Returns in Coaching Role

HCU alumni dot the landscape of the athletic department, with several former players entering the coaching profession and returning to their alma mater. When head volleyball coach Trent Herman had an open position, he jumped at the opportunity to bring Kayla Armer ('17) back home.

Armer was a four-year letterwinner at setter for Herman from 2013-16. She finished as the school's all-time leader with 5,070 assists, which ranks among the top 10 in Southland Conference history. She was also part of the foundation for the fledgling beach volleyball program from 2016-18, ranking third all-time in winning percentage, tied for fourth with 46 wins and qualified for the 2018 USA Beach Volleyball Championships alongside Tori Hinojosa ('20).

Following her collegiate career, Armer coached indoor and beach volleyball at ULM, where she began to build her resume.

"It's been so fun to be back (at HCU) in a coaching role - it felt like coming home," Armer said. "My three years coaching in Louisiana definitely helped prepare me for the position I'm in now. I learned so much about what it takes to lead young women, both on and off the court through coaching both indoor and beach in the Sun Belt and CCSA Conferences."

Armer's steady presence helped the Huskies make an immediate impact as a new member to the Southland Conference in 2013. As the league has changed significantly

from her time at HCU, the goal remains the same in the pursuit of a conference championship.

"The Southland looks pretty different from when I played," Armer said. "I think our program is very strong and will continue to compete at a high level in this league. This year's team has already faced a lot of adversity, but I'm excited about the growth of our team, both as a whole and as individual players. I'm looking forward to seeing what all we can accomplish as we continue to grow."

Armer became eligible for the HCU Sports Hall of Honor this year and was an overwhelming first-ballot selection. She was a three-time All-Southland Conference performer and was just as impressive in the classroom as a three-time academic all-conference honoree, as well as a CoSIDA Academic All-District selection in 2014.

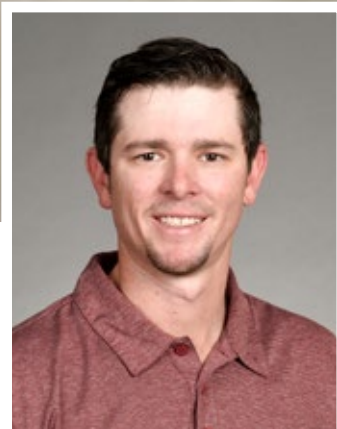
She was joined in this year's Hall of Honor class by women's soccer midfielder Allison Abendschein, women's basketball center Anna Strickland, men's basketball guard/forward Andrew

Gonzalez, the 1986 4x800-meter relay team of Charlie Foreman, Magness Fyhr, Sam Shimfessel and Alfredo Lahuerta, and men's basketball assistant coach Steven Key.

"It's an honor to be chosen to the Athletic Hall of Honor," Armer said. "What I'm most proud of in my playing career are the relationships that I built with my teammates and the friendships that continue to this day."



Husky Alum Makes PGA Tour Debut



Preston Stanley was the solidifying force for the HCU men's golf program from 2011-15 and was inducted into the school's Sports Hall of Honor in 2020. The Katy, Texas, native posted a runner-up individual finish to lead the Huskies to the 2013 America Sky Conference Championship and its first NCAA Championship appearance since 1988.

The quiet confidence that served Stanley so well in his time at HCU has brought him to the brink of a breakout professional career. In the summer, he qualified for his first PGA Tour event at the John Deere Classic outside Chicago.

"I was extremely excited, but at the same time I was overwhelmed," Stanley said. "The next three hours (after I qualified) were hectic as all get out, trying to figure out where I was staying, getting a flight for my brother-in-law, Trey, who was going to caddy for me, and figuring out who all was going to be coming. When I qualified for the Korn Ferry Tour, I was super excited, but with this, it was different with everything that had to be done to get ready."

Stanley opened with a 1-over par 71 but rebounded with a 67 to make the cut in his first-ever PGA Tour start. He fired a 65 that Saturday, before closing with a 73 to tie for 51st, finishing ahead of former major winners Zach Johnson and two others who missed the cut – Lucas Glover and Webb Simpson. Stanley then qualified for the Barracuda Championship in July and once again made the cut.

