STAY PURPLE!
On February 18, 1891, the Sweetwater Baptist Association voted on and agreed to the charter for Abilene Baptist College, which later became Hardin-Simmons University.

This year marks the 130th anniversary of that pivotal decision. And though there was confidence in the wisdom of this endeavor, it did not come easy. There was opposition!

Many of those at the meeting were in favor of the great adventure ahead for the new school. However, the former president of Baylor College, Rufus C. Burleson, was strongly against starting another college.

He felt that a new institution would compete for students and resources. At the time, some thought that the communities supporting the proposed college had not provided enough financial support to the one already in existence (Baylor).

Fast forward 130 years. Both Hardin-Simmons University and Baylor University have survived and thrived, paving the way for a Christ-centered education to be available for more students. God has been faithful!

In this issue of Range Rider, join us in looking at where HSU has been and observe God’s hand of faithfulness along the journey. Then we’ll look forward to where HSU is heading as we pray for His continued guidance.

You’ll learn how busy our students, faculty, and staff have been this school year. And as you read, we hope you will celebrate with us; the accomplishments of our alumni and donors, friends, and fans.

And there is no better theme for this issue than “Stay Purple!” as declared often by former HSU football head coach Dr. Jimmie Keeling.

So, whether in the classroom or on the field…Stay Purple!

Whether in the lab or on the stage…Stay Purple!

And most importantly, when at church or home…Stay Purple!

Hardin-Simmons University has 130 years of “excellence in education enlightened by Christian faith and values,” and I’m excited for the next 130 years.

Stay Purple!

Eric I. Bruntmyer
President
## RANGE RIDER

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RANGE RIDER CONTRIBUTORS

EDITOR
Nikki Slater
Director for University Marketing

CREATIVE EDITOR
Todd Clower ’99
Art Director and Senior Graphic Designer

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Emily Garner
Visual Media Manager

ALUMNI EDITOR
Heather Hadlock
Associate Vice President for Alumni Engagement

SPORTS EDITOR
Chad Grubbs ’02M
Director of Athletic Communication

ADVANCEMENT EDITOR
Cheryl Purcell ’06/’10M
Assistant Vice President for Advancement

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS
Kenneth Arant
Tech Support

Mary Burke
Special Collections Manager

Dr. Travis Craver ’05/’11M
Director of Chapel and Spiritual Formation

Kacie Eurek ’17/’19M
Marketing and Sales Specialist

Caanon Gibbons ’22
Student Writer

Allison Goodwin
Deputy Chief of Staff

Mike Hammad ’85/’89M
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Fernando Hernandez ’14
Graphic Designer

Greg Hollabaugh
Director of Media Services

Mendy Huddleston
Development Associate

Hollye Jaklewicz
Contributing Editor

Britt Jones ’84
Executive Director of Alumni Special Programs and Trustee Relations

Jaidyn Kamplain ’24
Student Writer

Josh Rivéra ’24
Student Writer
On Your Mark, Get Set...TRAVEL!

Visit hsutx.edu/AlumniTravel to start planning next adventure with us!

Selected Trips

- MARCH 1, 2022 - MARCH 8, 2022
  add on: Machu Picchu
  THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

- APR 25, 2022 - MAY 3, 2022
  unpack once!
  with Floriade Horticultural Expo
  LIFE ALONG THE DUTCH WATERWAYS

- JUNE 16, 2022 - JUNE 26, 2022
  OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY
  & DANUBE RIVER CRUISE
Hardin-Simmons University's beginnings can be credited in large part to the efforts of a handful of early pioneer preachers. These were men who knew adventure on the Texas plains; including Owen Pope, who founded the first Abilene Baptist Church in a tent and George Smith who pastored several young West Texas churches before giving much of his time to the college.

‘Launching the school was an act of adventure and faith,’ noted Rupert Richardson, in his definitive 1964 history of HSU.

Christian education was the focus, even from the school's founding in 1891 when it was known as Abilene Baptist College. Benefactor Dr. James B. Simmons suggested the name "Christlieb" College, meaning "The College of Christ's Love," and he felt so strongly about this capstone principle, that his foundational agreement with the school's leaders specified the institution’s purpose should be “To bring young men and women to Christ, to teach them of Christ, and to train them for Christ.”

The importance of this charge: “This covenant between Simmons and the
trustees,” Richardson wrote, “committed the college irrevocably to the cause of Christian education.”

Chapel is something that has long symbolized the school’s Christian spirit, where worship was given a high place in its routine and programming. Chapel services are designed to inspire and teach; while also bringing people together on campus.

130 YEARS OF ADAPTIVE LEARNING, CRITICAL THINKING, AND CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

Building on a liberal arts foundation, HSU has always been committed to providing students with tools for success in any area, pairing the latest technology with engaging programs to prepare them for today’s job market.

Adaptability has long been a part of the Hardin-Simmons DNA. For example, in 1902, Dr. O.H. Cooper made drastic changes to the Simmons college catalog, revising the curriculum so that the senior class became the sophomore class. An academy course corresponding with the high school program was grouped with the first two years of college work. Junior and Senior College level classes were added some years later. Under Cooper’s guidance, the academic program retained its classical nature, while incorporating a more liberal bent. He created a department specifically for the study of the Bible and linked the college with regional pastors by forming a Bible Institute which met annually. Many laymen and women other than missionaries soon began to take Bible courses. A few years later, it was made a requirement for graduation.

During World War II, Simmons College adapted its programs to train men and women for military roles. When the GI bill was introduced in 1944, the school pivoted again to include the training and vocational education that adults encountering the post-war world would need.

In his HSU history, Richardson noted that during this time the school considered capping enrollment or turning away students, but instead determined to meet the unique needs of the time since the school “had been established for service.” The larger student population brought about several changes, including an expanded school day, land acquired for additional housing, and programs adjusted to focus on areas of need.

Over the years, flexibility has been key to the university’s success and survival. Recently, the school has expanded health sciences programs in response to job market analysis. The strategic plan, “The Way Forward,” called for a rigorous commitment to a balanced budget to secure the school’s future; and the school made a rapid transition to online learning because of COVID-19.
130 YEARS OF ESTABLISHING LIFELONG RELATIONSHIPS

James B. Simmons set a standard of excellence for Hardin-Simmons University, a commitment that remains central to the ethos of our school. His example encourages students, faculty, staff, and alumni to lead lives of service through active involvement in church, culture, and world.

The HSU experience is unique. Many lifelong friendships begin within the 40 acres and homecomings inevitably see friends gathering to celebrate old memories and make new ones. Whether it’s a beloved professor who invested in students in and out of the classroom, a staff member who became a mentor, a parent who knew their student would be treated like family, or a student who found a place of belonging, HSU holds a place in the hearts of many.

That same dedication sometimes leads HSU’s current and former employees and alumni to transfer their passion and creativity into building collaborative programs which connect HSU students and faculty with the greater community. A few examples:

Western Heritage Day was created in 1982 by HSU faculty Lawrence Clayton, B.W. Aston, Bill Curtis, Randy Armstrong, and George Newman. It continues today as a community and campus-wide celebration.

Dream Catchers Summer Camp, created by Dr. Collins, joins the Abilene Independent School District (AISD) and HSU. AISD children receive a top-notch educational experience and a positive introduction to the university. HSU education students who participate in the program receive teaching and networking experience, and AISD administrators are reminded of HSU’s talent and job-pool for future placements.

Day Nursery of Abilene’s location at Orange St., which opened January 2020, was inspired when Mary Burke, Special Collections Manager and former HSU-employee and current adjunct, Shannon Maynard saw a need and encouraged HSU, Hendrick, and Day Nursery leaders to create a program that would be a benefit to the entire community.

130 YEARS OF EMBRACING DIVERSITY, INCLUSIVITY, AND INDIVIDUALITY

The original foundation agreement of Simmons College states “No religious test shall hinder any person...from entering
One such person who has been instrumental to the mission of teaching and training students for Christ is Dr. Larry McGraw, who has sought to live it out since he came to Hardin-Simmons in 1982. This was the same year that the Logsdon gift made it possible for the Division of Religion and Philosophy to emerge as Logsdon School of Theology. McGraw just celebrated his 39th year of teaching biblical studies.

If you have had the pleasure of sitting in on one of Dr. McGraw’s classes, you know his motto is “Don’t be a pansy.” When students seek to decrease or delay course requirements, they are playfully called a “pansy”—and the class will respond in unison “Don’t be a pansy!”

McGraw has seen many things change during his time in HSU’s Logsdon School of Theology, from the incorporation of a graduate program to the renewed focus on undergraduate ministry education. However, one thing that has never changed is HSU’s core mission—to provide an education built on a foundation of Biblical instruction and values. McGraw reports that his greatest joy is to see students come to Hardin-Simmons from different backgrounds and carrying different levels of faith, then leave transformed, embracing what God has gifted them to do.

One of the things that Dr. McGraw hopes to impart to students is a deeper appreciation of and connection to the Word of God. “Sometimes students have a love for God emotionally but not an understanding intellectually,” shares Dr. McGraw. His approach is to teach what scripture says, teach students to consider it for themselves, and start a conversation.

He makes it clear that he does not feel it is in the students' best interests to provide them with simple answers. Instead he tries to encourage them to wrestle with what they believe to create a more personal faith, not one simply based on the beliefs of their upbringing.

Hardin-Simmons University continues to be a place where students can explore many kinds of ministry opportunities. For those pursuing Christian ministry as a vocation, HSU has partnered with local churches and organizations for speaking engagements and ministry leadership internships. For those wishing to take part in lay ministry as part of their campus experience, there are plenty of opportunities through various student organizations, chapel, and community service projects.

Over the years, ministry experiences or academic courses may change, but all of these opportunities equip students to embrace Christian ministry, doing whatever they are called to do.

More than teaching God’s Word and offering opportunities for ministry, Dr. McGraw believes that the best way for Hardin-Simmons to build Christian faith and values is by modeling those things. “When students encounter faculty who are responsible to put Biblical principles in action, in and out of the classroom, they see authentic real-life examples of Christ-followers,” says Dr. McGraw.

This is exactly what Hardin-Simmons University was meant to be—an institution which imparts an education enlightened by Christian faith and values. Throughout its existence the school has trained hundreds of future leaders in the faith like Dr. McGraw, whose passion lives on in so many former students now serving in careers, churches, and communities.
and receiving instruction in said Simmons College.” The agreement recognized that God sees all of humanity and has the same goal—to be in relationship with each one of us.

Representing the inclusion to which the college aspired, it was appropriate that the first graduates of the school were women. Hinda Barry, Flossie Logan, and Maud Hill formed the graduating class of 1895.

After WWII, veterans began returning to the home front and attending college, creating an influx of international students at HSU. Some of the earliest scholarships were established for these students. Gib Sandefer, for example, secured a scholarship for East Indian students to attend HSU, while in India during WWII. Sandefer also made connections to bring the first Chinese student to HSU.

The history of HSU includes the early account of James Simmons advocating for abolition and establishing a school inspired by the notion of creating a place where everyone was welcome. This was born in part from his commitment to serve freed slaves in the heart of the South. Before integration, extension courses from Bishop College were offered on HSU’s campus for Black students.

**130 YEARS OF PREPARING GRADUATES FOR FUTURES OF PURPOSE**

From its earliest days, Hardin-Simmons has purposed to educate students holistically, creating engaged citizens who can lead companies, churches, or communities. In Robert Stuart MacArthur’s book, *A Foundation Builder: Sketches in the Life of Rev. James B. Simmons*, MacArthur quotes Simmons as saying “…such truly a Christian college must give actual Christian instruction, not only in other departments of sound learning and liberal culture; but specifically first, in the word of God, the greatest classic; second, in the story of the Church, the greatest history; third, in the doctrines of the Bible, the greatest science; fourth, in Christian Ethics, the greatest morality.”

This early mission is reflected in the current HSU vision statement, which asserts that HSU should be “an innovative community of servant scholars engaging the minds and nurturing the spirits of future Christian leaders.”
2000’s

- Elwin Skiles Social Science Building was completed.
- Lineberry Clock Tower finished.
- The Ring Tradition began.
- Holland Health Science Building completed.
- On-Campus Apartments open.
- Ribbon cutting for the Alumni wall.

2010’s

- Gilbert the Goose joined the campus.
- The new university Fletcher Fitness Center opened Fall 2018 semester.
- Hoss, the new HSU Mascot, was revealed.
- Cowgirls won NCAA Women’s Soccer Championship.
- Houston-Lantrip Center for Literacy and Learning opened.
- Gilbert’s Coffee Shop opened.
I have always been intrigued by ultra-marathon races in which people choose to run 50+ miles through deserts and mountains and cold, rainy weather or dry, hot heat. Just choosing to run an ultra-marathon race says so much about that person—their endurance and their character.

To compete in such a race, you must first know the best way to run. Ultra-marathon runners are those who are used to taking risks and pushing boundaries to get to the finish line. A successful ultra-marathon runner must be willing to go the distance.

To run the race well, you must have the ability to adapt to your surroundings. An ultra-marathon race is not a straight-line race on smooth ground. Mountains, rivers, boulders, and sand stand in your way. At every turn, you must adapt.

The etymology of “adapt” is a Latin word “adaptae” which means “to adjust or fit, or to join.” It also means “to undergo modification” as to fit to new circumstances.

As I take time to reflect on those who came before us at Hardin-Simmons, those who created the legacy of this great institution, I am humbled and in awe of the race that has been run to get us where we are today. From multiple pandemics to world wars, from depressions to recessions, the Hardin-Simmons community has always risen to the occasion.

We have seen evidence of this through our programs. From flight training in the past to physical therapy in the present, Hardin-Simmons has always adapted and fulfilled its purpose.

I am thankful for those Hardin-Simmons community members who have signed up to take part in this race. Our amazing Board of Trustees leads the way, our administrators provide tireless leadership, our incredible faculty and staff daily keep up the pace, and our HSU family of alumni, donors and friends cheer us on and pick us up along the way.

Today at Hardin-Simmons we are boldly embarking on the course set for us in The Way Forward Mission Action Plan (MAP). Over more than a two-year period, our administrators, faculty, staff, and students spoke into the strategic planning process that culminated in our 5-year MAP approved in the February 2021 Board of Trustees meeting. This MAP sets a course of innovation, growth, and ongoing excellence for Hardin-Simmons.

The Way Forward Mission Action Plan will help guide Hardin-Simmons to continue being good stewards of our resources and opportunities, to embrace the innovation required to boldly step into the future while remaining true to our past, and to focus on providing excellence in education enlightened by Christian faith and values.

