T his Range Rider features stories about alumni, employees, and other friends of this school who have been shaped by their association with Hardin-Simmons University. Their stories and even their lives speak to the ongoing diligent investment and passionate caring of HSU faculty, staff, and administration.

Dr. Lanny Hall, HSU President Emeritus, shared a story at the March 2023 memorial for Dr. Rick Styles, retired Vice President for Advancement and holder of an Honorary Doctorate from HSU. Dr. Hall reiterated a Latin epitaph when speaking about Dr. Styles and his life’s work here at HSU, “Lector, si monumentum requiris, circumspice” which translates to: “Reader, if you seek his monument, look around.” As Dr. Hall stated, “To see Rick’s ‘monument,’ simply look around at the people he touched along with the scholarships and facilities his fund-raising efforts provided for HSU students.”

The same epitaph is inscribed above the grave of HSU President J. D. Sandefer in the center of our campus, west of Moody Student Center. HSU’s buildings, grounds, and people reflect the immeasurable impact of Prexy Sandefer’s 40 years of dedicated leadership.

As you read this Range Rider, take time to discover the many “monuments,” past and present, which reflect the greatness and grandeur of HSU!

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ON THE COVER — THE ALEMANS

Sean ’15 and Jamie (Higginbotham) ’16 Aleman met on the first day of new student orientation, Jamie as a freshman and Sean as the leader of her orientation group. Throughout their time together at HSU, they grew as individuals and as partners. Sean proposed under the clock tower, cementing HSU’s connection to their life’s journey even more.

The relationships Jamie built at HSU encouraged her brother, Trevor Higginbotham ’23, to explore HSU and join the football team. Sean and Jamie, along with their sons, Carter and Scottie, can be found cheering at Shelton Stadium rooting for Trevor and the Cowboys.

Jamie shared, “Watching our children grow to love the university that holds such a special place in our hearts has been such a sweet experience.”

Read more about Sean in the Banking on Alumni! story.
The speakLIFE campaign is underway, collecting donations, prayers, and stories. Need a refresher on the process and goals of this capital campaign? Check out the previous Range Rider and HSU website for details!

While sharing plans and promoting speakLIFE, HSU has highlighted alumni and student stories that epitomize what it is to speak life. To speak life is to encourage, promote, nurture, support, and bless.

Read about three alumnae who can speak to the impact of HSU’s resources on their lives. Newman-Richardson Science Center, Behrens Residence Hall, and the new Equine Therapy Center are components of the speakLIFE campaign, and each of their stories advocates for your involvement.

Your prayers and financial support are key to our success!

Learn more and follow our progress at: www.hsutx.edu/speaklife

“I deeply appreciate the level of investment the faculty made in me”

—Vishia (Wilson) Coleman ’03BSN
As a student at Hardin-Simmons, Vishia (Wilson) Coleman ’03BSN spent a lot of time in the Newman-Richardson Science Center (formerly the Sid Richardson Science Center). Knowing she planned to be a nurse, her chemistry professor made a point of explaining how chemistry plays an important role in nursing. “He spoke LIFE into me, encouraging me,” says Vishia.

Throughout Vishia’s journey at HSU, God consistently placed people in her life who would pour into her. “I deeply appreciate the level of investment the faculty made in me,” she says. “Dr. Chris McNair ’84, who taught my anatomy and physiology lab, is one of those.”

When Vishia transitioned to the nursing school for her last two years, faculty continued to speak LIFE into her, preparing her for a demanding career in nursing. Her first job out of nursing school was in the ER. Most nurses have years of experience before moving to the ER, but, she points out, “I was ready because of the excellent professors I had.”

When she applied for her current position as director of emergency and critical care services for Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital in Cleburne, Vishia’s resume rose to the top. “While I have worked hard to achieve success,” she says, “the foundation built in my time at HSU has made a tremendous dif erence.”

Vishia is married to Michael Coleman and lives in White Settlement, Texas. A recipient of HSU’s 2019 Outstanding Young Alumni Award, she remains an active member of the university family, serving previously on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and currently on the Board of Trustees. “I am honored and humbled to be able to serve on the HSU Board of Trustees,” she says. “I am excited for the continuation of growth for the university.”

If HSU can raise $2.4 million toward Newman-Richardson Science Center by July 12, 2023, the Mabee Foundation will contribute an ADDITIONAL $600,000!

Help us reach $2.4 million TODAY!

To give toward this campaign, go to: hsutx.edu/speaklife

About the Mabee Foundation:

The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation has a long history with Hardin-Simmons University, dating back to the construction of Mabee Hall, HSU’s original ROTC building, now the Physician Assistant building. This building was funded primarily by the Mabee Foundation and opened in 1971. The Mabee Foundation continued to pledge gifts to other projects and campaigns across the years, supporting HSU’s mission. Buildings the Mabee Foundation was instrumental in bringing to life include, but are not limited to, the Richardson Library, Mabee Athletic Complex, Frost Center, Johnson Building, and Houston-Lantrip Center.
“Behrens was the backdrop for a lot of learning. I learned how to study, about myself, and who God made me to be.”

—Julie (Joiner) Hammer ’94BBS

BEHRENS RESIDENCE HALL

Behrens Residence Hall has provided a home for many HSU students since 1952. During its 70 years, the building has provided a space where formative experiences take place - and where callings are heard. One student with such a story is Julie (Joiner) Hammer ’94BBS, who recalls, “When I came to HSU as a freshman, Behrens was the backdrop for a lot of learning. I learned how to study, about myself, and who God made me to be.”

Julie graduated with a Bachelor of Behavioral Science in interdisciplinary studies from Hardin-Simmons University in 1994 and went on to receive her Master of Arts in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Having served previously as minister of childhood education for First Baptist Church in Stephenville and Columbus Avenue Baptist Church in Waco, Julie currently serves as children’s and interim preschool minister for First Baptist Church in Lewisville. During her career she has written vacation Bible school and Sunday school curriculum for the Baptist General Convention of Texas’ Baptist Way Press and led their annual Childhood Ministry Summit.

Julie is married to Clint Hammer, director of client services for Strom Aviation, and shares with him two sons, Caleb and Micah. A former member of both the Board of Young Associates and the Alumni Association Board of Directors, Julie has been honored with HSU’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

For students like Julie, Behrens Hall speaks LIFE, providing a catalyst for lasting memories and an authentic college experience. “While I graduated almost 30 years ago, I know that hundreds of students who have lived in Behrens since have had similar experiences,” says Julie.
“An education enlightened by Christian faith was exactly what HSU was for me.”

