

The Guild

Houston Baptist University

2016 WINTER NEWSLETTER

Greetings from the PRESIDENT



Happy New Year! It has been said that great things take time. Our great event this fall was the Fall Coffee which was held in the lovely home of Sharon and William Morris. Thank you Bobbi Robinson, Madeline Collier and your committee for making this event so enjoyable for all of us.

Our annual Christmas Luncheon was held December 9 at River Oaks Country Club.

Guild members, faculty and friends filled the club with Christmas spirit and joy and were entertained by fabulous Christmas music provided by Mon'Sher Spencer, JJ Worthen and piano by Mac Gervais. Scholarship recipient Joshua Hilburn thanked the ladies of The Guild for the opportunities provided to him by the Guild's generous gift. Our guest speaker was TV star and former criminal prosecutor Kelly Siegler. Kelly delivered a very heartfelt message and testimony titled "Waiting on God." Thank you Jan Rule, Nancy Shomette and your committees for your tireless efforts in putting together this grand event! It truly was a huge success.

As we begin a new year, let us be reminded of the mission of Houston Baptist University which 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."

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events.

John 12:26 - Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

1Peter 4:10 - Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

To God be the Glory,

Jan Witham
Jan Witham

"EXPLORING TEXAS HISTORY & TRADITION"

Travel with us on a memorable excursion to Galveston Island for an exclusive tour of the world's most significant collection of Texana and Southwestern treasures followed by lunch at historic Gaido's, a true Texas tradition.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

9:00 a.m. - Meet at HBU Parking Lot #5
11:00 a.m. - Tour of The Bryan Museum
12:30 p.m. - Lunch at Gaido's

\$35 per person

Registration Deadline – February 12, 2016

**Transportation provided by
HBU on the Husky Bus!**

Limited space available.
Meet at HBU Parking Lot #5 at 9:00 a.m.
Bus will depart at 9:15 a.m. sharp.

Cheryl Kaminski & Janet McGuire
Special Event Co-chairs

Mail checks to:
The Guild - Houston Baptist University
7502 Fondren
Houston, TX 77074-3298

For Credit Card payment:
call Patti Bailey at 281.649.3362 or
email theguild@hbu.edu

The Bryan Museum
1315 21st Street
Galveston, TX

Gaido's
3828 Seawall Boulevard
Galveston, TX

For additional information,
please contact theguild@hbu.edu

Fall Coffee

The 2015 Fall Coffee chairmen were thrilled to learn that William and Sharon Morris offered to open their beautiful home for The Guild's Fall Coffee on October 22. Their gracious hospitality and the beauty of their home were a perfect backdrop to welcome approximately 60-70 new and current Guild members.

Co-chairs Bobbi Robinson, Madeline Collier and a committee of wonderful volunteers provided a selection of tea sandwiches and a variety of desserts served on the dining room table featuring a gorgeous centerpiece designed and created by Sharon Morris. In addition to a beautiful setting, attendees were also treated to beautiful music provided by Dr. Daniel Kramlich, professor of music in HBU's School of Fine Arts.

Guild President Jan Witham welcomed guests, recognized new members, and introduced Dr. Sloan who gave an update on the University and thanked William and Sharon Morris for their very generous gift to the University. Dr. Sloan made a special reference to artwork displayed in the foyer of the Morris home that was created by Professor Michael Collins, who serves as Artist-in-Residence and Senior Director of Art Programs at HBU. Dr. Sloan also asked Sharon to share the story of a unique silver tea service on display in their living room.

Guild Executive Director Sharon Saunders enlightened us with details of The Guild's history and thanked the members for their accomplishments and generosity raising more than 1.7 million dollars for scholarships and Guild projects. She expressed her appreciation to the Morrises and to the Fall Coffee Committee for their work in planning this event.

The program concluded with Dr. Sloan's presentation of a framed pre-1650 King James Bible page from the Dunham Bible Museum to our hosts, William and Sharon Morris.