We now have a clear direction, and we have the energy needed to complete the journey! As we pursue our Vision and Mission, Hardin-Simmons will implement the following Strategies throughout the University to achieve our Institutional Aims.

Please join with HSU in running the race set before us.

Eric J. Bruntmyer
President
INSTITUTIONAL AIMS

Hardin-Simmons Community — A growing, diverse, and cohesive learning community of highly engaged students, parents, faculty, staff, administration, alumni, and other friends dedicated to advancing the Vision and Mission of Hardin-Simmons.

Favored Choice — The university of choice for students seeking a Christian faith-based education in Texas.

Academically Excellent — Recognized for academic excellence achieved through an integrated curriculum, facilitated by an outstanding faculty, and enlightened by Christian faith and values.

Financially Sound — Operating with multiple revenue streams and a balanced budget. Financially sustainable long-term with adequate savings.

Innovative Leader — Implementing the integration of leadership, Christian ministry, fine arts, science, technology, engineering, math, and other disciplines enriched by a liberal arts foundation to meet student needs and changing job market demands.

Campus Life Experience — A life-changing campus experience in first-rate quality facilities which bolster programs and activities which help attract and retain students.

Active Alumni — Alumni and other friends of the university faithfully serving on university boards, supporting programs, engaging in recruiting, and participating in university sponsored activities.

STRATEGIES

Christian Distinctiveness — Enhance the Christian distinctiveness of campus life by infusing the study of Christian theology, values, and principles into the fabric of learning and thereby enriching the total student experience.

Program Review — Evaluate and improve existing programs and develop new programs to meet the everchanging demands of our students, to strengthen the university, and to promote its Vision and Mission.

Financial Strength — Enhance the financial condition of the university through the diversification of revenue sources and strong fiscal management, as set forth in a multi-year budget planning process.

Unified Plan — Operate under a unified enrollment, academic, and student life plan to remove barriers, real and perceived, and thereby increase access to excellence in education for more students.

Campus Relationships — Promote and improve campus community relationships between students, faculty, staff, and administration.

Faculty and Staff Engagement — Enrich the faculty and staff experience through collaboration, training, improved organizational structure, outcomes evaluation, and benefits.

Facilities Master Plan — Improve, properly maintain, and expand the university infrastructure by resolving deferred maintenance issues and through remodeling, building new facilities, and significantly improving campus technology.

Marketing and Communications Plan — Clearly, cohesively, and consistently exemplify the Hardin-Simmons brand, support and enhance strategies to generate new student growth, and foster positive engagement among our stakeholders including employees, alumni, and external audiences.

Accreditation and Recognition — Successfully complete the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges progress report. Move into the Top 20 of U.S. News and World Report’s “Best Regional Universities: West Division Rankings.”

Strategic Partners — Collaborate with local, state, national and international partners to accomplish mutual goals.

For More Information or Updates about The Way Forward Mission Action Plan, visit: www.hsutx.edu/wayforward
Team color reveal at Spring Stampede.
The Career Services department is one of the hidden gems at Hardin-Simmons University. Once students discover the opportunities available to set them up for success after graduation, they want to share with everyone on campus!

Director of Career Services Myles Lofland describes himself as very competitive but only considers himself a winner when students win. He cares about students’ futures, well-being, and his goal is their success.

Most students will recognize Career Services events like Résumés & Lattés, Adulting 101, and The Greatest Job Search on Earth. However, there is much more to the department’s mission than creating resumes and job searches. Among other things, Career Services teaches students how to network and market their offerings among the recruiters and hiring managers within their chosen field.

“In all reality, we are available to help from the very beginning of their collegiate journey,” says Myles. “Whether the student has no idea what they want to do, or they already have the passion to pursue a clear target, we’re ready and able to serve. Career Services is there to help students explore interests, identify skill sets, network in their future fields, and when the time comes, get that job.”

The Career Services Department has evolved over time, based on student needs, and changing recruitment practices.

“I believe my calling has always been to work and serve others to find out where they fit and where they can be successful,” says Myles. Starting in private career counseling, Myles discovered something unexpected. New college graduates were coming into his office asking for help because they were not receiving the services they needed on their own college campuses. It was those experiences that attracted Myles to his true calling in Higher Education.

Not having collegiate career counseling experience, he first became an adjunct professor to get his foot in the door and further his knowledge. Then he worked as an assistant director of Career Services at another institution before landing at HSU as Director of Career Services.

“A lot of people assume that Career Services is just about resume prep and job searching, but it is so much more than that,” says Myles. “So much has changed when it comes to approaching career-readiness and landing that top job after graduation.”

**MYLES’ BEST ADVICE FOR SOON-TO-BE COLLEGE GRADS:**

**Network with a purpose:**

The value of networking cannot be overstated. There is no better way to supercharge your job search than by having a network of professionals connecting you to roles that may never be posted anywhere. Successful new graduates are those communicating with family, friends, former co-workers, past managers, recruiters, and successful professionals to grow their knowledge and keep their name on shortlists for opportunities within “the hidden job market.”

**Develop value-filled marketing material:**

Most student résumés need help in one area more than any other—offering proven value. In a competitive market, listing job duties and responsibilities aren’t going to convince a hiring manager that you’re deserving of an interview. A résumé, cover letter, follow-up emails, value proposition letters, etc., MUST offer value. These can come in the form of statements that convey achieved success from former jobs, group projects, volunteer work, and supplemental learning outlets beyond the classroom. This includes highlighting involvement on LinkedIn, as well, to drive your brand and set you up to make meaningful connections with industry professionals.

Set up a search tracker: Avoid the major career marketing pitfall of mismanaging time by developing a spreadsheet with the top 20-or-so companies you are targeting, their recruiters, decision-makers, and email addresses, for systematically sending out job search letters and follow-up notes. Work through your tracker to stay organized so you can focus on what’s most important—networking!

**Practice through mock interviews:**

Take advantage of opportunities to practice and get comfortable in an interview setting by scheduling appointments for interview preparation and mock interviews. Knowing what to leverage and how to
convey it is crucial to success in today’s market, especially with behavioral interview questions. Practice etiquette for virtual interviews since many initial interviews are now being conducted remotely.

Leverage technology:

Understanding applicant tracking systems (ATS) that many companies now use to sift through hundreds of resumes can be crucial to getting your resume from submission status to the prospective applicant pool. Say no to templates and design your document from scratch in MS Word. Career Services can help. Build and promote your industry-specific content across your social media while also following your favorite companies and thoughtfully commenting on their posts. Use email address verification and mail tracking tools to get your letters in the inbox of the right players, and know that they’re getting read.

Myles’ best piece of advice: “Start your connection with Career Services early. Don’t wait until your senior year and find yourself scrambling to get everything in order for your job search.”

Students who engage with Career Services as college freshmen can expect to navigate a focused education more enjoyably with a clear goal in mind.

“Students need to make a point to connect with Career Services because there are ways to promote yourself as the premier candidate, and we want you to know what those are. I have seen enough students go through the four-year blur of their undergraduate learning and they come up to the end unprepared for their career marketing at graduation. I want to avoid that time and income lost.”

That’s not the only thing students can take advantage of through Career Services.

Myles has developed a robust seminar series alongside Baptist Student Ministries. “Adulting 101,” gives students successful life tools, including understanding work-life balance, engaging with recruiters and decision makers, navigating the modern job search, managing student loans and budgeting, and seeking a church home after graduating.

In addition, Career Services offers multiple monthly events like résumé workshops, on-campus employer visits, interview days, and its newest offering, LinkedIn “Live,” a real-time simulcast group workshop devoted to teaching best practices in profile building and optimization.

Through LinkedIn groups created by HSU, students can connect with alumni working in their chosen career field to get advice and tips that will help give them a competitive edge in the job market.

MBA student Alyssa Blue recently shared the benefit of this service saying, “I was able to participate in the job search strategy Adulting 101 program which focused on setting myself apart as a candidate among today’s competition. I discovered valuable information from an HSU alumnus in my industry, which helped me learn which tools and training would set me apart as an applicant in my field. I was then able to acquire those skills through LinkedIn Learning modules. I now feel like I am equipped to land that top job after graduation.”

Myles has one simple goal for those he serves: “I want to make sure that every student has the resources and skills needed to achieve the career goals they’ve set.”

More job tips can be found on the Career Services page of the HSU website at:
hsutx.edu/student-life/career-services

Follow HSU Career Services on Instagram @hsucareers and connect with Myles on LinkedIn at linkedin.com/in/myleslofland.
NATHAN LOWRY
Age: 34
Business: Big Country Title
Job Title: President/Owner
Degree: Business

Q: Who is the person that most influenced you in business?
A: My Dad, who taught me never to compromise in character or values, that good is the enemy of best, to measure twice and cut once, the importance of competition both on the field and in the marketplace, and to treat others the way you want to be treated.

Q: If you were to give one piece of advice to someone starting out in your field, what would it be?
A: Surround yourself with great people.

Q: What are three daily habits that have helped you to become successful?
A: Approach all things with a sense of gratitude, find something to improve every day, and drink a lot of coffee.

Q: What is one thing that you enjoy the most?
A: It sounds cliché, but being a small business owner in this industry, you have a unique ability to influence people.

Q: What is it about your job that you enjoy the most?
A: My main job is people-focused. We spend a lot of time and energy focused on people.

Q: What are three daily habits that have helped you to become successful?
A: I also see my responsibility to help build the culture, shape the vision, and understand the impact of our decisions on our clients and employees.

Q: What about Hardin-Simmons most prepared you for success?
A: So much in life is determined by what relationships that you cultivate and keep. I had some great professors that have strongly influenced me. They have become friends and sometimes clients.

Q: What is it about your job that you enjoy the most?
A: The Hardin-Simmons culture afforded me such a more personal experience that allowed me to get to know professors and build relationships which translated well into what I do today.

Q: What about Hardin-Simmons most prepared you for success?
A: The full extent of what it is to be a business owner, I have a unique ability to influence people.

Q: What is one thing that you enjoy the most?
A: Having the opportunity to intern for the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau, I started discovering the world of tourism and spots and I knew it was something I could see myself doing. My passion for the Abilene community made this a great fit for me all the way around.

Q: What is one thing that you would tell a new graduate?
A: Getting to work early (It gives me time in the morning to set the tone for the day), starting each morning with a cup of tea and making a daily to-do list.

Q: What is it about your job that you enjoy the most?
A: I like doing everything to the full extent of what it can be. Putting in the same amount of effort into my professional life as I do my personal life and I balance by the day.

Q: What is one thing that you enjoy the most?
A: I never considered Hardin-Simmons until a sports injury interrupted my plans and brought me here. I was a first-generation college student so it is something I always wanted but had to really work at.

Q: What is it about your job that you enjoy the most?
A: My dad. He has been the prime example of hard work and always providing for his family.

Q: What is one thing that you enjoy the most?
A: He's overcome adversity to become successful.

Q: What is it about your job that you enjoy the most?
A: Getting to work early (It gives me time in the morning to set the tone for the day), starting each morning with a cup of tea and making a daily to-do list.

Q: What is it about your job that you enjoy the most?
A: I sell Abilene as the destination of choice for sporting events. I also work with the Abilene Sports Alliance and the scholarship program for Big Country students.
MEET HEATHER HADLOCK

Meet Heather Hadlock, the new Associate Vice President for Alumni Engagement. As an alumnus herself with a legacy of family attending Hardin-Simmons, Heather is excited to draw alumni to the institution that she loves through developing relationships. With over 20 years of experience working in higher education, Heather is glad to be back at her alma mater in a role that suits her perfectly.

Heather is the first person in several years to fill this role as an alumnus of this institution, which is exciting for both her and our alumni. “Hardin-Simmons prepared me for helping equip others to discover what the Lord has called them to do through the opportunities I was afforded and experiences I had here,” said Heather. “That’s one of the reasons why I love this place. His plan has truly come full circle and has allowed me to give back to the institution that helped me discover God’s call on my life.”

Whether it’s by connecting alumni to each other, inviting them back to campus for an event, or by allowing them to pour into current students through mentorship, Heather hopes to foster a sense of family within all areas of the Hardin-Simmons community. “Hardin-Simmons is family to me. Everyone is born into a family, but you are also able to create a family for yourself. HSU created a big family for me, and I can see that even now as I work here so many years later.”

To contact the Alumni office, feel free to reach out to them at: alumni@hsutx.edu or 325-670-1317.
President Bruntmyer presents Sydney Leimann ’21 her diploma.

Chase Buchannan ’21 celebrates with family.

Rep. Jodey Arrington
Keynote Speaker, Congressman Jodey Arrington, charged the Class of 2021 to live a life based on the principles in God’s Word:

“Be Confident
In a world of variables; God is sovereign and constant.

Be Prepared
In life you will experience trials and tribulations; Don’t shrink back - because God is doing something great in the middle of it.

Redeem the Time
Life is short; Run the race to win it by being the light, meeting needs, setting the example, and serving each other.

Be Intentional
Guard your hearts for it is the well spring of life; watch for sin to sneak up and destroy your purpose, surround yourself with the right people, and focus on being a faithful servant of God.

Saddle-Up Cowboys!
Go Make Your Mark!
Hardin-Simmons University recently announced its third successful pass rate for students in its healthcare programs, making that a home run for 100% pass rate on their Nursing, Physician Assistant, and Physical Therapy programs.

HSU's Healthcare Programs: SOARING to the TOP
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Hardin-Simmons began the Masters of Physician Assistant Studies program in 2017, with the first year’s cohort of 30 students selected out of 1,900 nationwide applicants. The Hardin-Simmons University Physician Assistant (PA) program is fortunate to be one of only 10 accredited PA programs in Texas. Its instructors are dedicated to academic excellence in medical education with a mission to develop and prepare compassionate, professional PA providers who are committed to life-long leadership, learning, and community service.

An integral part of the Hardin-Simmons PA program is engaging students in the community by volunteering their services where possible. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the PA program mobilized to help provide services such as testing, hospital clinical relief, and vaccine clinics.

Physician Assistant was recently ranked the #1 Best Job in the US by US News and World Report. This is exciting news for Hardin-Simmons University graduates, whose entire first and second class achieved a 100% pass rate on their national qualifying exams.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

The Hardin-Simmons Physical Therapy program accepted their first class of Master of Physical Therapy students in 1996. In 2002, the program became the first in Texas to transition to offering the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program at HSU prepares individuals who demonstrate excellence in the practice of physical therapy and are enlightened by Christian faith and values. Excellence and integrity are developed and demonstrated in our program through lifelong learning, service, and faith. An excellent, well-equipped facility and numerous integrative learning experiences within the curriculum result in outstanding, exceptionally qualified practitioners. It boasts a state-of-the-art facility dedicated in 2018, and houses a human cadaver anatomy lab, PT rehabilitation lab, and the latest educational technology.