—Kayla (Willis) Dillman '14BBS/'16MA

Kayla (Willis) Dillman ’14BBS/’16MA met her husband, Brandon, on their first day at Hardin-Simmons in 2010. Kayla rode for HSU’s Six White Horses program, double majored in ministry and psychology, and received a master’s degree in clinical counseling. Brandon majored in psychology, double minored in ministry and leadership studies, and is a financial advisor for Edward Jones.

Kayla and Brandon serve on HSU’s Board of Young Associates and are supporting HSU’s equine therapy project through monthly gifts to help make the facility and program a reality. A licensed professional counselor in private practice, Kayla became involved in equine therapy about a year and a half ago. Not only has she witnessed the powerful, calming presence a horse can have on a person, but the Lord has taught her more about Himself through horses. “As a former White Horse rider,” Kayla says, “I believe Hardin-Simmons is the perfect place for an equine therapy program.”

Debbie Jones, director of the Six White Horses program, spoke LIFE into Kayla, who says, “An education enlightened by Christian faith was exactly what HSU was for me.”

After four years, Brandon and Kayla were engaged on the Legett Unity Bridge and married in Logsdon Chapel.

In their spare time, Kayla and Brandon can be found with their pets, attending rodeos or watching their favorite football team. They love traveling and are actively involved in their church.
Study Abroad is back in full swing! Students enrolled in the London semester are immersed in the sights, sounds, and smells of Britain through lectures and field trips across the country. Based primarily in London with time to travel abroad, students travel on public transit to famous landmarks, museums, and local establishments for an authentic international experience.

Ashleigh Power, Teresa Vazquez, Dr. Bryan Yorton, Brianne Sams, and Cali Cuevas smile while visiting Stonehenge.
Over the summer months, we bid adieu to Nix Hall. Bulldozers and wrecking balls tore down the building, and even though there were piles of rubble and brick on the ground, the distinct musk and damp smell filled the air with memories that would not leave campus so easily.

Nix Hall joined the campus in 1962 as a “state-of-the-art” male residence hall. It boasted air conditioning in each room and would serve the campus dutifully for 60 years.

When pictures and video of the demolition were shared across social media, comments and stories flooded in of college-aged-shenanigans of rule breaking, pranks, and lifelong friendships forming. Hardin-Simmons alumnus, Greg Jaklewicz ’80, Editor/News Director of Abilene Reporter-News, even shared his memories of his time in Nix Hall in a retrospective that will make any reader laugh (find the June 23, 2022 edition of Abilene Reporter-News online to give it a read).

Nix Hall may be physically gone from the campus, but the name Nix is not going anywhere. Plans for a new residence hall, with ties to the Nix name have already begun, with an estimated opening of fall 2024.

Located on the Northeast corner of Ambler Ave. and Simmons Ave. (where Anderson Hall’s current parking lot is), the building will be a 61,000-square-foot, four-story facility with 165 beds and multiple common areas. The building will provide suite living. Each unit will contain four bedrooms and two full bathrooms that share a small living room. Each student will have a private bedroom in the unit with a twin bed, study desk, dresser, and walk-in closet.

This new residence hall will pay homage to Dr. Rosa Lee (Hemphill) Prichard ’58 for her generous support of...
Hardin-Simmons over the years. Rosa Lee represents the Nix, Hemphill, and Prichard families, with connections to the Logsdon family. Each of these families has been instrumental in the growth and success of HSU. Multiple endowments, campus facilities, buildings, scholarships, and more were created by the generosity of these families.

Nix Hall is credited to Rosa Lee’s mother, Lunelle (Nix) Hemphill ’29, and named in memory of Lunelle’s late father and brother. It is only fitting this newest residence hall shares the Nix family connection, especially when it will be located only a few yards away from the first inception of a Nix-named building.

After a 60-year run, Nix Hall will continue to live on in the memories of the thousands of young men who called it home.

Scan this QR code to watch a video of Nix Hall memories.
Freshmen and transfer students celebrate the time-honored tradition of beanie capping during STAMPEDE this fall.
Business is booming in the Kelley College of Business and Professional Studies. In 2021, HSU added a wealth management minor to enhance its finance and accounting majors, and various undergraduate and graduate degrees. HSU is currently the only university in the state to offer such a focus.

Hardin-Simmons finance and business administration faculty members are constantly evaluating the job and financial markets to ensure HSU offers current programs and produces graduates that will fill the needs of businesses throughout the state. With their research and connections, faculty can identify which career fields are growing and where there is demand for trained professionals.

**CENTER FOR FINANCIAL STUDIES**

The computer lab on the first floor of the Johnson Building will soon be unrecognizable. Plans are underway to convert the space into a professional investment research facility with stock tickers, Bloomberg terminals, and more. The intent is to immerse students in the world of investments, providing opportunities to develop comprehensive analytical and professional presentation skills.
Students will learn how to execute stock trades, analyze organizations’ financial performances and economic sector analysis, and make recommendations regarding purchasing divestiture of stocks and bonds. In addition, students will learn to develop and create professional financial and analytical presentations to their peers, faculty, trustees, and other financial experts. Students will have the opportunity to offer recommendations for investments in the Student Managed Investment Fund.

STUDENT MANAGED INVESTMENT FUND

In the Center for Financial Studies, students will have access to a $1,000,000 Student Managed Investment Fund account. Using this account, students will apply knowledge gained in the classroom and make purchase and sale recommendations based on their analysis of the performance of organizations, the economy, and future projections of the industry.

Students will analyze stocks, projections, and the economy and then they will make formal presentations regarding where to invest/buy stocks using the Student Managed Investment Fund. Presentations will be given to the university’s financial committee, whose members will have the final say in any proposal.

The rate of return designated by the university is still under discussion, but the first 5% of any monies earned by the students’ recommendations will go to the university. Anything more than 5% will fund scholarships for business students studying finance and wealth management.

While the fund received approval in October 2022, the policy and procedures are in development. The start date will be determined based on the training of students and completion of the procedures and policies.

Faculty in the Kelley College of Business and Professional Studies are enthusiastic about these new endeavors. Dr. Robert Tucker ’83, Dean of the Kelley College of Business and Professional Studies, says, “We are very excited to offer this hands-on, experiential training to our HSU business students. Not only will this add to their portfolio of financial experiences and make them attractive to employers, but it is also an opportunity for students to make a significant impact on our institution. They will be researching, analyzing, and presenting, while looking at investment opportunities in meaningful and enjoyable ways.”

The excitement in the wealth management community is palpable. Former banker and current Professor of Business Administration Dr. Doug McIntyre has presented the wealth management program at several conferences, including the Texas Bankers Association Trust and Wealth Management Conference and has participated in the educational programs for the Texas Bankers Associations State Convention and the American Bankers Association National Convention.