New members Sharon Morris, Freddie Greene, Olivia Elmore, Jean Johnson, Susan Redding, Jan Danvers and Carol McGaughey with Guild President Jan Witham



William and Sharon Morris with Sue and Dr. Robert Sloan



Jan Witham, Sue Sloan, Dr. Robert Sloan and Sharon Saunders



Cheryl Dalton, Madeline Collier and Bobbi Robinson

Guild Christmas Luncheon Celebration

On December 9, more than 400 Guild members and guests arrived with holiday spirit to enjoy the Guild Christmas Luncheon at River Oaks Country Club. A crystal clear day and the beautifully appointed setting helped set the tone for another successful event.

Following welcoming remarks by Guild President Jan Witham, HBU alumni Mon'Sher Spencer, JJ Worthen and Mac Gervais performed a beautifully planned and executed music program which included lovely presentations of "Mary Did You Know?" and "The Prayer." Joshua Hilburn, recipient of the Dr. Robert B. Sloan, Jr. Endowed Scholarship, expressed gratitude to The Guild for providing him the opportunity of continuing his graduate studies at HBU. Jan then presented a \$20,000 gift to Dr. Sloan for The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies. As he thanked The Guild for their generosity and support of The Guild Institute, Dr. Sloan also shared that the University is continuing to grow in recognition and accomplishments in many areas, as well as in student enrollment.

Keynote speaker Kelly Siegler captured everyone's attention with her presentation of "Waiting on God," sharing experiences she encountered while working as a former Houston prosecutor as well as those she encounters currently in solving real-life cases on TNT's program, *Cold Justice*. She noted that life can be ugly, good people do get hurt ... and we don't always understand why. She referred to the lyrics of

an old hymn *We're trusting in the Lord, and according to His Word, we will understand it better by and by*; Kelly affirmed that from her experience, she has witnessed that sometimes good can come from bad. The framed Bible page presented to her by Dr. Sloan came from the book of Amos – a perfect selection as according to those scriptures, justice will be served.

The centerpiece angels that graced our tables were purchased and taken home to be enjoyed year round as the perfect reminder of this most special time of year. Christmas Luncheon Co-chairs Nancy Shomette and Jan Rule thanked all their committee members – stating that it takes a team to plan and execute a beautiful event. We ended the celebration singing our traditional luncheon close "Joy to the World." It truly was a memorable event!



Dr. Sloan and Jan Witham present Bible page to guest speaker Kelly Siegler.



Martha Turner, Grace Gandy, Judy Graham, Sharon Saunders and Kandy Brittain



Luncheon Co-chairs Jan Rule and Nancy Shomette

Faculty & Staff Christmas Open House

Christmas Spirit was in the air on December 11 as Dr. and Mrs. Sloan welcomed HBU's faculty and staff into their beautifully decorated home to celebrate the season and enjoy a festive holiday luncheon. The Sloan's annual hosting of this delightful event, The Christmas Open House for Faculty and Staff, is always enjoyed by the ladies of The Guild who are privileged to sign up and assist Sue Sloan, our gracious First Lady.

Red, green, blue and orange mingled throughout the house as a delicious lunch of ham, potato casserole, and salad was offered on the buffet. Then there were the dessert tables, (there were three!) laden with the sweet offerings of the Hospitality Committee of the HBU Guild. No one was watching their waistline today as there were plenty of enticing desserts to please any palate!

Many thanks to Co-chairs Cyndi Jacobson, Brittney Jacobson, Justin Jacobson and Mon'Sher Spencer and members of the Hospitality Committee who prepared desserts and hosted the luncheon to provide the HBU faculty and staff with a wonderful, holiday reprieve. Several professors were returning to gear up for finals, so they all had a great time visiting with their peers and tasting the holiday treats. The staff greatly appreciated having a time to relax and enjoy the holiday cheer together. A merry time was definitely had by all. Again, ladies of the Hospitality Committee, thank you for taking time out of your busy, holiday schedule to be a blessing to the HBU faculty and staff.



Dana Grigsby, Carolyn Williams and Pat Bertotti



Event Co-chairs Mon'Sher Spencer, Cyndi Jacobson, Brittney Jacobson and Justin Jacobson

Yearbook Updates

NEW/RETURNING MEMBERS

CRISTIE JO JOHNSTON
27815 Astoria Brook Lane
Katy, TX 77494
C - 913.991.8972
cjohn@aol.com

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Houston, TX 77079
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Green Christian
STEWARDS OF GOD & THE EARTH

Please consider recycling this newsletter. Recycling paper, cans, glass & plastic is taking care of our God's green earth.