The graduating class of 2020 achieved a first-time pass rate of 100% and the entire DPT program has achieved a 100% pass rate since 2011, which is higher than the national average.

Unique to Hardin-Simmons is the idea of an “education enlightened by Christian faith and values.” The PT program takes this challenge seriously by incorporating servant-leadership as an integral part of the curriculum. Students are offered multiple opportunities to connect what they are studying to real-life situations within their communities, such as local, state, and international service projects. One example includes faculty, staff, and students joining forces with a local organization, “Boots on the Ground;” to learn to construct wheelchair ramps for those unable to leave their homes because of lack of access. Students also work with Joni & Friends at Family Retreats and on Wheels for the World projects. These opportunities allow PT students an opportunity to connect with people, much like the ones they will be working with in the future, to learn some of the ADA guidelines, and gain a better understanding of the challenges involved in living with a disability.

NURSING PROGRAM

Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing (PHSSN) began in 1979 when the Abilene Intercollegiate School of Nursing (AISN) was founded as a consortium partnership among local universities to provide students with the highest quality of training to equip them for a career in nursing. The school offers undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate degree programs. PHSSN boasts a small classroom size which provides students the ability for hands-on, individualized instruction and personalized faculty support.

Patty Hanks is one of only 5 Texas Bachelor of Nursing programs out of 50 and one of 9 of 123 Texas Associate of Nursing bridge programs to achieve 100% pass rate.
Q: What’s the greatest advice you have ever received?
A: Anything worthwhile is going to require sacrifice. There’s an old saying: “If you want it bad enough, you’ll find a way, and if you don’t, you’ll find an excuse.” You must be willing to make sacrifices to accomplish the things you want to accomplish in life. Whether it’s owning your own business, being a productive employee, or being successful as a husband or parent, never give up and don’t quit.

Q: What is the most important aspect of business that students in that field should know?
A: To me, it would be the fact that you make decisions in the best interest of the organization, not necessarily according to your personal opinions, especially if you are working for a public company where you have shareholders and others you are responsible to represent.

Q: Is there a key company that you admire and why?
A: I like First Financial Bank. I worked there and they have paid dividends every quarter for a long time. They are a very successful company and have made many of their employees millionaires through their stock option programs, property sharing programs, and retirement plans. In fact, they have several employees that make more money retired than they did working, and I think that says a lot about the company. They are very demanding; they demand high performance and work ethic. You must do your job well, but you are rewarded handsomely for it. I really admire that company.

Q: What do you love about HSU?
A: I love that we are faith-based at our core. Our faculty members are Christians and believe what they teach, and I don’t think we get enough of that these days. I like the fact that we provide a place for students to be successful and that individual faculty members can pull students aside and encourage them to do well in their classes. You don’t get that in a major institution.

Q: What do you enjoy doing when you are not teaching?
A: I have horses and cattle and like to team rope. I don’t go to many rodeos or jackpots anymore, but I rope at home. (It’s like having a driving range in your backyard for golfers.) I also like fitness and have a gym in my barn that has deadlift platforms and squat racks. We are also active in church at Wylie Baptist. It’s a great church and we love it there.
Q: What is the new wealth management minor about?
A: Our new wealth management minor, which goes live in the fall of 2021, is designed to pair well with an accounting major or a finance major. It is much more heavily investment-oriented versus trust management-oriented and is designed for the student to sit for the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Level I exam when they graduate. The CFA is a PhD-level certification that investment analysts can attain, and most of them when they get it, have been in the industry for 10 years. A student can come here, minor in wealth management, and be able to sit for the first of three exams when they graduate. The exam is unbelievably challenging, but our course will set a student up to be successful, provided they can put in the discipline and work to prepare to take the test.

Q: How many schools in Texas offer this to students?
A: There are very few universities in Texas that offer a major in commercial bank management. We have had multiple conversations with the Texas Bankers Association (TBA) about Hardin-Simmons University being one of the education providers for the Texas Bankers Association on the wealth management side. Other schools do provide similar programs in commercial bank management but very few offer wealth management.

Q: What advantage do students who take this minor receive?
A: The new wealth management minor will give a student that's applying for jobs an edge. Whether it's your undergraduate degree or your graduate degree, your certificate or license, you want something that is going to make your resume stand out among the others when applying for a position. We believe that having a minor in wealth management may be the thing that causes a recruiter to pull that resume out and look at it.

Q: Are there any employers that have indicated an interest in hiring our graduates from this minor?
A: What we've done so far is lobbied for their support. I've spoken with several well-known brokers and "investment firms to ask, "If we made a program like this, do you see a demand?" All of them unequivocally asked, "How can we help you do this?" They've provided support, quotes, and statements that helped us get the curriculum approved through our process here at HSU and will continue to support us as we educate students through our program.

Q: What advice do you give students who are thinking about pursuing this new minor?
A: I truly believe that it will give our students an edge in the business world. As I said, you are not going to be able to luck your way through the courses. It's going to have to be highly focused and disciplined students that will be successful in the program just because of the challenging nature of the courses. I think that this will prepare them very well to serve as trust officers, trust administrators, and real estate officers in trust departments. They can work in foundations, family foundations, stock brokerage firms, and things like that. I think that the career path for our students will be broadened with this minor.

Students in our business program have the opportunity to become student members of the Texas Bankers Association, which gives them access to the trade journals and the membership list of the TBA. The student membership program allows the student to be well-versed in current issues in business.
LINDA CARTER

Linda Carter has over 35 years of experience in a variety of Christian ministry areas, including college, chaplaincy, and counseling.

Linda did not arrive at Hardin-Simmons via a traditional path. Shortly after arriving in Abilene almost 36 years ago, she accepted the position of University Ministry Leader at First Baptist Church, Abilene. Linda felt privileged to frequent the campus as she became involved in the everyday lives of students. During those 7 years, she came to love Hardin-Simmons for the positive impact that it had on the students she knew and also on her own children, as those HSU students also became a part of her family.

Along the way, Linda felt called into the ministry of Chaplaincy. After a one-year residency in Lubbock, an offer came to rejoin the Abilene community at Hendrick Medical Center as their first female chaplain. This time she returned to Hardin-Simmons as a non-traditional student pursuing theological training while working full-time, eventually obtaining her Master of Education degree in Christian Marriage and Family Counseling.

Today she says God has brought her HSU journey full circle. First ministering on its campus, then as a student becoming an alumna, and now as a Trustee seeing 2 of her grandsons carry on that same legacy of pursuing a Hardin-Simmons education.

“It is a great honor and an awesome responsibility, as a Board of Trustees member, to carry the torch of the mission of the Hardin-Simmons founders,” she says. Serving alongside other Trustees, she can see how God has brought them all together — people with many different gifts with one thing in common: their love of Jesus Christ.

Linda desires to see HSU continue to flourish by pursuing excellence while never compromising its core beliefs. She begins each day by praying for Hardin-Simmons staff and students, anticipating with excitement and expectation what God will continue to do.

Ephesians 3:20-21 is her one of her favorite Bible verses: “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

Linda points at the Hardin-Simmons perspective as differentiating it from other schools. The quality, well-rounded, Christian foundation impacts not only a student’s education but their trajectory into the future, as they are prepared and equipped for fulfilling God’s call on their lives.

Linda lives in Abilene with her husband, Larry. She enjoys traveling, playing golf, and spending time with her family including two grown daughters, Amanda Young and Laura Chaney, a stepson Matthew Carter, and her 7 grandchildren, one of whom is currently an HSU freshman in the new Worship Leadership program.
DRUE POUNDS

With almost 30 years of experience, Drue has served as Chief Financial Officer for a variety of companies, moving from Texas to New Jersey, to California, . . . and back to Texas.

Drue Pounds, today an experienced businessman with a strong background in finance, launched his successful career by training as a Hardin-Simmons student. Earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting and Finance from HSU in 1992, he later acquired the Master of Business Administration from the University of Southern California.

A certified public accountant, he began his career in a public accounting firm in Dallas. That firm, in fact, has hired several HSU graduates over the years, and Drue was the first of those. After a few years in public accounting, he moved on to private industry, advancing steadily from Assistant Controller roles to Chief Financial Officer positions.

Drue has worked in domestic and international, small ($10M) and large ($2B) companies, across a variety of industries, including digital marketing, precision manufacturing, consumer goods (tuna), financial services, and healthcare (IT, services, and equipment).

Although he has never scored a hole in one, Drue is an avid golfer. At Hardin-Simmons, Harold Preston ’69/’72 introduced Drue to HSU’s Athletic Director Wayne Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher gave Drue a “preferred walk-on” opportunity for HSU’s NCAA Division I golf team. Trying out for the team, he qualified for the first tournament of the year and received a scholarship from HSU until the school moved to Division III. His top performance later earned him a spot in HSU’s 2005 Athletics Hall of Fame.

Drue has a great love for Hardin-Simmons, joining the Board of Young Associates in 1998-2004 and moving to the Board of Development, where he served until accepting the nomination to become an HSU Trustee. In December 2021, Drue will complete nine years as a Trustee. He has long held membership in the Finance Committee, chairing the committee these last two years.

During the years of his board associations, Drue has been privileged to serve under three different HSU administrations. He considers his service a high calling from the Lord. He is quick to point out that the needs, demographics, and trends for higher education have changed exponentially over his tenure of service.

Drue recognizes that many difficult decisions have been made by the Board of Trustees in more recent years, but he firmly believes the Lord has continued to lead HSU for great success now and in the future.

While his term as Trustee is ending, Drue remains strongly connected to Hardin-Simmons as the parent of two current students. The dual roles of Parent and Trustee have provided a unique lens for watching his children develop and mature into young adults. It’s been especially rewarding seeing them take on new challenges -- educationally, spiritually, and socially -- undergirded by a community of faculty, staff, and classmates.

Drue lives in Colleyville with his wife, Chris Anne, and their two young adult children. Drue is very involved in his church, First Baptist Church Grapevine, where he serves as a Deacon and Executive Council member. He enjoys playing golf, coaching softball, and traveling, both in the U.S. and Europe.
Stay connected!
Follow HSU on social media:

- hardin.simmons.university
- hardin-simmons-university
- @hsutx
- @hsutx
- @choosehsutx

Congratulations to Sigma 2 for winning the Women's 4x4 Volleyball League!
Camille Scott
March 4, 2021

Hey! Hey! Hey what can I say, studying pays off when you get to add cool letters to your name? Elizabeth Waters LAT ATC coming to you in 9 short days!
Elizabeth Waters
April 29, 2021

UPBEAT WON BEST INTERACT! I am so proud of all the work our group has put into this performance! I am so blessed to be directing them with my best friend!
jmorenoritmo
February 14, 2021

We are SO excited to have kiddos on our campus again to learn about HSU’s Western Heritage! It’s also fun to volunteer at the check-in station b/c I get to see my friends who come with their kids on the filed trip! It’s a FUN day for everyone! Hardin-Simmons Cowboys... Yee-Haw!!!
Tera Gibson
April 22, 2021

Oklahoma City Greek Life formal baby. Shoutout to the amazing @sydneybrickel for these BEAUTIFUL photos
hsuaio
March 27, 2021

Signing day cookies for a new Hardin-Simmons football player!
cookiesbychelsea
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Tera Gibson
April 22, 2021
Dylan got a lot of snow today in Abilene! #snowday2021

Donde’ Kaye Wiltcher
January 10, 2021

Baby Girl got to visit HSU today with me for work! We had such a fun day... and she already has the “get your guns up” sign down. #futurecowgirl #gocowboys

Danica Gopffarth
April 9, 2021

Hardin-Simmons University PSI CHI International Honors Society Congratulations!!! Love you

Christina Palma
April 20, 2021

The @jacksonkcox graduated from @HSUTX today! So proud! Yes, Maddie is missing- the AP Chem test. Boo #herockedit #1down3togo @kevincox94

Kathy Cox
May 7, 2021

It was either Donuts or be a Cowboy. #MommalMadeIt #FirstGen

morokod
May 7, 2021

Made the best decision ever can’t wait to be a cowgirl!!! #going2hsu

Shaylee Starr James
February 6, 2021

Ring by Spring?? In this case, yes #HSUring

jennamclainn
April 8, 2021
Dr. Scott Brown  
**Associate Professor of Psychology and Counseling- Cynthia Ann Parker College of Liberal Arts**  
Dr. Brown has been preparing the new Master of Human Development program to go fully online this fall.

Mrs. Lauren Cantrell  
**Assistant Professor of Social Work-Cynthia Ann Parker College of Liberal Arts**  
Mrs. Cantrell was elected as the West Central Texas Branch Chair of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

Dr. Renee Collins  
**Associate Dean of the Irvin School of Education and Professor of Education**  
Dr. Collins designed and provided a workshop for all education majors as they prepare for the EC-12 TExES PPR Exam. She also collaborated with professor and Chair of Teacher Education from the College of Arts, Science and Education at Texas A&M at the University of Texarkana, regarding curriculum/instruction for EC-3 TExES Science of Teaching Reading Exam.

Dr. Jennifer Eames  
**Program Director and Associate Professor of the Physician Assistant Studies Program**  
Dr. Eames met with the staff of Senator John Cornyn and Representative Jodey Arrington, coordinated by the American Academy of Pas, to promote upcoming legislation relative to PA practice.

Dr. Dennis O’Connell  
**Professor of Physical Therapy-College of Health Professions**  
Dr. O’Connell received a $5,000.00 grant from the Spalding Foundation to initiate a Gait Laboratory.

CELEBRATING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The Spring Commencement was held on Friday, May 7, 2021, in Shelton Stadium with three ceremonies. A total of 266 graduates participated in the ceremony representing 206 Bachelor’s degrees, 57 Master’s degrees, and 3 Doctoral degrees.

The Master’s in Speech, Language, and Pathology program begins this fall along with new minors in Wealth Management and Cybersecurity. All of these programs are receiving a very positive response from students and community leaders alike.

Hardin-Simmons has launched a new partnership with Acadeum, a consortium of accredited colleges and universities that will give HSU students access to courses that students can take to accommodate needed courses in a way that meets with their current course schedules. Students must obtain advisor approval to take courses through Acadeum.