"One thing I took away from making the two cuts was I have the game to play on the PGA Tour and win," Stanley said. "I just need more opportunities and a chance to get comfortable. I was nervous that first event, but I was hitting it well tee to green. I just wasn't chipping and putting well. The next event, I was terrible all week, but I chipped and putted well and it was good enough to make the cut."

Under the modified scoring system, Stanley finished at +5, placing 71st.

"It was good to know that when I'm not at my best, I'm good enough to play in a PGA event and still make the cut."



Stanley's wife, Caitlyn (Cassity) Stanley, also played golf at HCU from 2011-15. She has caddied for him during his pro career, until welcoming their son, James Walker Stanley, in May.

"Caitlyn and I set a goal of me trying to play for five or six more years and at the end of that, I was playing really good golf," Stanley said. "It is great having someone who supports me and understands what I am doing. She doesn't mind if I need to spend extra time on the course. I was so happy she was able to drive up to the John Deere Classic with our then-two-month-old son."

Caitlin's brother, Trey Cassity ('15), took over the caddy duties for Preston's PGA Tour debut. Stanley's sister-in-law, Grace ('22), also played golf at HCU.

"The family aspect of our time at HCU is awesome," Stanley said. "When Caitlyn and I got out of school, we were dating. When Trey turned pro, I traveled with him and that was so much fun. He's not playing as much now and he knows my game so well, so it is great for him to be with me. Having my in-laws and my family both around me is a huge help. When they are at an event, off the course, I can be with them and spend time with them and it really helps me to relax."

Stanley is looking forward to the Houston Open qualifier on Nov. 7 and an opportunity that comes with playing in his home tournament.

"Qualifying for the Houston Open would be a great accomplishment for me, obviously being in my hometown and having everyone out there to see me play," Stanley said. "I've been able to play there a lot since the redesign, I really like the course and feel like I could make a run at it."

He knows there is not much separating him from playing on the PGA Tour full-time and continues to hone his game at his home course of Pine Forest.

"I've played with Charles Howell III, who has made over \$40 million on the tour," Stanley said. "I was hitting the ball every bit as good as he was, but he was getting up and down a little bit better than me. That's the difference between success and not being on the PGA Tour."