First Lady Events

Throughout the year, Houston Baptist University student groups enjoy the hospitality offered by First Lady Sue Sloan, who opens her home to various campus organizations. These students, who usually arrive in groups of 50-75, are invited for refreshments and fellowship and are welcomed by Mrs. Sloan, assisted by First Lady's Events Committee Co-chairs Odile Tyler and Cathy Wheatley and their committee members.

Please visit hbu.edu/guild for information concerning upcoming events, general information, and for pics from previous events!

THE GUILD INSTITUTE IN CHRISTIAN FAMILY STUDIES



The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies welcomed Dr. Hunter Baker as speaker for the HBU Convocation and Faculty Luncheon in the Morris Cultural Arts Center on October 14, 2015. In his talk at Convocation, Dr. Baker presented 19 points of advice for the students, ranging from choices in life to choices for their future careers. The speech, which he titled "A Graduation Speech before Graduation," was well-

received by both the students and his fellow professors.

Following Convocation, The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies hosted a luncheon in McNair Hall to honor the HBU faculty. The program featured Dr. Sloan and Dr. Baker in a very interesting and informative discussion on the future challenges for a Christian University, as well as the importance of family,

the relationship of the family to politics and freedom, and raising children in the church.

Prior to Dr. Baker's position at Union University in Jackson, TN., he served as director of strategic planning and as a member of the faculty at HBU, where he co-founded *The City*, the University journal. Currently he holds the position of academic dean and associate professor of political science at Union University where he serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of Markets and Morality* and as a contributing editor for *Touchstone: A Journal of Mere Christianity*. Dr. Baker is also a research fellow of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and is the author of three books: *The End of Secularism*; *Political Thought: A Student's Guide*; and *The System Has a Soul*.

HBU faculty members were very gracious in their enthusiasm and expressed gratitude to The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies, represented by Guild Vice President Ruth Alford, Executive Director Sharon Saunders, Event Co-chairs Tommie Lejeune and Jane Caldwell and their committee.

~ SAVE the DATE~

Join us in supporting graduate scholarships for outstanding Christian students!

Silver Tea
April 14, 2016

honoring

Patti Bailey

for her loyalty, service and longtime commitment to The Guild and Houston Baptist University.

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Home of Rhonda and Michael Graff
35 E. Stillforest Street
Houston, TX 77024

MARK YOUR CALENDAR INSTALLATION COFFEE

Friday, May 13
10:00 AM



At the home of Robert and Sue Sloan
HBU President's Home
7706 Fondren Rd
Houston, TX

Congratulations!

Guild Board member Mon'Sher Spencer was named recipient of the 2015 Meritorious Service Alumnus Award which honors alumni who have made significant, sustained contributions of time, energy and creativity toward the advancement of Houston Baptist University. Congratulations, Mon'Sher!





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Houston, TX 77074-3298

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Letter from the Editors



Richardson & Williamson

By the time you read this newsletter, Guild members will have experienced several wonderful events, namely the Fall Coffee, the Christmas Luncheon, and the Faculty and Staff Christmas Luncheon. Each of these events served as opportunities for us to get together in Christian fellowship. We hope you were able to take part in each of these. Please mark the spring events noted in this edition on your calendar!

Our enthusiasm continues as Guild members have access to learn of the many exciting activities on campus. Dr. Sloan and the Board of Trustees are successfully continuing their goals to attain the vision established by *The Ten Pillars*. We see evidence of their accomplishments each time we visit campus and listen to Dr. Sloan provide updates at each of our functions. Our Lord is truly blessing HBU, and we count it a blessing to be a part of Faith and Reason in a Great City as set forth in *The Ten Pillars*.

We trust each of you enjoyed a joyous Christmas season with family and friends, and we will look forward to our spring events outlined in this newsletter. We leave you with this scripture from Daniel 1:17a: *To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning.* We see evidence of this learning at HBU through the faculty and staff who are critically screened to provide teaching and leadership through example.

God's blessings to each of you!



— *Ruth Ann Williamson
& Shana Richardson*