During the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, students from all of our Health Professions programs participated in hosting or volunteering to provide vaccine administration for the community in partnership with the Taylor County Health Department.
Dr. Barbara Quillin  
**Director of Clinical Education and Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies Program**

Dr. Quillin co-authored a peer-reviewed research study in February, Are interpreter systems as effective as providers who speak their patients’ primary language, specifically in the Latino community with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), Texas Academy of Physician Assistants.

Dr. Steven Rosscoe  
**Professor of Geology-Holland School of Sciences and Mathematics**

Dr. Rosscoe was invited to speak by zoom at the Kasimovian Workshop, May 24-27.

Dr. Marsha Rutland  
**Professor of Physical Therapy-College of Health Professions**

Dr. Rutland, along with colleagues, Dr. Jacob Brewer, and Dr. Mark Armstrong, presented anatomy in the anatomy lab to various schools: Cisco Jr. College Respiratory Therapists, Odessa College, and Weatherford College Physical Therapy Assistant Programs, LCU Pre-PT students, ACU OT students, and 10 different area High school anatomy classes during March and April.

Mrs. Tiffany Stotts  
**Instructor of Worship Leadership-Cynthia Ann Parker College of Liberal Arts**

Mrs. Stotts recently completed writing an original worship song entitled, “Here I Am.” The song is based on Samuel hearing the voice of the Lord and represents the heart and desire of students to serve God and to be available to God’s calling. The song is now available on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, YouTube music, TikTok, and Pandora. They are also in the process of making a music video which will be available soon!

Dr. Justin Tammany  
**Admissions Director and Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy**

Dr. Tammany, along with colleague, Dr. Dennis O’Connell authored and published a peer-reviewed journal article - The effect of grunting on overhead throwing velocity in collegiate baseball pitchers (Accepted for publication in International Journal of Sports Science & Coaching).

**WELCOME NEW FACULTY**

Ms. Megan Driskill  
**Nursing Instructor- Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing**

Ms. Driskill has served the PHSSN as an adjunct clinical teaching assistant, and most recently transitioning from the role of a staff member to nursing faculty in January, 2021. Ms. Driskill received the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Texas Tech University in 2003 and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing Education degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. She has previously worked at Hendrick Medical Center and Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Clinic of Manhattan, Kansas.
Hardin-Simmons theatre students perform *Into the Woods*. (Left to Right) Dr. Rich Traylor, Cameron McClellam ’21, Samantha Gade ’24, Gracie Ridings ’24, Jonas Sims ’22, Julia Hollingsworth ’22, Bethany Soder ’22, Bailee Barrett ’22, Cassidy Davis ’22.
HSU FANS COME IN ALL FORMS:

large and small, young and young-at-heart. Despite their differences, though, they all share a love for the Cowboys and Cowgirls, and go out of their way to show up and cheer—no matter the outcome. Decked out in purple and gold, they are ready every time the stadium gates or gymnasium doors are open. Here are a few that truly deserve the super-fan award!

COUCH CREW

The Hardin-Simmons “Couch Crew” is a group like none other. This devoted bunch got its start when John McCormick would return from deployment and attend his little brother’s HSU football games. At that time, the JV Football team would occasionally drag couches swiped from alley dumpsters to the field to watch the games.

Years later McCormick became a residence director at HSU and after receiving new couches for the residence halls, decided to bring the practice back using the old ones. “I saw a need for us to better engage our JV players with the sport and took this as my opportunity,” says McCormick.

He used his apartment in Ferguson Hall to store the 10 old couches during the week, then lug them out to the field on Saturday mornings.

Later, one of his RA’s, Nathan Chilton, decided to make the “Couch Crew” an official club at HSU and the couches finally found a proper storage home. President Eric Bruntmyer became the group’s sponsor. The fan crew existed from 2014 to 2019, and for a time even boasted their own Twitter page with over 1,900 followers.

The group was known for their enthusiastic support for HSU football teams, displayed on the couches regularly dragged to the end zone of Shelton Stadium. For homecoming, the boys would add wheels to their “seats” and hold couch races as halftime entertainment.

From this tradition sprang another group, known as “Iron Fan.” The brainchild of Tim Schmidt, “Iron Fan” members would challenge students on campus to earn the “Iron Fan” title by attending as many home games as possible. HSU supporters could earn an “Iron Fan” t-shirt and have their name entered into a raffle.
Another standout HSU fan is Guinn Smith. Guinn and his wife Janice moved to Abilene from Vernon, TX in 1987 and quickly embraced the HSU Culture. Guinn worked in banking, while his wife worked at Hardin-Simmons in the office of Spiritual Formation. A son and daughter attended HSU, and their son, Pat had the opportunity to assist Coach Jimmie Keeling for a time. Eventually Guinn was asked to serve on the Academic Foundation Board, and later the board of Trustees. After retiring, he continues that service on the Board of Development.

You will often find Guinn sporting his signature HSU windbreaker—or his “walking billboard,” as he likes to call it—enjoying his free time at the Fletcher Fitness Center or attending a basketball practice. Yes, you read that correctly—a basketball practice.

Guinn goes to games too but considers attending practices a prime opportunity to “get to know the kids” in the trenches where they are doing the hard work. The truth is, Guinn’s love for HSU sports is primarily inspired by his appreciation for relationship building. He doesn’t have a grand story or a long sports history, although he certainly does love basketball and many other sports. Instead, he considers it a joy to spend time with these athletes and invest in their lives, as he harbors a deep desire to foster student talents and encourage their relationships with God.

Guinn has participated in the “adopt a player” program that elicits funds for needs not covered through the HSU programs. This program also gives a chance for donors to invest in the players personally as they get to know their families and encourage them on and off the field.

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PASSING IT ON

Dr. George Newman isn’t just a super-fan, he is a super-professor. After earning a spot as a top high school tennis player and continuing his athletic career in college, he eventually graduated and found his way to Hardin-Simmons, where he held a 25-year career as a professor of biology.

He served as HSU head tennis coach from 1975-80 when he passed the torch to one of his star tennis players, Gary Marabel. Marabel would later go on to be one of the top high school tennis coaches in the state of Texas, leading his teams to three state championship titles.

Though as a student he attended two big-name colleges, Dr. Newman still picks Hardin-Simmons games any day over those other schools. Why? Because, he says, “I love to watch our students work so hard at the sport they love simply because they love it, not because they are getting a scholarship to play it.”

Dr. Newman and his wife enjoy supporting a variety of sports at Hardin-Simmons and have invested in the athletes and students across the University through several endowments and scholarships, along with helping fund construction for the tennis facility that students enjoy today.

PARENT PRIDE

Nothing quite compares to the experience of a parent cheering their child from the stands and this truth is not lost on Laurie McAdams, whose HSU journey has come full circle.

Laurie has a long family history with HSU, dating back to her father, who was part of the football team for Hardin-Simmons in 1962. Laurie (HSU Alumni ’88) herself was a member of the Gold Dusters, the original Hardin-Simmons dance team, a cheerleader, and was one of two student liaisons chosen to serve on the committee tasked to research and report back to the HSU Board of Directors the recommendation to bring football back to the 40 acres during that time.

It seems only fitting then that her journey is continuing right where she started, as she watches her sons play football for HSU many years later. Garrett, a 2017 HSU graduate and varsity football Letterman, now serves as the Cowboys special teams and receivers coach, while Gatlin plays on special teams and is a receiver under his brother’s coaching.

The family’s love of athletics is likely inherited, as the boys’ father is an HSU Baseball Hall of Fame Inductee who today serves as the Abilene Wylie Athletic Director.

Laurie has earned the title of “super-parent fan” serving as the president of the HSU football parent group. This group’s history goes back to the second year of the reinstated program when it was established to bring parents and families of football players together and to raise funds to support the team and the athletes.

From helping supply the equipment trailer, setting up the field spirit flags, providing a drone camera, or serving meals; this group does not miss a chance to support the HSU football program however they can.

Laurie never misses a home game and says the most rewarding part of being a longtime Fan “is getting to look back on my experience as a student-athlete and seeing how the university has embraced the expansion of its athletic program. In fact, I think I have more admiration now than during my time here.”
No need to question whether Jud Powell ’76BA/’78MA/’11D is a super-fan. As Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, you will find him in his Abilene office surrounded by purple and gold regalia given to him by various HSU teams. From the mini football helmet that was a gift from Coach Jesse Burleson to a framed basketball jersey gifted to him by Coach Matt Bracket and the basketball team, Jud proudly displays his symbols and souvenirs, pointing with pride to the two team balls he possesses, one of which is from the 2018 team that advanced to the NCAA sweet 16 playoffs.

Jud’s pride as an ultimate fan club member goes way back to his role as a yell leader during his junior year at Hardin-Simmons. “Being able to yell and get away with it” was the best thing about the role, he says now with a laugh.

On game day, you will find him in his favorite seat in the press box, still encouraging loudly today.

Jud’s support and dedication as an HSU fan goes beyond athletics, it is an outward display of the inward appreciation he has for the legacy of HSU.

“My experience at HSU has had such a profound influence on my life,” he says. “Being a fan is one way I can give back to support the legacy at Hardin-Simmons.”

If you want to share your Cowboy pride with us, please email your short story to rangerider@hsutx.edu and we may feature you in an future edition.

SAY IT LOUD, SAY IT PROUD

Thank you to all the fans that support HSU Athletics!
FALL/SPRING RECAP

With the COVID-19 guidelines and protocols in place for the 2020-21 season, everyone expected the unexpected all season long. Coaches and athletic teams are creatures of habit and routine, and this year was anything but routine.

In the fall season, tennis, golf, and basketball were the only sports to play close to their normal season. Most of the traditional fall sports—football, soccer, volleyball, and cross country, were moved to the spring.

We are proud of our student-athletes and coaches for how well they handled all the constant change. They never sulked or pouted about changes or cancellations and were able to move on to what was next. We had very few COVID interruptions of games or even practices, and the few we did have the teams handled in an intentional matter so they could get back to playing.

CROSS COUNTRY

The cross country teams only were able to run three live races due to COVID-19 and weather issues. They did run some virtual races in the fall against other ASC teams.

The Cowboys finished third in the American Southwest Conference Championship. HSU finished with 67 points, behind LeTourneau with 62 and UT-Dallas with 41 points.

Senior River Smith placed sixth overall and earned first-team all-ASC honors. Zach Mitchell placed ninth, Eric Monroy was 11th overall, and both were named second-team all-ASC.

The Cowgirls finished in fourth place at the ASC Championship. Junior, Brittany Acosta, placed fifth with a time of 24:59. Madison Hemenway was 13th overall and earned second-team all-ASC honors.
VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball was the sport that had the most distractions from COVID. First, the team had to quarantine, and the fall season was pushed back to the spring. With a new team and a new coach, the team had to settle into an atypical season.

It was a rough start for the Cowgirls as they lost 11 of their first 12 matches of the season. Coach Breann Shelton did pick up her first career win on March 5 at home against Concordia.

Despite the rough start, the young Cowgirls continued to show improvement even if it didn’t show on the scoreboard.

Then the Cowgirls won five of the last six matches of the season, including the last three to build positive momentum toward what is likely to be a more normal season for coach Shelton and the Cowgirls next season.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

The women’s soccer team continued its amazing run with its 18th straight American Southwest Conference Championship.

The Cowgirls went 7-0-2 on the year, shutout seven of the nine opponents, and claimed the ASC Championship in a penalty kick shootout over UT-Dallas in Richardson.

It was a trying season for the Cowgirls as they lost starting defender Ellie Ratliff early in the season to a knee injury and had to adjust on the fly.

Eight Cowgirls were honored by the American Southwest Conference. Kayla Gable was named the goalkeeper of the year and first-team all-ASC. Rachel Bean, Madelyn Dowell, Mercy Mummert, and Baylee Ford joined Gable on the ASC first team. Michaela Sabrnsula, Kaylee Maddox, and Aurora Arevalo were named second-team all-ASC.
**MEN’S SOCCER**

The men’s soccer team had a strong season, winning the American Southwest Conference West Division title and hosting the ASC Championship.

The Cowboys finished with a record of 8-5 overall. The Cowboys opened the season alternating wins and losses in the first seven games, with three of the losses coming to scholarship schools.

HSU then rolled through ASC play losing only one game. HSU beat East Texas Baptist, 4-1, in the ASC quarterfinal but fell 2-1 to eventual champion Ozarks in the ASC semifinal.

Six Cowboys earned All-ASC honors for their performances this season. Makenson Cadet was named the defensive player of the year, and Jakob Fiol was named the offensive freshman of the year. They were also both named to the ASC first-team. Austin Wills, Jack Sissen, and Nick Tudgay were each named second-team all-ASC West, and freshman goalkeeper Reid Applewhite earned third-team honors.

**FOOTBALL**

The Cowboys went into the fall season still optimistic about playing a full schedule, but that did not happen, and the season was shortened to five games.

Then when the Cowboys were supposed to start their season, they had to move their schedule back two more weeks in the spring due to the cold and icy weather.

Once the season began, the Cowboys took care of business in the four games against the ASC West.

HSU opened the season at McMurry and won 49-7 to retain the Wilford Moore Trophy. Jaled Crawford had four catches for 117 yards, and Kyle Jones threw for 237 yards with three touchdowns. The defense held McMurry to -2 yards rushing and 212 total yards.

The Cowboys beat Texas Lutheran the following weekend at Shelton Stadium, 33-7. Jones threw for 209 yards and three more touchdowns. The defense held TLU to 282 total yards as the Cowboys moved to 2-0.

HSU beat Howard Payne 41-14 at home the next week. Jones threw for 277 yards, with two touchdowns, and Marc Reed had 114 yards and
one touchdown on the ground. The defense held the No. 1 passing team in the conference to 115 yards in the contest.

A trip to Alpine awaited the Cowboys in week four. HSU rolled to a 58-6 win as the defense allowed just 107 yards, the third-best defensive effort in school history, and the defense also allowed just 29 yards passing. Jones threw for 256 yards and three scores.

The win in Alpine set up the Cowboys to host the American Southwest Conference Championship against old-rival Mary Hardin-Baylor. The Cru jumped out to a 13-0 halftime lead in front of a rowdy Shelton Stadium crowd.

HSU cut the deficit to 23-15 in the fourth quarter and was driving for a tying score before coming up just short.

Jones was named the American Southwest offensive player of the year in the postseason awards. The Cowboys had 20 players honored by the ASC – Boomer Warren, Carson Ikels, Jones, and Dedrick Strambler were each named first-team all-ASC.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

The Cowboy basketball team had a good season with a record of 16-8. They advanced to the American Southwest Conference semifinals, where they lost to eventual champion team Ozarks on a buzzer-beater from near midcourt. The play was featured on the Sports Center Top 10.