Dr. Tucker also shared how appreciative he is towards the whole School of Business faculty. “It really has been a team effort to bring these ideas to reality. A special thank you goes to Dr. Fei Gao, Professor of Finance, who will oversee the implementation of these programs, and Dr. Doug McIntyre, Professor of Business Administration, who was instrumental in the design of these programs.

To learn more and to get involved, please reach out to Dr. Robert Tucker at: Robert.L.Tucker@hsutx.edu.

“This is an opportunity for students to make a significant impact on our institution.”

—Dr. Robert Tucker ’83

The Center for Financial Studies will replicate what is seen on Wall Street, with stock tickers, Bloomberg terminals, and more.
The Hardin-Simmons University family prides itself on being “connected for life.” A notable example of continued alumni connection is the Abilene branch of First Financial Bank, located just down the road from campus.

Employing approximately 50 Hardin-Simmons alumni, First Financial Bank is a leading local business that exemplifies the sense of community provided by the university. Within its walls, alumni are connected through their shared HSU experiences and by the school’s continued support of its students.

“One of my favorite things about working with other alumni is reminiscing on our experiences at HSU,” said Vice President and commercial lender Tori Flores ’18. “We all may have had different experiences but we talk about the same traditions and reflect on how the university has grown and developed over the years.”

First Financial Bank continues its strong, long-standing relationship with Hardin-Simmons through its partnership funding specific projects, with HSU’s athletic programs, Student Life, and Career Services, and continued relationships with HSU business professors. Additionally, First Financial Bank regularly sponsors athletic events.

“The professors at the business school paved the way to where I am today”

—Sean Aleman ’15

Pictured above, from left to right: Grayson Bunnell ’14, Sean Aleman ’15, Victoria (Waters) Flores ’18, Livia (Garcia) Martinez ’94, Samantha (Thompson) Baker ’10, Daena (Munoz) Lloyd ’08, and Taylor Burroughs ’11.
provides guest speakers for business courses and other informational events, and hosts booths at career fairs.

With numerous First Financial Bank employees on campus throughout the year, students have several opportunities to network and hear of internship opportunities at the Abilene branches. Many alumni at First Financial Bank share stories of how other alumni paved the way for their careers through intentionality and leadership.

“I actually got started with my career in finance around 2005 because of Hardin-Simmons,” stated Senior Vice President, Consumer Lending Regional Manager, Ryan Parrish ’05. “When HSU was holding interviews on campus for a large commercial bank, Hardin-Simmons called me to let me know about the opportunity. The rest is history.”

In addition to their continued connection with Hardin-Simmons, alumni at First Financial Bank are heavily involved in the Abilene community. “There is a strong HSU alumni group in Abilene. A majority of us are part of the Abilene Young Professionals program through the Chamber of Commerce,” shared Assistant Vice President-Community Engagement Officer Samantha Baker ’10. “It is exciting to see how HSU alumni have made a presence in the community, support different events throughout the year, and continue to make a difference in Abilene.”

“I like the close-knit community that Abilene has,” shared Equity Analyst Sean Aleman ’15. “When it comes to community events like Winter Lightfest or the Dyess Air Show, the community always shows up. Being able to raise a family in a city like this is what I have always wanted. Homecoming events and the Christmas Party are also great events that I love to bring my family to and show my kids where their mom and dad used to run around campus. I also enjoy coming to the Hardin-Simmons campus for all athletic events. If I could reserve seats for my family of four to watch the Cowboys football team take on UMHB for life, I would.”

Aleman additionally shared that HSU alumni at First Financial Bank have developed what they call “The Cowboy Way,” which is to ensure that their difficult tasks are accomplished at the highest standard and effort.

“Being able to manage my workload and make trades is sometimes a challenge, but I can use what I learned at HSU to navigate me through those days,” he said. “The professors at the business school gave me the tools that I needed to succeed in the financial world, made my learning experience more enjoyable, and paved the way to where I am today.”

Hardin-Simmons University is beyond thankful for alumni at First Financial Bank and their commitment to current students and to the university as a whole.

For HSU sponsorship opportunities, contact Kacie Eurek ’17/’19, Director for University Marketing, at: kacie.eurek@hsutx.edu.

First Financial Bank is active on campus! From sponsoring countless events to cooking for students, from half-time giveaways to offering career advice, HSU is grateful for FFB’s engagement!
Six Traveling Range Riders, a few sporting HSU gear, were walking down a crowded street in Santorini, Greece, when someone called out: “That’s where we went to school!” Turns out, two recent graduates were there celebrating their honeymoon. The impromptu HSU reunion delighted everyone.

From Cuba to Memphis, from Alaska to Turkey, from Italy to New England, HSU’s Traveling Range Riders (TRR) have been exploring the globe since 2018.

“The Traveling Range Riders offer a variety of programs,” Sharon Pezzarossi ’90 says, “but I can find that with any travel agency. With TRR, we have a connection and a bond the minute the trip begins. You can’t get that with just any touring group.”

Sharon looks forward to her third HSU trip in June. Her traveling buddies will include a couple of alumni and a friend who loves the HSU experience.

“The 2022 Dutch Waterways cruise exceeded my expectations,” recalls one recent HSU traveler. “As someone who has always been responsible for trip planning, it was a relief to have someone else lead the charge.”

The TRR host on each trip is Britt Yates Jones ’84, HSU’s Executive Director of Alumni Special Programs and Trustee Relations.

Lyn (Middleton) Phillips ’64x and her husband Jerry ’67/Trustee made their second trip in June 2022, which combined a visit to the Oberammergau Passion Play with a Danube River cruise. “Britt cared for our entire group, which was important to me because I haven’t traveled a whole lot,” says Lyn.
What's special about traveling with HSU?

In the months leading up to each trip, program director Britt Jones ’84 builds community and anticipation within the group. She provides informative updates, arranges a video chat with the tour operator, and mails an exclusive “bon voyage” box of custom travel items, including a booklet with brief traveler bios and photos.

Traveling Range Riders relish spending time together and with guests from other schools as they enjoy outstanding excursions and share top-notch meals. Travelers also don’t need to feel pressure to document every moment if they don’t choose to, as HSU program leaders regularly take photographs to share and also facilitate a group exchange of photos at the end of the tour.

Britt also organizes a brief worship service during each trip centered around devotions from Dayspring author Mrs. Rebecca Barlow Jordan ’69x.

During the Oberammergau trip, at the request of the tour operator, HSU’s service was made available to the entire ship. Many fellow guests attended and even stayed after the final prayer, singing hymns and choruses together.

Many Traveling Range Riders say touring with HSU makes them feel safe, whether traveling as a single or sharing a room, because they have confidence in Britt and her office. Making the journey with like-minded travelers also ranks high.