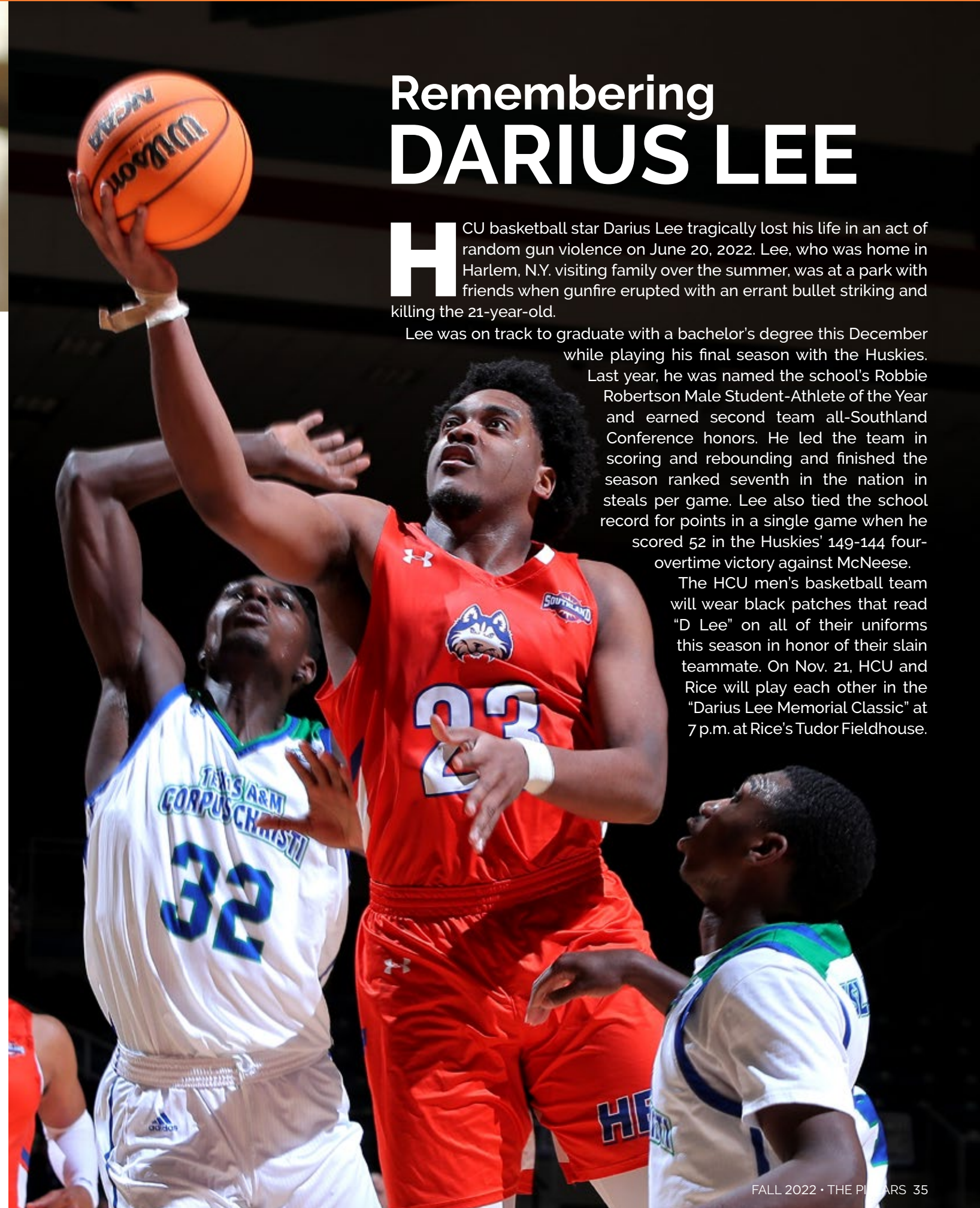
Remembering DARIUS LEE

HCU basketball star Darius Lee tragically lost his life in an act of random gun violence on June 20, 2022. Lee, who was home in Harlem, N.Y. visiting family over the summer, was at a park with friends when gunfire erupted with an errant bullet striking and killing the 21-year-old.

Lee was on track to graduate with a bachelor's degree this December while playing his final season with the Huskies.

Last year, he was named the school's Robbie Robertson Male Student-Athlete of the Year and earned second team all-Southland Conference honors. He led the team in scoring and rebounding and finished the season ranked seventh in the nation in steals per game. Lee also tied the school record for points in a single game when he scored 52 in the Huskies' 149-144 four-overtime victory against McNeese.

The HCU men's basketball team will wear black patches that read "D Lee" on all of their uniforms this season in honor of their slain teammate. On Nov. 21, HCU and Rice will play each other in the "Darius Lee Memorial Classic" at 7 p.m. at Rice's Tudor Fieldhouse.



1970s

Thomas Wheeler '75 is the Director of Surgical Pathology and Cytopathology for Sagis Diagnostics.

1980s

Carol (Troutman) Anderson '82 is a Part-time Tour Guide for the Houston Astros.

Mary (Menge) Brown '84 is the Staff RN at The Woman's Hospital of Texas.

Denise (Bianco) Gary '84 is the Librarian at Glenn High School in Leander ISD.

Randy Sorrels '84 was named the 2023 "Lawyer of the Year" in Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs in Houston.

Chris Gary '85 is the Pastor of Administration and Children at First Baptist Church Pflugerville.

Roland Pizzini '85 is the Director of IS Enterprise Systems at Texas Children's Health Plan.

Zahra "Zari" Mansouri '86 is the CEO of Laboratory Skin Care, Inc. and was featured in HAPPI Magazine in their May Edition.

Lourie (Itliong) Moore '87 is the Associate Administrator of Nursing Excellence, Quality, and Patient Safety for Harris Health System.

Jo Ann (Tucker) Morton '87 is the Administrative Assistant of Student Affairs for Wharton ISD.

1990s

Ty Bailey '93 is the Coordinator for 504 and Dyslexia at Spring ISD.

Gary Bartlett '93 is a Teacher at The Woodlands Christian Academy.

Denise (Schubert) Dunham '93 is the Sr. Territory Manager and RN for MDR Fertility Pharmacy.

Robert Bosie '97 is a Teacher for Houston ISD.

Ryan Thomas '98 is the Founder and CEO of Stratus Point Global.

2000s

Lance Hollis '01 is the Director of Data Architecture for Woodforest Financial.

Laura (Shugart) Hollis '01 is a Biology Teacher at College Park High School in Conroe ISD.