HSU started the season 2-2, and the second win was an exciting game where Aidan Walsh blocked a shot by Sul Ross State and then went down and scored the go-ahead lay-up with five seconds to play. It started a run of six straight wins, including a win over nationally-ranked NAIA team Wayland Baptist.

The Cowboys stumbled through the last part of January and went 2-3 in the final five games of the month, but rebounded with six straight wins in February, including back-to-back wins over crosstown-rival McMurry.

HSU lost the final two games of the regular season before beating Sul Ross State in the ASC quarterfinal. The Cowboys had six players earn ASC awards. Steven Quinn and Walsh were both named first-team. Neal Chambliss earned second-team honors, Chase Cobb and Kyle Brennon were named honorable mention all-ASC, and Trey Wooldridge was named to the all-defensive team.
The Cowgirls celebrate a win.
Left to right: Hallie Edmondson ’23, Parris Parmer ’23, Kaitlyn Ellis ’21, Samantha Tatum ’23
**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

The Cowgirls finished the season with a record of 16-5 overall and won the American Southwest Conference West Division title. The Cowgirls opened the season with six straight victories, but it took a while to play the six games.

HSU went from Nov. 14 to Dec. 5 without playing a game because of COVID. HSU was set to play East Texas Baptist in a battle of undefeated teams at the Mabee Complex, but Parris Parmer, one of the top players in the conference, went down with a knee injury. It set the Cowgirls back, and they lost three straight games all by double digits.

Parmer returned to play against Sul Ross State in mid-January, and the Cowgirls rolled off 11 straight wins to take the ASC West title.

The Cowgirls season came to a roaring halt when they lost on senior day to UT-Dallas at home and then followed that up with an overtime loss to Mary Hardin-Baylor in the first round of the ASC Tournament. The Cowgirls would have hosted the ASC tournament had they won against UMHB, but the Cru won and went on to win the league crown.

Six Cowgirls earned all-ASC honors. Keilee Burke was named the ASC West defensive player of the year and Senior, Kaitlyn Ellis was named first-team all-ASC West. The Cowgirl sophomore trio of Parmer, Hallie Edmondson, and Brittany Schnabel were all named second-team all-ASC West, and sophomore transfer Samantha Tatum was named honorable mention all-ASC.

**BASEBALL**

It was a tough year for Hardin-Simmons baseball as the young team went 9-25. The Cowboys had 32 players on the roster, and 22 were in their first or second year of college. Also, taking into consideration that almost everyone lost their spring last year to COVID, they were a young team experiencing many growing pains.

Through the struggles, there were many glimpses of positivity for the future. Three freshmen hit over .300 on the season, led by Jeremy Colon at .339, Zach Hudson at .328, and Colin Ethridge hit .301. All three were in the lineup most of the season.

Junior, Garrett Frazier had a monster season for the Cowboys. He hit .346 with 20 doubles, six home runs, and 28 RBIs. He led the nation in doubles for most of the season.

The Cowboys biggest challenge came on the mound, where they set a school record for highest team ERA with a 9.01. Several of the young arms showed flashes of brilliance and set a strong foundation for the future.

**MEN’S GOLF**

The men’s team opened the season with a couple of match play wins in the first tournament of the year and then won the American Southwest Conference Preview in the fall. A third and a second in the other two fall tournaments had the Cowboys excited about the spring season.

In the spring, the Cowboys came out and placed 10th in their first two events and steadily improved through the next two tournaments. HSU then went to the ASC Championship and was just seven shots off the lead after the first 36 holes.

The Cowboys made a run early in the final round, cutting the deficit to three strokes, but settled for a fourth-place finish.

**WOMEN’S GOLF**

The Cowgirls finished second or third in all four fall tournaments. Injuries and defections derailed the Cowgirl’s season as they played most of the season with just three players.

HSU finished the season in seventh place at the ASC Championship, but Kayleigh Mints, Jordan Daggs, and Heidi Moser finished out their four-year careers with the Cowgirls.

**SOFTBALL**

The Cowgirls had a strong end to their season to finish the year with a record of 18-21 and a third-place finish in the American Southwest Conference Tournament.

HSU started the year with a 4-11 record as they tried to work new players into the lineup against a tough schedule that included seven total games against scholarship schools. The competition made the Cowgirls better as they won nine of 12 games at one point.

Although the all-conference awards had not been released as of print time for this publication, freshman Brittanie Henry broke the school record with 29 stolen bases on the year. Junior Karis Hessert led the Cowgirls with a .415 batting average with seven home runs and 28 RBIs.

The Cowgirls beat No. 1 ranked East Texas Baptist and No. 7 Belhaven during the season and with only two seniors should be one of the favorites in 2022.
MEN’S TENNIS

The Cowboys won the ASC West Division with an undefeated conference record.

They beat UT-Dallas for the first time in several seasons and made a run to the ASC Championship match for the first time since 2011, falling just short 5-4, to Concordia.

In the ASC semifinal against McMurry, the Cowboys number one doubles team of Alex Pavkovich and Desmond O’Shea beat the No. 1 ranked doubles team in the West region. The Cowboys finished the season with just six players, but they came together to get the Cowboys back into contention in the ASC.

WOMEN’S TENNIS

The Cowgirls won the ASC West Division title and advanced to the ASC Championship final, before losing to UT-Dallas.

Seven HSU players were named to the all-conference team, McKenna Bryan was named the ASC freshman of the year and Taja Lawrence was named the ASC newcomer of the year.

Shane Williford was named the ASC Women's coach of the year for the ninth time in his career.

MEN’S TRACK & FIELD

To say it was a different season for the HSU track teams would be an understatement. Head Coach Isaac Hamilton had to take over the team on an interim basis in January and was awarded the head job in March.

Both teams ended up placing second in the ASC Championship at Belhaven University in Jackson, Miss.

Layton Ranson won the ASC Championship in the high jump, and River Smith won the ASC crown in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD

The Cowgirls 4x100 team of Daniell Cooper, Abigail Bramlett, Kendra Fisher, and Destani Warner and the 4x400 team of Nakiah Tolbert, Bramlett, Cooper and Kynnedi Brown each won the ASC title.

At the ASC meet, Warner was the 100-meter champion, Brown won the 400 hurdles, Brittany Acosta won the steeplechase, Fisher won the long jump, Kaitlyn Callaway won the javelin, and Logan Haller won titles in the triple and high jumps.

The teams set many personal bests throughout the season and set 11 new school records. At press time, several athletes were still waiting to see if their times were good enough to get them into the NCAA meet.
JIMMIE KEELING

Jimmie Keeling led the revival of the Hardin-Simmons football program that in many ways changed the direction of athletics at the university. The school went away from scholarship athletics and went to non-scholarship when it brought back the football program that had been dormant since 1963. He built the program from the ground up, and his record of success is amazing.

Keeling posted a career record of 172-53 at Hardin-Simmons. He is the school’s all-time leader in wins. He was ranked sixth nationally among Division III active head coaches in wins at the time of his retirement in 2010.


Keeling was hired in December of 1989, and he fielded a team in the fall of 1990 that went 3-7. From there the team improved, and by 1992 they won their first Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association title and went to the NAIA playoffs.

The following year the team again won the TIAA and advanced to the NAIA playoffs. They went again in 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996. Keeling served as athletic director from 1995 to 1997, and helped oversee the transition to the American Southwest Conference and Division III athletics.

HSU had early success in Division III. The 1998 team barely missed what was a 16-team field. Many consider that team to be the best at HSU during his tenure. That next season, HSU advanced to the NCAA Division III playoffs for the first time and went three rounds deep.

The 2000 team earned a first-round bye and advanced to the Division III Semifinals. It was one of two teams at HSU under Keeling (1993 NAIA and 2000 NCAA Division III) that advanced to the semifinals. HSU would go back to the Division III playoffs in 2001, 2004, 2006, and 2008 but lost in the first round each time. He was named the TIAA or ASC Coach of the Year on six different occasions.

He coached 64 All-Americans, 28 Academic All-Americans, 282 All-Conference, and 349 academic all-conference players at HSU. His teams had 19 straight winning seasons, which ranked No. 12 nationally in all divisions and fourth in Division III when he retired.

When you add in his 196-91-11 record as a high school coach, he completed his legendary career with a record of 368-144-11. He was inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor and served as President of the Texas High School Coaches Association.

Keeling has received many honors for his leadership and coaching, some of which include: the Grant Teaff Fellowship of Christian Athletes Lifetime Achievement Award, the Big Country Fellowship of Christian Athletes Power of Influence Award named after Keeling and is presented at its all-star game each year, the All-American Football Foundation Johnny Vaught Head Coach of the Year Award, and Angelo Football Clinic’s Gordon Wood Legend Award. Keeling was named to the Hardin-Simmons Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011 and holds an honorary doctorate from HSU.

Keeling was also inducted into the Lubbock ISD Hall of Honor.

Keeling is married to his biggest supporter, Susan Zesch of Mason, Texas. He has five children: Dale, Judy, Lisa, Lana, and Kelly, 12 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. The Keelings are active members of First Baptist Church in Abilene.

We’re asking for your help to complete this project in time to honor Coach Keeling during our Homecoming game on October 22, 2021.

To make a gift of appreciation in his honor, scan this code or visit: connect.hsutx.edu/donate

(Those who gift a minimum of $100 will be listed on the recognition plaque featured along the Keeling statue).
ED SPRINKLE

Ed Sprinkle, a former Hardin-Simmons football player, was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame for the class of 2020 and was finally inducted in a ceremony of April 2021.

Sprinkle had always been just on the edge of getting into the Hall of Fame, and with the expanded class this year he found his way into the Hall of Fame through the veteran’s committee.

He has long been known for his toughness on the field. Toughness he developed no doubt on the farm in Bradshaw, Texas, and later as part of some of the best teams in the country in the early 1940s at Hardin-Simmons.

Dubbed by Time Magazine as the “Meanest Man in Football” and known as The Claw, he played 13 seasons for the Chicago Bears under legendary coach George Halas, starting in 1944. He played offense and defense early in his career and turned into one of the greatest pass rushers of the 1950s.

Sprinkle was named to the All-Pro team on six different occasions in his career and was named to the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame in 1994.

Sprinkle played at Hardin-Simmons in 1941 and 1942 and was part of the 9-1-1, 1942 team that went to the Sun Bowl. He was named an all-American and was an all-Border Conference selection. In 1990, Sprinkle was elected to the HSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

SAMMY BAUGH

Sammy Baugh served as an assistant coach to Murray Evans before becoming head coach at Hardin-Simmons in 1955.

He led his team to a 23-28 record against some major football powers. In 1958 the Cowboys won the Border Conference Championship and played in the Sun Bowl.

Baugh coached two national-leading passers, Ken Ford and Harold Stevens. Baugh left HSU in 1960 to become head coach of the New York Titans, which later became the New York Jets.

Before coming to Hardin-Simmons, he had a Hall of Fame NFL career and prior to that, led TCU to the Cotton Bowl.

He played 16 professional seasons with the Washington Redskins and remains the only player to lead the NFL in passing, punting, and interceptions in the same season.

UPCOMING HONORARY CELEBRATIONS

Please join us as we celebrate the lives of 3 legends of HSU Athletics during halftime at the following home football games.

October 2, 2021
1:00pm
Ed Sprinkle

September 18, 2021
1:00pm
Sammy Baugh

October 23, 2021
1:00pm
Coach Jimmie Keeling
It is not unusual for Hardin-Simmons athletes to work together on community service projects as a group. When the Lord gets involved in those projects, special things happen.

Kanakuk Kamps have been spreading the Good Word since 1926.

The first week of the summer before campers arrive is called “Uncle Week” where past staff members come back to volunteer and help get the ready for camp and pray over the upcoming season.

Hardin-Simmons quarterback Kyle Jones worked the camp in 2018 and has been going back to volunteer ever since. This time, he decided to take some of his teammates with him – 27 of them made the trip to Missouri – to help not only build more of a bond but also to come closer together spiritually.

“The point of the trip is to get the camp ready to go for the summer, but I have been specifically praying for one of my teammates to hear the Word a little more clearly and take the next step with his faith and that happened,” said Jones. “It opened the door for some other guys to have God speak to them.”

Ten Cowboys were baptized on that four-day trip in the cold lake waters. The Holy Spirit was moving through the Ozarks.

“I think the culture we have as a program, you see it from the outsider view, but you don’t realize it until you are in it,” said Jones. “I saw it when I was at UMHB (Jones played for the Cru before finding his way to Abilene) you could tell those guys really have a unique bond. Now being here it is all about the program, enhancing the program and celebrating the present and past. It’s a brotherhood. It’s really special.”
A BRONCO FOR EVERY COWBOY

Arrow Dealerships is a proud supporter of Hardin-Simmons University.

ARROWFORD.COM  325-692-9500  4001 S. 1ST STREET • ABILENE, TEXAS
Students lead worship during undergraduate chapel. Left to right: Stasia Hodge, Annabelle Smallwood, Zana Abdalla, Kelton McGee, Khamisie Green, and Izaiha Bush
Fulfilled Lives by Investing in Others

For some time now a good friend has been sharing with me about Charlese Duff, a 1949 HSU graduate who invested much of her life in helping others through Mission Arlington. Her life was typical of many, marrying a few years after graduation, raising a family, going to church and serving as a guidance counselor at Gunn Junior High School. Yet through all of this she lived a remarkable life of service. Eventually Mission Arlington dedicated a building in her honor.

Hardin-Simmons has always been a special place, and we have had thousands of graduates, exes and friends who have unselfishly invested in the lives of others. Sometimes this is through service, and sometimes this is through financial support. Whatever your situation, our desire in Advancement is to help our HSU family find joy through engaging with life-changing opportunities. We always want to do this in a manner that is most beneficial to you. When you give to help students at HSU, you are helping shape future Charlese Duffs as they go out and engage their world for the better.

With the market in record territory one way to invest efficiently is to donate appreciated stock. The information below from one of our Advancement partners highlights the significant advantages of this type of gift.

GIFT ADVANTAGES (STELTER CO. 2021*)

By design, investment portfolios fluctuate throughout the years. If you opt to sell investments that are worth more than you originally paid for them, you may pay capital gains tax. Consider donating stock you’ve owned for more than one year to HSU instead. The chart below shows that how you make your donation can affect your total tax savings when you itemize.

<table>
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<th>Gift of $10,000 Cash</th>
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<th>Gift of $10,000 in Appreciated Stock Directly to HSU</th>
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</table>

Making a gift of appreciated stock is an investment with tangible benefits. Aside from the potential tax advantages of making the gift, you also gain the satisfaction of knowing that you are leaving a lasting impact on the lives of HSU students.
WHAT IF MY STOCK’S VALUE HAS DECLINED?