“When you go on these TRR trips, you immediately connect because you have something in common because most people in our group have a connection, in some way, to HSU or are otherwise compatible,” says Sharon. “We get to know each other throughout the trip, and, at the end, we leave with a new group of friends.”

President Eric Bruntmyer imagined the unique traveling program in 2017 in response to requests from Hardin-Simmons alumni during his first-year visits. He placed the idea in the hands of former long-time alumni (continued on next page)
director Britt Jones who quickly turned it into a thriving program. The travel program partners with respected tour providers, calendaring five to six trips per year for HSU alumni, friends, and family members.

Itineraries offer an exciting blend of exotic destinations and traditional locales, led by experienced guides and an HSU host. Time and time again, though, travelers say that their fondest travel memories involve the human element—fellow HSU travelers, lecturers, guides, staff, and the local community members encountered during each program.

Whatever the destination and whatever the highlights, the takeaway is the same: the world is full of so many wonders that one could never see them all. But traveling with HSU is a great place to begin.

“I knew the arrangements would be reasonable and, more importantly, that I would be safe and the people I traveled with would be amicable.” -Debbie Keith ’72

Your Passport to Explore

- Join our Facebook group: “HSU Traveling Range Riders.”
- Visit our website: hsutx.edu/travel.
- Discover 2023 and 2024 trips.
- Request a printed brochure for a particular trip(s).
- Register for the mailing list. Send your street and email addresses to: travel@hsutx.edu.
- Cruise through past TRR trip photos at hsutx.edu/trrgallery.
- Pack your bags.
- Embark on a TRR Trip!
LAND OF THE RISING SUN CRUISE
An Epic Journey Through Japan
March 20 - April 1, 2024

EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS
Along the Danube River
DEC 9 - DEC 17, 2023  Unpack Once!

FALL COLORS ON MARK TWAIN’S MISSISSIPPI!
American Queen paddle wheel steamboat
SEPT 24 - OCT 2, 2023  Unpack Once!

EXPERIENCE THE VICTORY
The National WWII Museum, New Orleans
NOV 5 - NOV 8, 2023  Great for Families!

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

*EXPLORE ALL OUR 2023 & 2024 TRIPS: HSUTX.EDU/TRAVEL
The Cowboy Band is celebrating 100 years of high stepping performances. Celebrate this milestone with us by remembering some of the band’s more extraordinary moments.

Founded 1923

“Bovolopus” and “Mabel,” Cowboy Band’s first tour busses allowed for travel.

American Vaudeville performer Will Rogers donated $100 for new tunes and became an honorary CBB member.

1928 W.T. Johnson’s World Championship Rodeo

Dan Moody

Herbert Hoover

D.O. “Prof” Wiley
International Travel
1930 First European Tour: England, France, Belgium, Holland
1932 Rodeos at Madison Square Garden (New York, NY) and Boston Garden (Boston, MA)
1935 Founding of the Six White Horses
1937 NBC Broadcast of Will Rogers’ Memorial Shrine Dedication (Colorado Springs, CO)

World War II
1940 National Democratic Convention (Chicago, IL)
1943-45 A Cowgirl Band formed to keep spirits up at home while the Cowboy Band members served in WWII.
1949 Parade down Hollywood Boulevard (Hollywood, CA)

Silver Anniversary
1950 Silver Anniversary Reunion (Abilene, TX) ; National Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention (Chicago, IL)
1952 USO European (Christmas) Tour: England, France, Germany, Italy, and Iceland
1957 Military Air Transport Tour: Bermuda, Azores, Scotland, Iceland, and Newfoundland

Foundations
1963 Baptist New Life Crusade in Japan: grand total of 41 parades and 44 concerts
1969 Cowboy Band Foundation was formed (President - William E. King)

Marion “Little Mac” McClure

LEGEND INAUGURATIONS
TX Governor (Austin, TX)  U.S. President (Washington, D.C.)
Preserving Legacy
The World Famous Cowboy Band 1923-1973 historical book by Dorothy McClure

$1M Endowment Fund
Mark White

Baptist World Alliance European World Tour: England, France, Switzerland, Germany
Coca-Cola Centennial Parade (Atlanta, Georgia)
Carnaval Celebration & Parades (Nice, France)

Diamond Anniversary
Adolphus Christmas Parade (Dallas, TX)
Ann Richards

Women members welcomed
Carnaval Celebration and Parades (Nice and Metz, France) & Tour of France
Tour of Great Britain, 1999
New Year’s Day Parade
CBB Diamond Anniversary

80th Anniversary
George W. Bush
2003 Lion’s International Convention (Boston, MA)
Active performers in regional stampedes, rodeos, parades, and special events
2013 HEB’s Feast of Sharing (Fort Worth, TX)

Greg Abbott
2018 Branson, MO Tour (Dixie Stampede, Silver Dollar City, Branson Belle)

Building a Home
1970 Macy’s Day Parade (New York, NY)
1971-72 Building the “Home of the Cowboy Band”
1976-77 First Cotton Bowl Parade (Dallas, TX)
Jimmy Carter
Appearance on ABC’s “Good Morning America”
Lion’s Club International Convention (Canada)
Bill Clements


Dr. Lawson “Butch” Hager ’67
Bill Woods
Scott “Chief” Mather
Don “Stacks” Hanna ’63
Dr. Wayne “D-Dawg” Dorothy
2023

Centennial Celebration
2020 Mardi Gras Parades (New Orleans, LA)
2020 March - Pandemic
2021 Performance with “Texas Country Reporter”
2022 Ireland Tour: St Patty’s Day Parade in Dublin & Kilkenny Castle
2023 Centennial Reunion

$100K FOR 100 YEARS

To celebrate 100 years of performances and traditions, the Cowboy Band has launched “100K for 100 Years,” a campaign to raise funds for band scholarships and travel.

Would you consider making a gift to support the Cowboy Band in honor of their 100th anniversary? Thanks for supporting the HSU Cowboy Band! Here’s to the next 100 years!

To donate: connectnow.hsutx.edu/register/CB100

Billy “Stanley” Harden ’86
HSU Theatre opened its 2022-2023 season with *A Divine Kerfuffle*—a smash of a performance and outreach opportunity!

During the production, HSU students had the opportunity to work directly with the playwright on the fight choreography for the show. As a certified Fight Director with the Society of American Fight Directors, playwright H. Russ Brown provided a master class to the theatre students. HSU cast and crew can also boast this as the first officially licensed production of *A Divine Kerfuffle* in the world!