Michael Landry '01 is the Math Instructional Specialist for Aldine ISD.

Amy (Barra) Johnson '02, is the Bilingual Program Coordinator for the Texas Education Agency.

Grant Rothberg '04 is the Owner of Rothberg Realty Group.

Stephanie (Johnson) Smith '04 is the Director of Logistics for the US Army.

Roshell (Sampson) Arterburn '07 is a Tax Assessor-Collector for Utility Tax Service LLC.

Mandi (Tubbs) Tieman '07 is the School Services Coordinator at Music & Arts.

Chelsea (Harris) Trichel '07 is the Clinical Manager II for the Emergency Center at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital. She has also returned to HCU to get her MSN.

Veena (Todai) Mannan '09 is a Pharmacist for Cardinal Health.

2010s

Joseph Latas '13 is the Director of Legal Affairs and Compliance at Primacy Risk Services.

McCoy Fidel-Ndubisi '13 is a Business Development Representative for Upflow.

Carmen Portillo '13 was promoted to Senior Attorney at Kids in Need of Defense.

Bianca (Dimas) Richardson '13 is an Assistant Teacher at Brazos Academy and will be launching a new location in Denver Harbor with her team in 2023.

Liz (Amaya) Riley '13 is the Menlo Kids Coordinator for Menlo Church.

Ashley Kiker '13, M.A.'18 has become a licensed therapist and received a promotion to Clinical Supervisor at Arrow Child and Family Ministries.

Morgan Hedrick '14 is the Service Dispatch Manager for Morgan Pro Services.

Neal Nesbitt '14 is a Software Developer for Autodesk.

Brittany Platt '15 is the Senior Coordinator for Program Management at Baylor College of Medicine.

Chinwe Okenyi '16 is a Kindergarten Teacher for Fort Bend ISD.

Stephanie Williams '16 is a Licensed Professional Counselor at Renewing Hope Counseling.

Donte Daniel '17 is a Collections Representative for the Internal Revenue Service.

Sandra Florez '17 is a Clinician Senior for Catholic Charities.

Jonathan Richie '17 is a Journalist for The Dallas Express.

Jean (Schumacher) Rodriguez '17 is a Patient Access Representative II for UT Physicians.

Tiffany (Becton) Scott '17 is the Benefits Business Partner and HR Coordinator for Infogain/Vee Technologies.

Victoria Simms '17 was a travel nurse in Abu Dhabi at the only Christian nonprofit hospital in the UAE. She is coming back to the US for an assignment at Children's Hospital Orange County.

TaMera Thomas '17 is the Assistant Branch Manager for Republic Finance.

Michelle Yates '17 is a Master Technician for Suez WTS.

Joshua Arrizola '18 is a Training Manager at Top Golf.

Bryan Brody '18 is the Legislative Director for U.S. Congressman Ronny L. Jackson (TX-13).

Cody Douds '18 is a Literature Teacher for Founders Christian Academy of Mesquite.

Krystal Drummond '18 is an Assistant Principal for HISD.

Deborah Guel '19 is the Head of Elementary at Aristoi Classical Academy.

Micah Jimison '19 is a Full-Time Missionary and Hunger Farm Manager for 61 Isaiah Ministries.

Najmeh Poursaeidimahani '18 is an LPC and Owner of Psychotherapy of Houston PLLC.

2020s

Paul Berger '20 is the Ministry Administrative Assistant for Harvest Bible Church.

Chelsea (Alexander) Howard '20 is the Campus Content Instructional Specialist for Cy-Fair ISD.

Lucas Newton '20 is a Customer Relationship Advocate for Fidelity Investments.

Emily (Hernandez) Basquez '21 is an Executive Search Recruiter for Vanderbloemen.

Victoria Driskell '21 is an IT Software Sales and Consultant for Carahsoft.

Nicole Goodman '21 is a Registered Nurse at Houston Methodist.

Geraldine Kasule '21 is an Admissions Counselor here at HCU.

Micah Matthews '21 is the Student and Missions Pastor for Calvary Baptist Church.

Jamie Medrano '21 is an Undergraduate Admissions Counselor here at HCU.

Kyle Pernell '21 is the Senior Pastor at The Freewill Church.

Ashlyn Sheffield '21 is the Project Coordinator for Look Walls & Interiors.