It’s usually better to sell your stock and donate the cash proceeds. You can take an income tax deduction for your cash gift when you itemize, and you can take the loss on the sale of your stock as a deduction against future gains.

GET MORE FROM A GOOD PERFORMER

Do you own a stock whose performance has been outstanding and you’re emotionally invested in the company? If this stock has produced large capital gains, there’s a tax-saving charitable solution:

1. Contribute the shares.

2. Plan to buy the same number of replacement shares on the market. This way, you’ll wipe out your past capital gains tax liability and still maintain your position in a favorite investment.

3. To provide funds for the purchase, sell an investment that has lost money and take advantage of a potential capital loss deduction.

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*Information contained herein was accurate at the time of publication. This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. Figures cited in examples are for hypothetical purposes only and are subject to change. References to estate and income taxes include federal taxes only. State income and estate taxes or state law may impact your results.

Mike Hammack ‘85 BA/’89 MBA
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
“I knew that life was going to be hard for me after high school since college is expensive and I was fatherless. However, I was confident that God had not forgotten me; and that there would be a Christian university like Hardin-Simmons whose mission would not only be to educate those who can afford it, but also support those who cannot, like me. HSU is the perfect fit for me.”

– Mathias Duut
THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE:

Nathan and Elizabeth Abernethy
Nicholas Barbato
Dick and Martha Brooks
Rev. and Mrs. Glen Emert
Mozelle Green
Ed and Renée Heathcott
Joe and Kay Fields Henard
Preston and Barbara Hunt
Louise and Jim Jones
Bennie and Ernestine Meyer
Dr. George and Carolyn Newman
Dr. Jud Powell
Dr. Rosa Lee Prichard
Bill and Barbara Swank
Jill and Brett Teague, MD
Mark and Melissa Teague
Randy and Roxi Vanstory
Dr. Mike and Kathy Waters
James and Cammie Welch
Allen and Mary Wright

GROWTH & NEW BEGINNINGS EVIDENT AT HSU BECAUSE OF YOU!

It’s official. Hardin-Simmons has the best alumni, former students and supporters around. Because of passionate and dedicated donors like you, we have been busy answering the needs of a growing and vital campus.

In spite of the unprecedented events surrounding us, HSU supporters realized this was not the time to hold back in meeting the challenges and needs of our community. We believe this next year will represent hope and new beginnings unlike any other in recent memory.

We unveiled our brand-new Don Bridges Courtyard located in front of the Rupert and Pauline Richardson Library on Thursday, April 29. With the demand for an outside study space including WiFi and electronic plug access growing, as well as strong leadership from generous donors and our Student Government Association, a beautiful new courtyard was created.

This charming study coffee spot is named after dedicated staff member, Don Bridges, who served as Director of Physical Properties at Hardin-Simmons University from mid 1961 until 1995. Don acted as General Contractor for many beloved buildings on campus including the Richardson Library, so this is a fitting tribute. Don truly believed he was fulfilling God’s plan by staying at Hardin-Simmons for his entire career, serving under five University presidents. A drive through the campus attests to the devotion of this quiet and humble servant who was dedicated to a job that he considered his life’s calling. Outgoing Student Government Association president Elizabeth Waters says they couldn’t have given it a better name “because he did whatever he could do to help the university,” Waters says. Because of generous donors, this project was completed a year in advance of our projections.

Dr. George Newman, well-beloved biology professor emeritus and former chair of the Board of Trustees, served alongside Mr. Bridges at HSU and related a story about how he created a walkway bridge over the tennis courts on campus after Dr. Newman, while serving as tennis coach, simply mentioned that it might be helpful. Dr. Newman was all smiles while dedicating the new courtyard and commented on the progress Hardin-Simmons is making. “Our hearts are with Hardin-Simmons University. I have a very strong commitment to Christian education. I didn’t know this at the time, but when I was hired to teach biology back in 1967, Dr. Rupert Richardson told me my family was one of the original ranching families who had helped establish HSU. So, we have been invested here for a long time. My son, daughter and son-in-law all graduated from here, and my granddaughter graduated this spring class of 2021. Hardin-Simmons has had some recent needs that many people have come together to meet, and these updates will attract and support excellent students. Carolyn and I are certainly willing to do our part in that.”

We are thankful for all our donors, friends and students who have played a part in embracing the next steps of Hardin-Simmons!
The Baptist Student Ministries team at Hardin-Simmons has been sharing the teachings of Jesus since its conception in the 1920s. Currently, the BSM has an international student ministry, prayer ministry, outreach team, evangelism & missions’ team, and a team that creates and leads small groups. One of the unique ministry groups was the Clown Ministry team that developed during the late 1980’s. This team dressed up as clowns and performed for children in hospitals and parks.

One of the things that the Clown Ministry team did besides making people smile and teach children about Jesus, was sending Grin-a-Grams to people on campus celebrating special occasions like anniversaries and birthdays.

The Clown Ministry included Mary Ann Whimberly, Laura Ater, Jani Berry, Darren Donaldson, Loren Johnson, Laurie Lovejoy, and Kay Smith.

HSU’s history is full of tradition. It is fun to look back on memories from the past of the Forty Acres, whether from 20, 30, 40, or more years ago. We, the Range Rider staff, would love the opportunity to share these memories with you!

In each edition of the Range Rider, we include an older photo, but we often lack some of the details, like names or information about the events shown. That’s where you come in.

If you have any information on a photo you see in the Range Rider, or if you have a great historic photo that you would be willing to let us use in a future edition, please email us at rangerider@hsutx.edu.
HSU alumni events

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS
2021 HSU Alumni Dinners
Lubbock - July 15
Amarillo - July 16
Waco - July 22
Oklahoma City - July 29
Tulsa - July 30

Learn more or register at: www.hsutx.edu/alumni/alumni-events

ABILENE FAMILY DINNER
1. Left to Right – Jim Parker ’73, Cindy Parker ’68, Judy Echols ’69, Dan Echols (Friend)

AUSTIN FAMILY DINNER
2. Back Row – Bill Fox ’84, James Ellis ’01, John McMaude ’89, Glen Payne ’67, David Blackburn ’79, John Willis ’65; Second Row – Lyndsey Blagrave ’15, Viviana Mora ’02, Kathryn Boerio (Friend), Denise Duchesneau ’77, Anne Blackburn ’79; First Row – Victor Lopez ’97, Tricia Lopez ’97
3. Left to Right – John Willis ’65, Glen Payne ’67, Tricia Lopez ’97

SAN ANTONIO FAMILY DINNER

MIDLAND FAMILY DINNER

TYLER FAMILY DINNER
6. Left to right. Front - Marsha Hammack ’86, Kathy Cox ’68, and Mary Beth Malkowski ’83; Back: Jenni Pulley ’96, Cheryl Purcell ’06/’10 Chuck Cox ’66, Mike Hammack ’85/’87, Jamie Sanders ’98, Sarah Richardson ’87, Cheryl Ball ’71, Gary Diehl ’78, Teresa Garrett ’82, Tony Garrett ’82, Leigh Evans ’76, Richard Evans ’76, Heather Hadlock ’97, Rick Featherston ’71X, Seth Stone ’02, and President Eric Bruntmyer.

SAN ANGELO FAMILY DINNER

56 RANGE RIDER | SPRING-SUMMER 2021
UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

2021 HSU Alumni Dinners
Lubbock - July 15
Amarillo - July 16
Waco - July 22
Oklahoma City - July 29
Tulsa - July 30

Learn more or register at: www.hsutx.edu/alumni/alumni-events
John J. Keeter Jr. Alumni Service Award 2021

The Alumni Service Award is the highest alumni honor HSU can bestow. Since 1943, this award has been presented to alumni who have contributed the most in their field of endeavor toward the betterment of HSU.

ROBERT ’59 AND J’LYN ’60 (MCDONALD) RYAN

The word “service” exemplifies the lives of Robert and J’Lyn Ryan. Both retired public-school educators, their careers were centered around serving others. J’Lyn was a teacher for 37 years. Robert’s career spanned 42 years during which he was a teacher/coach, principal, business manager, and school superintendent.

As a student, J’Lyn was a member of the elite Cowgirls. Members functioned as a cheering squad at athletic events, performed short routines during halftime at basketball and football games, and served as official hostesses for special events on campus. She has been involved in the Ex-Cowgirls for many years and served as president in 2019 and 2020. Robert transferred to HSU as a junior and was a two-year letterman in basketball.

They both served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and Robert served on the Young Associates Board. They have been loyal supporters of Hardin-Simmons for many years, giving to scholarships, the Student Bible Project, athletics and more.

In the communities where they have lived, they have served in church and civic organizations, some in which they held leadership roles.

Distinguished Alumni Awards 2021

This award given since 1970, is presented to alumni whose personal and professional accomplishments are exemplary of the ideals and aims of the University and thus bring honor to HSU.

JOSEPH "JOE" REID ALLEN ’60

Joe Allen was an outstanding and versatile athlete from grade 5 through his four years at Hardin-Simmons. He was a three-sport varsity letterman in grade 9 and a four-sport varsity letterman in grades 10-12 at Crane High School. At HSU, he played football, baseball and participated in track. Those were the glory days for HSU football, then NCAA Division I.

His HSU football coach, Sam Baugh, asked him to play for the New York Titans, but Joe declined because he says he was too beat up and wanted to start his coaching career.

The athletic skills Joe perfected served him well as his first professional career was a football coach and teacher from 1960-1978. He earned the Master of Education in School Administration from Steven F. Austin University in 1966. He returned to Crane, Texas where he was elementary school principal 1978-1988, and school superintendent from 1988 until his retirement in 2003.

DR. DJ GILLILAND ’98

If you knew DJ Gilliland when he was a student at HSU, it’s no surprise that he has an exemplary career. DJ was co-president of FCA, a member of the HSU Leadership Council and Campus Focus Group, president of the Student Athletic Trainers Association of the Southwest Athletic Trainers Association (SATA), recipient of a SATA leadership award and scholarship, a student athlete mentor, and a member of the Intramural Officials Association.

DJ earned the BBS in All-Level Physical Education at HSU in 1998, the MSEd in Health and Physical Education from NMSU in 2000, and the EdD in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University in 2015. His professional career includes 15 years at HSU. DJ left HSU in 2015 to accept a position at Samford University. In 2018, he moved to his present position of Assistant Professor and Clinical Education Coordinator for the Master of Athletic Training Program at Texas Tech.

SHANNON (O’CHESTER) ROYCE ’82

Shannon Royce has been making a difference in the faith, family, and freedom arenas from our nation’s capital since 1989. She is currently President of the Christian Employers Alliance. From 2017-2021, she was Director of the Health and Human Services Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives where she provided leadership and direction to enhance and expand engagement of faith-based and community stakeholders.

From 2015-2017, Shannon was Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer for the Family Research Council, a nonprofit organization dedicated to articulating and advancing a family-centered philosophy of public life. Her prior experience includes running her own consulting firm, managing a coalition of 70+ pro-family organizations, directing the Government Relations and Legislative Counsel of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Council.
HOMECOMING EVENTS

Thursday Evening
Alumni Awards Banquet

Friday at Lunch
Golden Reunion—Classes of ’70 & ’71

Friday Night
Homecoming Festival
Food trucks, carnival games,
Homecoming pep rally, fireworks, and more...

Friday & Saturday Night
All-School SING!

Saturday
Department Program Events
Student Organization Gatherings
HSU Kids Zone
HSU Tailgate
Football Game:
HSU Cowboys vs. Southwestern
Reunion Dinners*
Golden Lariat Society
Open to everyone who has
celebrated their Golden 50th Reunion
Classes of ’80 & ’81;
’90 & ’91; ’00 & ’01; ’10 & ’11

Sunday
HSU Family Worship Service

*If you want to serve on the planning committee for your class reunion, please contact the Alumni Engagement Office at alumni@hsutx.edu or 325-670-1317.

Get updates at www.hsutx.edu/homecoming
1950s

Mr. Billy Gilbreath ’58BA and his wife Annalon ’68X are retired. Annalon continues as a professional storyteller, presenting Biblical Women, Texas Women, Texas History and a children’s story. She has performed throughout Texas and at the National Story Festival. Billy’s interest is writing in prose and poetry. He has works published on milmoore.blogspot.com, a site created by Milburn Moore ’55BA. Both of Billy and Annalon’s children are professionals in the world of business. One is a graduate of Texas Tech and one is a graduate of the University of Texas.

Mrs. Sylvia Alvarado ’59BS just retired from Round Rock ISD in February and moved from Round Rock, TX to Belton, TX.

1960s

Mr. Jackie Pinson ’62BA and his wife, Sue, retired in 2000. He was an assistant superintendent and Sue was an elementary teacher. They now travel with a volunteer group, Campers on Mission. They do volunteer construction and remodeling at Baptist camps and occasionally churches. They have two sons and families in Midland. Brandon has his own law firm and Bryan is minister of missions at FBC in Midland.

Mr. Jack Moss ’62BS retired after a 40-year career as a Texas high school football coach and athletic director. He retired from Lake Travis ISD as AD and now has a fine art western gallery in Llano (www.gridirongallery.net). He organized a group of western artists, Western Artist Roundup, that has four shows each year. Jack’s son Max and his family live in Ft. Collins, Colorado where Max is in real estate development. Jack’s son Mitch and his family live in Kingwood where Mitch is a project manager with a major company that builds underwater valves for oil companies.

Dr. John Baker ’63X still practices dentistry. His wife, Barbara ’65BM (Mayes) Baker is his assistant and office manager. His son Johnny Baker Jr. works for John and he has taught in community colleges. He has written a historical novel (Burnt Alone in Gumption Junction) about the Texas Rangers, available on Amazon in paperback and on Kindle. His daughter, Dr. Shawn Baker ’96BS/’01DPT is a physical therapist in charge of the stroke and head injury unit at Baylor Institute of Rehabilitation at Baylor Scott & White in Dallas. John is also a lifelong farmer-rancher. Family hobbies include canoeing, backpacking, camping, jogging, walking, studying history, 39 mission trips to Mexico, wilderness, wild river, wildlife and habitat conservation and preservation.

Mr. Larry Shaddix’s ’63BA oldest daughter Krissa will graduate from South Texas College of Law in May 2022. His youngest daughter Alisa is a lawyer in Oklahoma City. His granddaughter Isabelle graduates from high school in May 2022. His grandson Gregory is in high school and his grandson Jacob is in 6th grade.