From the playwright, “There are wonderful things happening in the HSU Theatre program, and I could not be more proud to have the first, officially licensed production of *A Divine Kerfuffle* be a part of all the magic and fun.”

To wrap up the excitement, HSU theatre invited local high schools to watch the play and participate in a Q & A. Overall, HSU had close to 230 high school students visit campus for this performance!
At the moment, there are 224 out of 452 employees (including staff, faculty, and adjuncts) who are alumni working at Hardin-Simmons University. What does it say about the love and devotion of HSU’s workforce when just shy of 50% graduated from HSU and chose to return?

Anyone who steps foot onto campus, whether as a prospective student or a Golden Reunion participant, describes HSU with the same words: It feels like home; The people genuinely care about me; I knew it was where I was meant to be. These sentiments continue from prospective applicant, to student, to alumnus, and even to employee.

Alumni-employees have a unique influence on campus. As students, they were supported and poured into by faculty and staff, and in turn wish to continue this cycle by investing in the next generation of students. There is a deep love for the campus, and their work is viewed as a calling, rather than a job.

Through their daily interaction with students, peers, donors, and others, these individuals speak life into the HSU community through their commitment to continuing the mission of HSU, preserving traditions, reminiscing with nostalgia, and pushing forward by lifting up the current group of students to ensure their growth and success.

Tell me about a time a faculty or staff person influenced you when you were a student at HSU. How has this impact manifested in your life?

My very first day on campus, Coach Alan Wartes barged into my office and said, “Hey Shane, welcome to HSU!” and gave me a big hug. I had never seen the man before in my life.

Dr. Ron Rainwater was also a tremendous influence. Every time he saw me, he told me I was the best tennis coach in America, and he made me believe I actually was. He taught me to speak life into anyone and everyone.

How do you continue the trend of speaking life into the next generation of graduates?

I think fostering expectations and then helping them believe they can achieve their potential. Hope is a powerful tool. Hoping for those things and believing in them keeps us going and not becoming complacent.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

Once a Cowboy/Cowgirl always a Cowboy/Cowgirl. The players stay involved with the program many years after they have graduated. This program means enough to them to stay vested.

What advice would you give to your college-aged self?

Be uncommon amongst the uncommon. You are already uncommon for going to college, participating in a sport or other program. Don’t stop there. Be the best at that thing that you do. Help others to be better. Set an example to the world of what togetherness, hard work, and respect for others can do.

What’s taking place on campus that you’re most excited about?

I’m loving the updates to the facilities, the added programs such as engineering, all of which I believe will have tremendous impact on this university. There seems to be an excitement in the air around here.

Shine the spotlight on your department...what do you want readers to know?

The HSU tennis programs are once again very competitive this year. We would love to see everyone out at the courts to watch the women defend their ASC west title and the men defend their ASC championship.
Tell me about a time a faculty or staff person poured into you when you were a student at HSU. How has this impact manifested in your life?

There are so many individuals at HSU who impacted my life when I was a student. Dr. B.W. Aston and the entire history department, Dr. Zane Mason, Dr. Ken Jacobs, and Dr. Paul Madden, deepened my love for history and my understanding of it.

Dr. Charles Garraway sponsored a transformative trip to attend the Collegiate Model United Nations team in New York City, and Dr. Virginia Armstrong in the political science department helped me understand and think critically about the role of government in society. Dr. Bob Fink, Dr. Robert Hamner, Dr. Larry McGraw, and Dr. Bertie Kingore all impacted me in various ways. The knowledge and care that these great teachers and scholars shared with me built a love for the liberal arts and for the vocation of education that I can only try to repay by also serving in higher education.

Careerwise the most impactful individuals on campus were the staff and faculty in the HSU Libraries. If it were not for the student worker job that I had at the circulation desk in the Richardson Library, I sincerely doubt that I would be where I am now as the University Librarian for HSU. The Associate Director of the library when I was a student was Alice Specht. She would eventually become the Dean of Libraries. When she answered my question about what it took to be a librarian, it set me on the path that I am still on to this day—that of an academic librarian. If I can in any way help students have a similar experience, I consider myself very fortunate.

Shine the spotlight on your department...what do you want readers to know?

The Hardin-Simmons Library is a hub and popular location on campus. During the evening hours it is common for the library to be “hopping.” The library is a destination on campus, both physically and online. The available library resources support the curriculum of the courses at HSU, the librarians teach students how to use the authoritative and scholarly resources that are available to them and manage the complex tasks involved in a modern academic library, and the library staff assist in a vast variety of tasks. Library personnel are available to the campus community in-person, by phone, and virtually.

Providing a welcoming space, powerful research tools, an atmosphere that’s flexible enough for group work but also allows for quiet concentrated study, and partners with other entities on campus, such as the Academic Center for Excellence and Technology Services, are just another average day in the library.
JENNIFER (MARSH) JOYE ’87  
Technical Services Cataloging Supervisor

Tell me about a time a faculty or staff person poured into you when you were a student at HSU. How has this impact manifested in your life?

Dr. Lloyd Huff ’63 sparked my love of reading.  
Dr. Larry McGraw demonstrated what walking by faith really means as he never lost his joy, even when walking some really tough roads.  
Dr. Joe Darnall taught me how to think, not just parrot answers.

What advice would you give to your college-aged self?

If I could speak with my college-aged self, I would tell her that Christ already has the answers to all of those major questions. And that He will reveal the answers when she is ready. Ten again, I often still need that reminder.

RACHEL (SHAW) GOULET ’20MBA  
Clinical Operations Manager  
Houston-Lantrip Center for Literacy and Learning

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

I love being able to have conversations based in faith with my coworkers and the students. So much of my faith growth has happened on this campus, and it is such an honor to be a part of others’ faith journeys as well.

What advice would you give to your college-aged self?

You don’t have to have it all figured out right now. Let God lead your steps and you will end up exactly where you need to be.

Shine the spotlight on your department…what do you want readers to know?

The Houston-Lantrip Center is in such a unique place to be able to provide Autism services to children and our community with a faith aspect. At our clinic, we get to pray over these kids and literally be God’s hands and feet in their walk through life. It is an amazing blessing to get to pour God’s love into so many young people every day.
Tell me about a time a faculty or staff person influenced you when you were a student at HSU. How has this impact manifested in your life?

Dr. Chris McNair ’84, Dr. Ron Rainwater, Dr. Laura Pogue ’87/’91 - just to name a few instilled belief, confidence, and hope into me during my journey at HSU. I have followed their example and do my very best to do the same for our players and students.

How do you continue the trend of speaking life into the next generation of graduates?

I do my best to relay the lessons learned through the game of football and how they will impact their daily lives and also how they can use the tools developed through this game to help them live the lives they are designed to live.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

Seeing our players come back and be great husbands, fathers, and community members is by far the most rewarding part of this job.