Brent Watson '21 is an Assistant Principal in Cypress-Fairbanks ISD.

June Woodson '21 is a Registered Nurse for Memorial Hermann.

Ashley (Fleeks) Childs '22 is a Charge Nurse at Northwest Texas Hospital.

Kyanna Ferguson '22 is the District Wide Coach for Wraparound Specialist for Houston ISD.

John Pritchett '22 is a Partner at NAI Partners.



Rachel (Caudill) Nelson '01 got married to Kenneth Nelson in October 2021.



Robert "Rikey" Allen '68 was united in a religious ceremony with Carolyn Strack Pali on November 20, 2021 at Resurrection Lutheran Church.



Emily (Hernandez) '21 and **Michael Basquez '21** got married on May 21, 2022.



Alex Elizondo '21 married Anett Bernal on July 13, 2022.



Destiny Bellamy '15 married her high school sweetheart after 14 years.

HOUSTON CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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](https://www.hbu.edu/AlumniUpdate)

IN MEMORIAM



Travis M. Terrell '88
passed away on
September 4, 2021



Mitzie Lynn Craddock, MBA '93
Passed away on May
16, 2022.



Dr. Doris Warren, a beloved
professor and mentor to students
of chemistry, passed away on
May 22, 2022 at the age of 81.



Ianne Perez Quila, '97
Passed away on August
21, 2022, at the age of 49,
surrounded by her loved ones.



Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr. and family



Sharon Saunders and Schola Cantorum

HUSKY PUPS



Laci (Humphrey) Whittaker '10 and her husband welcomed
Juliette Annalisa Whittaker on September 13, 2021.



Kelly (Guthery) Martinez '13 and her husband
welcomed their son, Malachi, on January 28, 2022.



Christina Sabillón '13 and her spouse welcomed Selah
Eleanora Sabillón on May 11, 2022. Selah, is from the book of
Psalms meaning to pause and praise.



Christian Guzamn '17, M.Ed. '19 and his wife welcomed
Skylar Gene Guzman on September 13, 2022.



*Dr. Robert Sloan, Lisa Simon '76, Carlotta Coffman '68, Stewart Morris, Jr. | (front)
Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.*



*David Stutts '82, Stewart Morris, Jr.
and Stanley Williams*



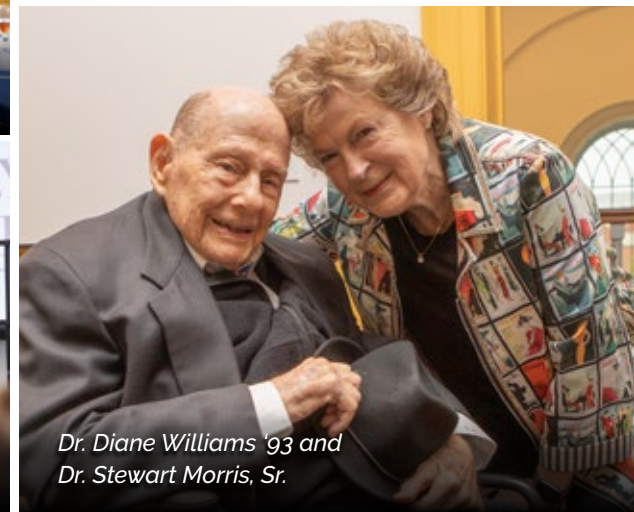
Becky Morris and Dr. Allene Lucas



Sharon Morris and Charles Bacarisse



*HCU Board of Trustees
Chair Garry Blackmon*



*Dr. Diane Williams '93 and
Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.*

Celebration of A Lifetime

*HCU Celebrates 103rd
Birthday of University's
Founding Father
Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr.*

Family, friends and HCU faculty and staff gathered on October 28, 2022 in the Gallery of the Morris Family Center for Law & Liberty to celebrate the 103rd birthday of Dr. Stewart Morris, Sr. HCU President Robert Sloan kicked off the momentous occasion by sharing a list of pivotal contributions that Dr. Morris has made during the University's 60-plus-year history. Dr. John Tyler, HCU government professor, and Dr. Chris Hammons, Director of the Morris Center for Law & Liberty, shared their thoughts on Dr. Morris' impact on the University, the community and beyond, as the University's founding father. Guests enjoyed a luncheon, cake, and ice cream, compliments of Blue Bell.

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