1 Mrs. Jane (Altom) Purtle ’68BS/’58BA and her husband, Charles, were married at South Side Baptist Church in Abilene by Dr. Billy P. Smith, a HSU Bible professor at the time, on 12/22/1970. Last December, they celebrated their 50th anniversary. Jane and Charles have three adult children and four grandchildren. Their family went to Hot Springs, Arkansas and spent a couple of days just being together and remembering good family times.

Mrs. Bonnie (Jackson) Reed ’69BS is starting her second year on the Floresville ISD school board. She also is on the Floresville Electric Light & Power System board. Bonnie has 11 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Mr. Charles McDonald ’69BA, lives in Plano, Texas. Both his kids were married in the past year and live nearby. He spends most of his time officiating collegiate tennis matches in the SEC. Big 12, and throughout Texas. One of Charles’ career highlights was refereeing the HSU Conference Tennis Championships last year. Charles retired from being a pastor in 2010, and now concentrates entirely on his tennis officiating responsibilities.

1970s

Mrs. Sandra (Rosengrats) Ford ’71BS, retired a number of years ago, but stays fairly busy as a Mary Kay beauty consultant, an interpreter for the deaf with periodic jobs, a docent for two museum houses, and a volunteer for the Bass Performance Hall. Sandra’s daughter, Zabette Wills, and her children live close by in Arlington. Zabette works in HEB ISD’s Testing Department. Her children, Colton and Zoey, both attend Arlington High School. Zabette, Colton, and Zoey cope pretty well and stay busy with friends and interests since the loss of their husband and dad in 2016. Colton is a senior this year. Since his freshman year, he’s been the videographer for the AHS varsity football team, and he’s also been involved with the agriculture program. He’s been accepted by HSU and has also been offered a generous scholarship. Zoey is a junior this year and has been involved in the AHS cheer program since her freshman year.

Mrs. Sue (Banks) Owen ’74BA and Mr. Marvin Owen ’73X are retired from the ministry. They’ve ministered in six different states. Sue and Marvin have two boys who have four children each! Scott and his family live in Anchorage, Alaska where he is a C17 pilot. Michael and his family are in Newberg, Oregon where he has an optometry practice. Sue and Marvin settled in Sherwood, Oregon to be close to an airport with direct flights to Anchorage. They are looking forward to increasing their travel as the cases of COVID-19 continue to decrease. They still have extended family in Texas.

Mrs. Elaine (Fikes) Miller ’73BA is a retired U.S. Special Agent, U.S. Treasury Department. Dr. David Miller ’74BA will celebrate 32 years at Hendrick Home for Children this fall.

Mrs. Laura (Laws) White ’78BA

2 Mr. Mark Fowler ’80BBS and his wife Mrs. Kayla (Price) Fowler ’80BS lived in Abilene for 43 years and absolutely loved their friends and being close to HSU. After 37 years of service, Mark retired
from the State of Texas, and Kayla retired from Abilene ISD. They moved to a beautiful neighborhood called Spring Park in Garland to be closer to their granddaughters and Kayla’s family. They joined The Heights Church in Richardson and are involved in activities there and in the neighborhood. Kayla also teaches music at their granddaughter’s pre-school.

Mr. Jasper McClellan ’81BBS/82ME, has been added to the honorably retired rolls by the Presbytery of Texas of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, after serving New Hope Presbyterian Church near San Saba as pastor for over eight years.

Mr. Tim Tremaine ’81BA/’87MA, has just published his second book, a one-year daily devotional in two volumes entitled Victory Through Surrender. Volume One is available now on Amazon. Volume Two will be released in June. For more info visit www.tntremaine.com.

Mr. Ron Bissett ’87BM is retiring from Weslaco ISD after 34 years at the end of June 2021. He worked 30 years as a band director and four years as a fine arts director.

Mr. Jeff Ballenger ’87BBS was inducted into the Abraham Lincoln High School Hall of Fame on 3/25/2021. Jeff’s family has a long history at Abraham Lincoln High School. In high school, Jeff was a varsity athlete and participated in speech and debate. At HSU, he earned a degree in political science and dedicated time in service to government, working for the Abilene City Council and interning in Congressman Charles W. Stenholm’s Washington, D.C. office. After college, he returned to Council Bluffs, Iowa and opened a new business eventually expanding to 11 locations in the metro area. Jeff is a graduate of Leadership Council Bluffs and received recognition for his service to the automotive industry when he became a finalist for a national marketing award. He is also a member of the Shaken Baby Task Force, a child abuse prevention group, as well as co-founder of the Titan Basketball program for youth and Lewis Central’s Teammates program and is a former chairman of Renaissance Faire of the Midlands. He was also part of the effort to enhance the ALHS weight room and locker room and to build the new Charles E. Lakin YMCA. In addition to supporting local causes, Ballenger helped raise millions of dollars as chairman of the Central and Western Iowa Honor Flights to send World War II veterans to see their memorial in Washington, D.C. In 2011, he was one of just 27 Iowans recognized for his charitable contributions to Honor Flights and received a special honorary military rank from Gov. Terry Branstad. In 2018, he was recognized for the...
Mr. Matt Cross ’91BBS and his wife Becky are active in Christian marriage ministry in Snyder, helping disciple married couples in their walk with Christ and with each other. They have one son, Samuel, living and working in Marietta, Georgia. Samuel has three kids: Antonio, a senior, and Victoria, a junior in high school; and Elayna who will soon start high school. Matt has worked the last 16 years in the oil and gas industry as a health and safety manager/consultant. His wife, Becky, just sold her in-home care business after 17 years and is enjoying some time off.

Mrs. Patty (Brownd) Bauer-Matthews ’91BSN and her husband Michael live in the Dallas area. Patty has been consulting with hospitals and physicians for over 14 years. This work has led her from Maine to Hawaii meeting many great people. “Hardin-Simmons helped shape me into the person I became!”

Mrs. Carol Pfirrmer ’92BA recently moved to Abilene from Fort Worth with her family.

Mrs. Barbara (Humphreys) Manton ’95BBS, recently retired from a 25-year career in law enforcement that began after graduating from Hardin Simmons in 1995. While a LEO, she began to train LEOs and founded a self-defense training class for women that is still active today. Empowering Women to “Win” is a multi-faceted class wherein women learn about safety, security, the law, and hands on training for defense. They learn the skills necessary to win! Barbara also serves on the safety team in a multi-campus church, Church of the King, and trains their safety team members. She leads two small group Bible studies and has participated in and led a leadership class at Church of the King. She serves as a Court Appointed Special Advocate “CASA” for the 22nd Judicial District Court, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Barbara began her CASA service in 2019. She has two grown children and five grandchildren, two of whom live in Brownsboro, Texas, where she tries to travel to several times a year.

Mr. Bo Carrington ’96BBA/’97MBA moved into a new job in March 2020. He now has a marketplace ministry practice as an area chairman with The C12 Group, a faith based peer advisory organization.

Mr. Barry Campbell ’99BBS recently moved to Belton from the Houston area and is loving life! He’s looking forward to reconnecting with fellow alumni that live in that part of Texas.

2000s

Mrs. Kimberly Wells ’00BBS and her husband Jason were married on 7/14/2012. They adopted their son, Jaxon, on 9/12/2016.

Mr. Thomas Anderson ’03BBA and his wife Autumn have a precious grandson named Remington Anderson who will be two in June. Their oldest son, Tyler, attended HSU and is currently a police officer in Paris, Texas. Their daughter, Railee, is an education major at HSU and plays for the Cowgirls softball team. Their youngest son, Clark, is in 6th grade. He attended the HSU football camp last summer, and plans to attend HSU in the future! Go Cowboys/Cowgirls!

Mrs. Krista (Pruett) Hamilton ’05BSN is currently entering her fourth year as a family nurse practitioner for the State of Texas. She has three children ranging in ages from 11 to 20 years old. As with many families, Krista and her husband are very involved with the children’s multiple sports and academic activities, as well as participating in their local church. Every week brings them new and rewarding challenges to grow together as a family and enjoy the many blessings they are given each and every day, even throughout the many adversities they have all faced in the preceding year. “I am thankful for so many things, one of which being the education I received from HSU to enable me to live this life I love. Thank you HSU faculty and staff for so many wonderful memories. We look forward to creating more. God Bless!!”

Mrs. Lesli (Horne) Pitts ’06BBS and her husband Byron lived in China for four years working with the International Mission Board, and have now been in San Antonio for five years. In 2012, they both graduated with the Master of Arts in Missiology from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Byron is the director of community missions at FBC San Antonio. They were looking forward to welcoming their third child, Darci, at the end of March 2021.

Mr. Ted Morgan ’07BBS and Mr. Austen Ewing ’11BBS are both in the Dallas Fire Academy. They are part of class 360 and are working hard to become the next members of Dallas Fire-Rescue so that that may serve the great citizens of Dallas. Teddy and Austen worked to vaccinate with countless other city employees during the week of Dallas’s first city wide vaccines for COVID-19. Teddy says, “it’s been a great way to bond and stay
grounded with another believer in Christ and HSU graduate.” They both played football while at HSU. Austen has really helped Teddy reach his full potential while at the academy, and they are having fun.

Mr. Scott Edwards ’07BBS coaches football for the 2018 state champs, Mason Punchers. He also coaches basketball and baseball for the Punchers. Mrs. Audra (Owen) Edwards ’07BBS teaches 3rd grade at Mason Elementary. They have three kiddos and love being Punchers and Cowgirls.

Mr. Patrick Shelby ’07BBS and his wife Mrs. Shelby (Black) Shelby ’08BBA met at HSU in 2003. Patrick is the head football coach and athletic coordinator at McAllen High School. Shelby recently started a new career as a business developer for Josh Moody Loans. They have four children ages 12, 11, 11 and right.

Mr. Keith Kimmel ’09BBA recently joined Houston’s Metallic Products as vice president of sales and marketing. Keith graduated from Hardin-Simmons in 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in finance. In this newly created role, he’ll help Metallic Products elevate their customer relationships and work toward future growth.

2010s

Rev. Kyle Tubbs ’10MDiv and his wife Mrs. Kaily (Luckett) Tubbs’12ME moved back to Texas from Georgia! Kaily was hired as a dyslexia interventionist in Georgetown ISD and Kyle will serve remotely as a church starting consultant for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as he finishes the dissertation for his Ph.D.

Mrs. Marguerite (Martin) Gray ’15MA, released a historical novel, Wait for Me (Revolutionary Faith Book Five) on 2/9/2021. It is available on Amazon. Set in Charles Town, South Carolina from 1777-1782, discover the destiny of the Lestarjette family in the final book of the series as they hope and wait upon deliverance from a world under siege.

Mrs. LJ (Hood) Karson and her husband Karthik moved to Nashville! They lived in Abilene for 10 years, six of those working as a minister and missionary with Every Nation Churches and Ministries through their local Every Nation Church (Grace Point). LJ took a job in the North American headquarters office of Every Nation. She has shifted her focus from day to day ministry work to training and preparing new missionaries to serve all over the world.

Editor’s Note: All cities are in Texas unless otherwise noted. Email addresses are included when possible. Information reflects submissions received from October 9, 2020 to April 26, 2021.

Acronyms: AHOF Athletics Hall of Fame/DAA Distinguished Alumni Award/HOL Hall of Leaders/HD Honorary Doctorate Degree/KASA Keeter Alumni Service Award/LDA Logsdon Distinguished Alumni Award/OYA Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Welcome to the FAMILY

1 Harlow Kait Belcher, daughter of Kaitlin (Brockman) Belcher ’10BBS/’14MDiv and Justin Belcher, 3/27/2020. RowenJo is her proud big sister.


2 Olivia Rix, daughter of Jaki (Layman) Rix ’13BBA and Drew Rix, 7/3/2020.


3 Joy Rose Leech, daughter of Katy (Parks) Leech ’07BBS and Keith Leech, born in December 2020.

4 Stellan Ames Revell, son of Sam Revell (’12BA) and Callie (Rankin) Revell (’12BA), was born 12/22/2020. Grandparents include Rob Rankin (’99M), Julie Rankin, and Ron Revell. Great grandparents are retired HSU senior professor Taylor Rankin and Elizabeth Rankin.

Davis Harrison, son of Taylor Harrison ’11BBS and Jordan (Holley) Harrison ’10BBA, 2/26/2021
Family

WE’LL MISS

FRANCES EVANGELINE “EVAN” (PATTERSON) COTTEN ’49BA
December 14, 1924 - December 22, 2020

Evan Patterson married the love of her life, James Cotten, when she was only 18. While marrying that young wasn’t unusual in the 1940s, it was unusual for a woman to marry and then attend college, which is exactly what Evan did. She graduated from Hardin-Simmons in 1949 with a BA in psychology with minors in math and English. For 31 years, she worked in the heavily male-dominated field of computer programming for Chance Vought Aircraft in Dallas. She was very proud of having earned a master’s degree and having done post-graduate work. Evan Cotten was truly a trailblazer.

James and Evan moved to rural Jeff Davis County in 1992 where they were active in First Baptist Church in Fort Davis. Evan served on various committees of the church, was active in Daughters of the American Revolution, and was a member of the Vought Retirement Club and Who’s Who of American Women. She was a Lifetime Member of the Presidents Club and a member of the John G. Hardin Society at Hardin-Simmons.

Evan Cotten died eight days after turning 96 years old. She was preceded in death by her husband James in 1995.

JONNIE (WEST) SOLIVAN ’56X
March 1, 1935 - February 17, 2021

Jolene was born and grew up in Big Spring with her parents and younger sister Shari Lynn, who was also her best friend.

She attended HSU and earned a BBA from the University of Texas. She then lived and worked in San Francisco where she met her forever love, Richard K. “Dick” Sollivan. They married in 1961 and spent the next seven years making a home in California. The year 1963 brought the next forever love into Jolene’s life, her daughter Shari Lynn, her beloved sister’s namesake.

A very capable businesswoman, Jolene excelled in every place she worked because of her standard of excellence and administrative skills, as secretary to oil companies and legal firms, then later in life serving the Abilene Woman’s Club and Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra as interim director. At HSU, Jolene was actively involved with the Academic Foundation, a Lifetime Member of the Presidents Club and a member of the John G. Hardin Society.

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JENNY (CARGILE) HICKS ’68BS
November 15, 1934 - January 25, 2021

Jenny Cargile and Claude Hicks met as students at Hardin-Simmons. Jenny attended HSU from 1953-1955, Claude graduated in 1955, and the couple was married in 1956. Jenny later returned to HSU to complete her degree in elementary education, graduating in 1968.