What advice would you give to your college-aged self?

It. Is. ALL. Worth. It.

What's taking place on campus that you're most excited about?

The opportunity for us ALL to get in alignment with the single vision and goal of making HSU the best place in America to get an education and grow as a person.

What do you love about HSU?

The people.

Shine the spotlight on your department…what do you want readers to know?

I have the best football coaching staff in America. Obviously, they are very well versed in the game of football but more importantly the WHY and the HOW they do their jobs is extraordinary. JJ Elkins ’18, Garrett Martin ’17, Roosevelt Williams, Logan Floyd ’19, RJ Melton ’20, Thomas Niles, Jeff Whitehead ’01, and Zach Wilkerson are simply the best.

What advice would you give to your college-aged self?

I would grab hold of my frail, pale body, shake it a couple of times and say - “Don’t spend all your time at HSU focusing on your studies. A degree and a well-paying job will never bring you true satisfaction; only Christ can do that. Focus on serving the Lord and other people, not yourself.”
The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program at Hardin-Simmons is renowned for its student preparedness and its one-of-a-kind focus on servant leadership. The DPT regularly incorporates service into its curriculum with yearly mission trips, fundraising projects, and volunteering with nonprofits, both domestic and abroad. These opportunities provide curriculum enrichment, creating unique and powerful learning moments for all involved.

Beginning in the fall of 2021, the DPT began a partnership with Canine Companions, a nonprofit organization that provides service dogs to people with disabilities at no cost. Since then, HSU DPT has served in the capacity of a volunteer puppy raiser, where students and faculty provide a Canine Companions puppy with 14 months of basic training, socialization, and care. After 14 months, the puppy is returned to Canine Companions for another six months of professional training to learn detailed skills, like how to assist with tools or open doors, to aid the individual she is assigned to.

Greer, a sweet black lab, joined the DPT in 2021 courtesy of Canine Companions. Over the past 14 months, various DPT students and faculty, called the Puppy Team, shared duties while caring for Greer. Greer spent her days in the PT building, attending classes and clinicals, and going home with a different member of the team at night. Just like any dog, there were designated potty breaks, mealtimes, and play times that the students needed to account for in their busy schedules.

Greer's 14 months at HSU exposed her to assistive devices, therapy machinery, clinical environments, and many different people, preparing her for her future placement. Her positive presence was felt throughout the PT building, brightening the halls with laughter and collaborative learning.

"Our main emphasis with her has been socialization; getting her accustomed to various situations, environments, people, activities, and animals is crucial," shared Dr. Wendy Anemaet, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy. "Additionally, we worked on basic training with her, which includes about 30 commands that she needs to be able to perform immediately, eagerly, and in any situation regardless of distractions."

On December 15, 2022, Greer walked the stage at the PT Ring and Pinning Ceremonies to celebrate graduating from basic training at HSU.

Once leaving HSU, Greer's impact will be vast. She will increase independence and the overall lifestyle of her owner.

"Greer has been one of the greatest gifts. She has been there in times of joy, stress, excitement, frustration, and all the other emotions that are embedded in our daily lives as doctoral graduate"
students,” shared second-year PT student Avery Allen. “I am going to be so sad to say goodbye, but if Greer has made this much of an impact on us, I cannot wait to see how she can change the life of someone who will rely on her assistance and support.”

Greer is now in the metroplex for her training. The halls of the PT Building, however, are full again with puppy sounds and laughter. A new puppy, named Dion, joined the ranks at the start of 2023. A dedicated group of students, again called the Puppy Team, will start the work all over again, bringing Dion up to par.

Training for a service dog can cost upward of $60,000, a financial mark that prevents the service for those who need it the most. Partnering with Canine Companions is one way the DPT continues to give back, reinforcing their focus on servant leadership.
Mr. Rick Strange ‘82

Mr. Rick Strange, the current Chairman of the HSU Board of Trustees, says he has lived his dreams.

The Hardin-Simmons alumnus earned a BBA degree in 1982 before obtaining his J.D. degree from the University of Texas in 1985. He is also an Army Ranger School graduate.

The Floydada, Texas, native was raised with parents and grandparents who were strong Christians. His favorite Bible verse, Philippians 4:6-7, which tells of God’s sovereignty, provides assurance, especially in stressful times. Rick firmly believes no matter how present circumstances appear, God is in control and things will work out for the best.

A practicing attorney in Midland, Texas, Rick joined the firm of Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe & Dawson, right out of law school. When given the opportunity, he became an oil and gas litigator. He served on the Eastland Court of Appeals 2005-2011. In 2017, he joined Wildcat Oil Tools as General Counsel. When that became a part-time role, he added the position of oil and gas litigator with the Hamm Law Group.

As a Hardin-Simmons student, Rick was mentored by Sergeant Major Landry who ran the ROTC program’s orienteering team (a military sport combining cross country running with map reading). "He was a Green Beret and the closest thing to John Wayne I've ever seen," Rick recalls. "He taught me self-discipline and dedication."

Rick somewhat jokingly asserts that, although he earned an accounting degree, he really majored in Cowboy Band. After surviving “Slime” pledging, he realized he now had the closest group of friends imaginable.

On a practical level, higher education allowed Rick to become a lawyer and earn a good living. On a personal level, both Rick and his wife Carole hold graduate degrees. And their daughters really had no choice but to attend college and both selected HSU (Katie S. Jones BBS 2009, Susan S. Green B.A. 2011/DPT 2013).

Rick treasures his HSU service, from his early days as a Young Associate to Development board member to sitting on the Board of Trustees. This journey taught him the value of giving back and exposed him to a wide cross-section of the University’s workings.

Reflecting on recent years, Rick points out that, while all colleges and universities regularly face financial trials, private Christian schools must also stay true to their mission in an ever-changing world. He’s proud of the way HSU, led by the Trustee Board and strong administrators, has faced and overcome recent challenges. “Without a doubt, HSU remains true to the mission of providing an education enriched by faith,” he says.

Whether working with clients, family, or HSU Trustees, Rick counsels controlling one’s mind and not letting imagination take over. His motto is, “I’ve seldom regretted the things I didn’t say.” He does his best to follow his own advice.

Rick is an avid golfer, playing every chance he gets, and, as a USGA Rules Official, works several tournaments yearly. A member of Midland’s First Baptist Church, Rick is a long-time adult Sunday School class teacher.
MRS. DAISY SANCHEZ ’86

Mrs. Daisy Sanchez loves the Lord and is a perpetual student.

Her favorite Bible verse is related always to what is going on in her life at present. She has recently been clinging to 1 Corinthians 2:9: “Neither eye has seen, nor ear has heard, nor mind can conceive what the Lord has planned for those who love Him.”