Jenny taught school in Abilene for 20 years and later became the owner and president of International Tour Travel for 17 years. Jenny also worked alongside Claude in their dedication to children at the Hendrick Home for Children where Claude was President and Jenny was First Lady. Together, they expanded the home as they served as a mother and father to many children who passed through the doors. They genuinely loved, influenced, and encouraged hundreds of lives. Claude was instrumental in giving away many daughters in their weddings and Jenny served as a counselor to these young ladies.

Jenny was very active in First Baptist Church of Abilene, a member and strong supporter of the Abilene Philharmonic for many years, and a member of the Rotary Club. She was a Lifetime Member of the Presidents Club and a member of the John G. Hardin Society at HSU.

MRS. MELANIE (CORKER) BREWER ’98 MBA/FORMER STAFF
April 1, 1972 - January 11, 2021

Melanie Corker met, dated, and became engaged to Jacob Brewer, the love of her earthly life, during her first semester at Wayland Baptist University. The couple married in June of 1993 and together, they served at First Baptist Church both in Plainview and Hereford where Jacob was youth minister. They moved to Abilene in 1996 for Jacob to attend HSU’s PT school. Melanie became a dorm director (Hunter then Ferguson) and while juggling the responsibilities of her job, giving birth to their second child, and being a wife and mother, she completed her MBA in 1998.

Following PT school, the family moved to Big Spring where Melanie worked as a Senior Circle director at the local hospital, adjunct at Howard College, and they served bi-vocationally in youth ministry. They later moved to Waco before returning to Abilene and their beloved HSU in 2004. Melanie again worked on campus, serving in the Residence Life, Human Resources, and Business Offices until April of 2008 when she gave birth to twins, their fourth and fifth children. When the twins entered school, Melanie began a full-time position at the Wylie ISD Administration Office.

Since 2005, Melanie served with her family at Beltway Park Church in the children, youth, and women’s ministry areas as well as with HSU PT Ministries.

On January 11, 2021, surrounded by her family, Melanie entered into the arms of the Savior whom she loves dearly. Survivors include her husband, Dr. Jacob Brewer ’98MPT/05DPT, their five children, Brianna ’18BBS, Brittany, Brooklyn (a senior at HSU), Joshua and Joy.
DR. JIMMIE MONHOLLON
FORMER FACULTY/ADMINISTRATOR
March 26, 1933 - March 31, 2021

Jimmie Monhollon graduated from Wayland Baptist College (now University) in Plainview, where he met Patsy Lake Pylant, who would become his wife of 59 years. After college, Jimmie was drafted and served two years in the Army. He earned the MA in American Studies from the University of Wyoming and a PhD in Economics from Vanderbilt University. He started as a research economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and went on to manage its Charlotte and Baltimore branches before becoming its First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. For a time, he managed the check clearing operations for the entire United States.

After his distinguished 33-year career with the Federal Reserve Bank, Dr. Monhollon pursued a second career in education. For 10 years, he served as Distinguished Professor of Economics and Finance at HSU. For five of those years, he served as Dean of the School of Business (Now the Kelley College of Business and Professional Studies).

Dr. Monhollon is survived by four children: Mike Monhollon (spouse Rachel), Melody Knight (spouse Larry), Marsha Gilbert, and John Monhollon (spouse Courtney); eleven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

MINNIE (ORITZ) MARTINEZ
January 18, 1934 - March 5, 2021

Minnie Martinez grew up in Abilene and loved Hardin-Simmons. Her beloved husband of 66 years, Rev. Jose “Joe” Martinez, Jr. is a 1957 graduate. Lifetime Members of the Presidents Club and members of the John G. Hardin Society, Joe and Minnie were instrumental in establishing connections through the HSU Hispanic Alumni, assisting with alumni dinners in the Houston area, and encouraging others to become involved and support HSU. When Joe served as a Trustee from 2004-2012, Minnie faithfully accompanied him to campus, making the long drive from Houston. Even when she was physically suffering, Minnie had a beautiful smile on her face and a kind word for everyone she met. She had a deep faith in and love for the Lord. She was truly a Proverbs 31 woman.

Mrs. Bonnie (Stewart) Becton ’57x, 11/2/20.
Mr. William A. Bice ’57x, 11/21/20.
Mr. Foster L. Ditmore ’57x, 3/18/21.
Mrs. Nanallene (Miller) Thompson ’57BS, 2/10/21.
Mr. Myron James “Jim” Thompson ’57BS, 2/10/21.
Mrs. Nanallene (Miller) Turner ’57BS, 2/27/21.
Mr. Dan B. Winters ’57x, 4/5/21.
Mr. James E. Brooks ’58x, 1/25/21. Survived by wife Sherry (Brooks) Barsch ’63x, sons-in-laws Bill Barsch ’62x and George Loutherback ’64x.
Mr. Myron James “Jim” Thompson ’57BS, 2/10/21.
Rev. Willis Gene Jorgenson ’58BA, 2/1/21.
Rev. George F. Mullinax ’58BS, 11/9/20. Survived by wife Dorothy (Stone) Mullinax ’57BS.
Mrs. Shirley (Dodd) Parmelly ’58x, 12/26/20. Survived by daughter Carol Annette Parmelly ’87BBA.
Mrs. Mary (Rucker) Wright ’58x, 10/23/20. Survived by husband Allen Wright ’55x and son Charles Trickey ’82MEd.
Mr. Dale W. Coody ’59BS, DAA, 1/16/21. Survived by wife Ann (Smith) Coody ’59x, son Jeff Coody ’82x, and daughter Nina Coody ’82x.
Mr. Edwin D. Davis ’59x, 3/17/21.
Mr. Walter “Alan” Sides ’59x, 1/31/2021.
Rev. R. Wayne Stacks ’59x, 2/26/20.
Mrs. Mary (Ware) Brewer ’62x, 2/26/20.
Mr. Alton “Bud” Montgomery ’60BS, 10/28/20.
Mr. James E. Phillips ’60BBA, 1/31/21.
Rev. B. F. Risinger ’60BA, 12/8/20.
Mrs. Brentz (Crow) Brooks ’61BS, 1/25/21. Survived by husband Gene Brooks ’58BA and brother Bud Crow ’63BBA.
Mr. Bobby D. Click, Sr. ’61x, 2/21/21.
Mrs. Mary (Foster) Gerlach ’61x, 6/1/20.
Mr. Bill T. Teague ’61BS, DAA 12/25/20.
Mr. James E. Ward ’61x, 2/26/21.
Mr. John T. Blackstock ’62x, 3/19/21.
Mrs. Roberta (Williams) Brewer ’62x, 2/26/20.

Mr. James P. Middleton '62x, 1/8/21. Survived by wife Sue (Buchanan) Middleton '57x.

Mr. David Wharton '62BA, 11/25/20.

Mr. Richard Brewer '63BA, 10/26/20. Survived by wife Kathleen (Noble) Brewer '63x.

Mr. Rayford A. Ratliff '63BA, 11/26/20.

Mr. Dale L. Sides '63BS, 1/8/21. Survived by wife Bonnie (Bailey) Sides '63BA, sons Michael Sides '85BEd and Robert Sides '89BEd.

Mrs. Karen (Shaid) Steeglove '63BS, 11/1/20.

Mrs. Dean (Palmer) Teague '63x, 2/7/20. Survived by son Andy Teague '78BA.

Mrs. Dianne (Albright) Jensen '64x, 10/1/20.

Mr. William G. Tibbett '64BA, 2/7/21.

Mr. Jerry Johnston '62BA, 10/22/20.

Ms. Rebecca Ramirez '66BS, 2/2/21.


Mr. Richard Dean '67BS, 11/19/20.


Mrs. Jenny (Cargile) Hicks '68BS, 1/25/21. Survived by nephew-in-law Jud Powell '76BS/’78MED/’11HD.

Mrs. Margaret (Wall) Jordan '68BS, 1/22/21.

Mr. Robert “Bob” Spoede '68MA, 3/16/21.

Mrs. Barbara (Conkling) Bailey '69MED, 12/11/20.

Mr. Laurence “Larry” English '69BA, DAA, 10/28/20.

Mr. Freddie R. Johnston '69x, 12/4/20. Survived by wife Billie “BeeGee” (Tackett) Johnston '93MED.

Mrs. Susan (McNary) McClintock '69BM, 3/22/21.

Mrs. Nedene (Petlock) Speegle '69MED, 3/31/21.

Mrs. Linda (Reed) Underwood '69x, 12/21/20. Survived by husband C.H. Underwood '69x.

Mrs. Judith A. Beasley '70BS, 11/26/20.

Col. (Ret) Thomas G. Stone '70MED, 4/2/21.

Mr. Gary W. Stratton '70x, 3/1/21.

Mr. Gary B. Terry, III '70BS, 11/7/20. Survived by mother Elsie Faye (Tarrant) Terry '56x.

Mr. Thomas V. Alvis '71x, 3/29/21. Survived by wife Geneva (Franklin) Alvis '74x.

Mr. Robert George Carroll '71MBA, 11/16/20.

Mrs. Ellen (Hagler) Rice '71BS, 11/2/20. Survived by sister Susan (Hagler) Duncan '77BS.

Mr. Ronald A. Shagula '71BA, 12/29/20. Survived by wife Linda (Nantz) Shagula '75x.

Mrs. Judith "Judy" (Doyle) Stubblefield '71BS, 10/1/20. Survived by husband Terry Stubblefield '71BSE and daughter Tammi Stubblefield '03BS.

Mrs. Deborah "Debbie" (Boomer) Autry '72x, 11/17/20. Survived by husband Kelly Autry '73BA, son Trenton Autry '04BBS, and daughter Kimbra Autry '07BBS.

Mr. Dennis W. Noska '73BS, 2/16/21.

Mr. Milton E. “Gene” Perry '73BS, 12/16/20.

Dr. Billy J. Smith '73MED, 2/9/21.

Dr. Dennis Boomer '74BA, 4/13/20. Survived by wife Claire (Bellamy) Boomer '73x.

Mr. Charles J. Marek, Jr. '74BS, 12/27/20.

Mrs. Janice "Jan" (Shelburne) Teer '74x, 2/20/21. Survived by husband Michael Teer '74BM, daughter Bethany (Teer) Norberg '03BS, sister Barbara (Teer) Barnes '57x, brothers Bryan Shelburne, Jr. '65BM and Thomas “Tom” Shelburne '65x, brother-in-law Edward Barnes '55BA, sister-in-law LaRue Teer '62x, son-in-law Brandon Barnes '02BA and nephew Dave Teer '97BA.

Mr. John “Keith” Caddell '75BA, 4/11/21. Survived by daughter Kimberly (Caddell) Keenum '09BBS.

Mr. John N. Hurt '75MBA, 2/4/21.

Mr. Randall J. Ross '75BS, 1/19/21. Survived by brother Richard A. Ross '72BA and sister Charlotte (Ross) Bagh '83BA.

Mr. Alvin W. Williams '75BS, 11/10/20.

Mr. Randy Hoyle '77BA, 3/29/20. Survived by wife Bonnie (Jones) Hoyle '94BA/’97MA.

Miss Jana Jenkins '77BA, 2/1/20. Survived by brother Jim Jenkins '65BA and sister-in-law Toni (Rhode) Jenkins '64BA.

Mr. Donald L. McNinnis '77MBA, 11/23/20.

Mr. Terry L. Bowman '78BA, 12/30/20. Survived by wife Lea Ann (White) Bowman '78BS and son Jonathan Bowman '09x.

Mrs. Camille (Parr) Parrish '79MED, 10/23/20.

Mr. Randall "Randy" Gressett '80BEd, 10/30/20. Survived by mother Betty Sue (Cook) Gressett '72BS.

Mrs. Joni (Reiff) Novick '83x, 1/30/21. Survived by mother Barbara (Althoff) Reiff '61x, sisters Tomi (Reiff) Robinson '73x and Jill (Reiff) Stovall '85BBS, brother Todd Buchanan '99BS.

Mr. Charles Baker '01BBS, 1/4/21.

Mr. Dustin R. Garcia '03x, 3/2/21.

Mrs. April (Walker) Huston '05BBS, 1/15/21.

Mr. Jonathan Price '08x, 10/3/20.

Mr. Jerry J. Hernandez, III '14BBA, 1/1/21.

Mr. Jared A. Stevens '17BS, 4/1/21. Survived by wife Kristal (King) Stevens '12MED.


Dr. Edward S. Hughes, Former Faculty, 12/11/20.

Dr. Jimmie Monhollon, Former Faculty/ Administration, 3/31/20.

Mrs. Minnie (Ortiz) Martinez, 3/5/21.
Located in Abilene, TX

HSU’s Mission
To be a Community dedicated to providing excellence in education enlightened by Christian faith & values

Quick Facts
1,618 Undergraduate Students
412 Graduate Students
60+ Undergraduate Majors Offered

Top Undergraduate Programs
Biology
Business Administration
Criminal Justice

Top Graduate Programs
Doctor of Physical Therapy
Physician Assistant
Business Administration

HSU Offers 15+ Graduate Programs

Distinctive Programs
Hons
Fast Track Through Grad School
Study Abroad

Health Sciences
Nursing
Physical Therapy
Physician Assistant
Behavior Analyst
“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

Galatians 5:1

Every time I opened the junk drawer in one of my dresser closets, I became stressed out and frustrated. I could never find exactly what I needed, and the clutter was intolerable. Finally, one day I decided to clean out that jam-packed drawer. I discovered that I was holding on to a lot of unnecessary items that I had tossed into the drawer because “I might need them later” or “I just can’t give that up” or “I don’t know what to do with this.” How many of you can relate? I didn’t need those things at all, and they ended up as burdens — making the drawer a cluttered mess.

In life how often do we carry around our own personal junk drawer filled with unattended hurts, worry, guilt, shame, sin — the list goes on and on. We lug it around every day, avoiding dealing with the contents but also refusing to let them go.

Reading today’s quoted scripture, in Galatians, I realized that for me the yoke of slavery was symbolized by the clutter of my own junk drawer. Now, every time I open my newly cleaned drawer, I actually can find what I am looking for, but more importantly, I remember that I don’t have to hold on to sin, shame, and anger because living with Christ has set me free.

Do you have something that is like a junk drawer in your life that is a catch all for sin you are unnecessarily transporting? What would it look like for you to clean out the weight of those burdens?

Thought to ponder… Christ has set you free to live with abundant joy. Do you live in it?

Prayer: Lord, help us rid our lives of concealed fears and hurts that keep us from the joy of your abundant life. Your son has set us free; let us live in that freedom. Amen.
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