Daisy holds a B.Ed. degree from Hardin-Simmons University (1986), a M.Ed. degree from Abilene Christian, and dual certifications from Angelo State where she is an adjunct instructor. Her primary work role is as PreK-12 counselor for Bronte ISD, and she is currently pursuing LPC licensing through Sul Ross State.

Daisy received the 2022 Texas School Counselor Association Multi-Level Counselor of the Year Award and the 2021 BEST (Baptist Educators Serving Texans) Award.

Some 20 or so years ago, the Sanchez family moved back to the West Texas area. Daisy reconnected with both Hardin-Simmons and many college friends which eventually led to service as President of HSU’s Alumni Association and now as a Trustee.

“I loved HSU as a student,” Daisy says, “but even more so as an adult when I realized the impact this university had on my life. I want God to use HSU to truly impact the lives of today’s students as He did for my life.”

Daisy first visited HSU as a high school senior. “Being from El Paso, I seriously thought I had landed in East Texas,” she recalls. She sat next to HSU Professor Dr. Lawrence Clayton at a dinner that weekend. He remembered Daisy when she arrived as a student in the fall, stopping to chat every time their paths crossed, making a deep impression that resonates still today.

Daisy, who is in her second three-year term, points out that all Trustees are volunteers and each feels a great weight as they consider matters. “Our decisions are not made without sincere and sometimes tough discussions,” she says. “I have lost much sleep pondering challenges and praying for wisdom, and I’ve spent many hours reading correspondence from alumni and others who care about HSU.”

Daisy lives in San Angelo and attends Southmont Baptist Church with husband Javier Sanchez (BBS 1989). She has served on various capacities through the years and is currently teaching a class for young adults called “Almost Adulting,” which brings back many memories of her HSU days. She is especially engaged in missions work and looks forward to ministering in Athens, Greece, this summer.

Daisy is mother to Adrienne S. Morgan (B.S. 2015), Alexandria S. Dyer (BBS 2017), and Abigail Sanchez, and is Nini to three grands. She is a member of Bible Study Fellowship and loves to read, knit, smock, sew, bake and cook, exercise, and spend time outdoors.
How many schools bring you into the President’s Office and let you kick up your feet? @HSUTX. I appreciate the conversation @CoachRoe__look forward to coming down during the season!

Caleb Thomas
January 5, 2023

Last big mural of the year! I had so much fun capturing HSU’s favorite goose in her natural habitat! Go chat up Rode to see it hung in his office!!! #LongLiveGilbert

karsongopffarth
December 5, 2022
A DIVINE KERFUFFLE is officially on a roll!! There are several productions happening across the country in the next year, but I’m most excited about THIS ONE. As most of you know, the original production was produced by my program at College of the Mainland to uproarious laughter and rave reviews and was soon published by Next Stage Press. Shortly after that, I had the distinct pleasure of being contacted by Victoria Spangler to teach a swashbuckling stage combat workshop at Hardin-Simmons University. I was immediately taken with the passion, talent, and welcoming spirit of the students and immediately suggested KERFUFFLE - which they’ve chosen to include in their ‘22-’23 season!!

H. Russ Brown
September 26, 2022

I am extremely blessed and excited to say that I am verbally committed to HSU to continue my dance and education! I want to thank my family and friends for supporting me no matter what and my coach for helping me along the way. HSU Spurs Dance Team 23-24!!!!

sophiemariecc
February 15, 2023

Hello, our names are Taylor, Brittney, & Jada & we will be your NURSES today! #bestiegang

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September 26, 2022

Doctoral project defense

Proverbs 27:17: “as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Thank you Jesus for these people and this place!! On to clinical rotations!!

Avery Allen
March 3, 2023

Eurydice was such a great production by HSU Theatre!

to_dd_cl_ow_er
November 6, 2022

HSU Homecoming 2022! So much fun! @HSUlife @parentsweekend

Beanes
October 15, 2022

Best day ever!!! My girl was accepted to Hardin-Simmons PA school! She has worked so hard and I am so proud of her!!! Hardin-Simmons here she comes!

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SU's Kylah Holland became the first Cowgirl to compete in the NCAA Cross Country Championship on Nov. 19 at the Forest Akers East Golf Course in Lansing, Michigan.

Through the cold and snowy conditions, Kylah finished the race with a time of 23:07 and placed 69th overall in a field of 294 runners.

She punched her ticket with a fifth-place finish at the NCAA West Regional in Spokane, Washington the week before. She ran a time of 21:58 in the 6K race, a time that broke the school record in the 6K and made her the first individual from HSU to qualify for the NCAA Championship in cross country.

Seventy athletes qualified for the NCAAs as individuals who were not on one of the 32 teams that qualified for the championship.

It has been a banner season for Kylah, as she also claimed the ASC individual title, winning the race by over a minute. The Clyde native transferred from West Texas A&M and competed in track last spring for HSU, making this her first season with the Cowgirl cross country team.

Breaking the records of former HSU cross country standout and current coach Sydney Tencate '19, Kylah continually improves each meet.

Tencate says Kylah's nutrition, training, and competitiveness have put her in this position.

“She does all the things right,” says Tencate. “She has great nutrition, she puts in the miles, and she loves working hard and competing. She is just a very coachable athlete, and she takes it all in. She also makes her teammates better and has gotten better each race. She has so much potential as a runner.”

Holland puts it all very simply. “I just love to run. I am here now and I’m ready to see what I can do.”
CROSS COUNTRY

Individually it was a great year for the HSU cross country program. For the first time in school history, an HSU runner, Kylah Holland, qualified for the NCAAs. She finished fifth in the region, earning her a trip to Michigan. Senior Brittany Acosta also qualified for the regional meet after a first-team all-ASC performance at the conference meet.

The men’s team also had a pair of runners qualify for the regional meet with Eric Monroy and Zach Mitchell running.

The Cowboys finished with 115 points and was ranked sixth at the American Southwest Conference meet. Mitchell finished third and earned all-ASC first-team honors. Monroy finished 11th to earn second-team all-ASC honors.

Both teams struggled with injuries at the bottom of the lineup throughout the season and each competed with five runners at the ASC meet.

The Cowgirls finished sixth with 128 points in the conference meet.
**Volleyball**

The Cowgirls continued their climb up the ASC ladder, as they finished the season with a 14-10 overall record and 8-8 in ASC play.

HSU advanced to the semifinals of the ASC tournament before falling to eventual champion UT Dallas. It was the first time the Cowgirls had reached the ASC semifinals since 2013.

Six Cowgirl players earned all-conference awards for the first time since the 2017 season. Freshman Gabby Jones was named first-team all-ASC as a middle blocker. Freshman Aubree McCann and senior Hannah Langerman were named second-team all-conference. Freshman Liz Underwood and sophomores Lauren Sullivan and Ali Meyer earned all-ASC honorable mentions.

The Cowgirls opened the season with three straight wins. They later notched a six-match winning streak, the longest in several years. Included in that winning streak were wins over McMurry and Mary Hardin-Baylor.

With just three senior Cowgirls currently on the team and the underclassmen playing most of the court time, the future looks bright for the team.

**Women’s Soccer**

All good things must come to an end and the Cowgirls’ 19-year run as the American Southwest Conference champions came to an end with a 1-0 loss to Mary Hardin-Baylor in the ASC Championship.

It was a new era for the Cowgirls as coach Lance Key was in his first season on the HSU bench and the Cowgirls had several new faces. HSU went 12-3-2 on the year and finished 7-1-1 in conference play.

The Cowgirls had four players named to the all-region team. Senior Randie Dennison was a first-team all-region selection, leading the Cowgirls with seven goals on the season. Senior midfielder Jenna Kirk, junior midfielder Kaylee Maddox, and freshman defender Kalea Willis all earned second-team all-region honors.

Kirk was named the midfielder of the year in the ASC and defensive freshman of the year. Kirk, Willis, Dennison, and Maddox were joined by junior defender Mercy Mummert and senior goalkeeper Haley Foley on the all-conference first team. Aurora Arevalo and Kaylen McNutt were named to the All-ASC second team.
MEN'S SOCCER

The Cowboys started the season slowly, going 1-4-3 in a very challenging non-conference season. The tough scheduling was beneficial, though, in that it prepared the team for conference play.

HSU won four of its first five games in league play and finished the year 5-4 in conference play. That put the Cowboys in the tournament for the 20th straight year. HSU hosted LeTourneau in the ASC quarterfinal and fell in penalty kicks.

Based on their performance this season, three players were named to an all-ASC team. Jakob Fiol was named first-team all-ASC, Osi Gutierrez was named second-team all-ASC, and Austin Wills earned all-ASC honors for the fifth time in his career as a second-team selection.

After the season, longtime Hardin-Simmons men's soccer head coach Dan Heger '88 announced his retirement after 20 seasons on the Cowboy bench.


Heger played and graduated from Hardin-Simmons in the Division I days and spent some time playing professionally. After his playing days, he was an assistant coach at HSU, and then he spent one season as the Mary Hardin-Baylor coach, while also coaching at Temple.

Heger coached two All-Americans, 10 all-region players (16 total selections), and 75 all-ASC players.
The Cowboys had another strong season that ended with a trip to the NCAA playoffs for the first time since 2018.

HSU finished the year with a record of 9-2 and finished ranked No. 11 in the D3football.com final poll and No. 12 in the American Football Coaches Association poll. The Cowboys have been ranked in the last 80-straight national polls and have been inside the top 10 for 52 of those.

During the season, the Cowboys amassed the 500th win in school history with a win at Texas Lutheran in the regular-season finale.

HSU football made its first trip out of state for a non-conference game since 2013 and won 41-0 at highly regarded Wisconsin-Platteville. In addition, they reclaimed the Wilford Moore Trophy with a 45-13 win over crosstown foe McMurry.

To cap off the season, the Cowboys racked up a collection of postseason awards. Boomer Warren, senior offensive lineman from Haslet, was named All-American by D3football.com and the Associated Press. It was the third time he was named a first-team All-American in his career. He is just the third Cowboy in school history to be named a first-team All-American three times.

Senior Matt Mitchell was also named a first-team All-American by the Associated Press and second-team All-American by the American Football Coaches Association.

Both Mitchell and Warren were named second-team Academic All-Americans. They were joined on that team by senior punter Cody Harral, who was named a first-team academic All-American with a 4.0 GPA as a biology/pre-med major.

The Cowboys had 22 players honored as all-conference by the American Southwest Conference.
Dating as far back as an 1897 12-0 win against the Abilene Town Kids, Hardin-Simmons has mostly known success in its football program. With a win over Texas Lutheran in the 2022 regular season finale, HSU hit a significant milestone with win No. 500.

In the 85 seasons of Cowboy football, HSU has recorded 500 wins, 276 losses and 35 ties, has appeared in eight bowl games, played in 25 postseason playoff games and produced 80 different All-Americans, for a total of 108 nods.

Three people with ties to the Cowboys are now in the pro football Hall of Fame – Clyde “Bulldog” Turner ’40x, Ed Sprinkle ’43x, and former coach Sammy Baugh. HSU has a total of 25 players who have played in the NFL.

The Golden Era of HSU football came from 1935 to 1951, when the Cowboys went 105-31 and played in eight bowl games. In the calendar year of 1948, HSU set a record by playing in four bowl games. In 1990, Jimmie Keeling ’15HD restarted the Cowboy football program that had been eliminated in 1963.

Bringing excitement back to the Forty Acres, Keeling began a new era of NAIA and later Division III football. He had a record of 172-53 and led the Cowboys to the NAIA or NCAA playoff s in 11 different seasons, taking the team to the National semifinals in 1993 and 2000.

Jesse Burleson ’06/’17 has continued the run of Cowboy football and has produced five trips to the NCAA playoffs and a record of 88-31.
One of the top defensive players in Hardin-Simmons history, Hansen is the only defensive player and one of just two Cowboys to be named a first-team all-American three straight seasons. After playing a backup role as a freshman and emerging late in the season, he burst onto the scene as a sophomore and had nine interceptions in 2002. He followed that up with seven more interceptions as a junior and two as a senior. The Cowboys won the ASC title and were ranked as high as No. 2 in the nation during Hansen's senior season. He was also a three-time all-ASC selection and ranks first in interceptions returned for touchdowns, second in interceptions (18), and fourth in passes defended (44) in school history. He had 177 career tackles.

**Alex Hansen**

*Football 2001-2004*

Martinez is the top playmaker in the history of the Cowgirl program. She is the all-time leader in assists (440) which is 93 more than any other player in Cowgirl history. She ranks fifth in 3-pointers made in a career, she scored 1,216 points, and ranks 11th in scoring. Martinez finished second all-time at HSU with 283 steals in her career. She helped the Cowgirls to the NCAA tournament on three occasions and won three American Southwest Conference titles. She was named to the all-South Region Team her junior and senior seasons, was a three-time all-ASC selection, and was named to the CoSIDA Academic all-District Teams as a junior and senior. Diana completed her career with only 10 losses. After graduating, she became an assistant coach with the Cowgirls, taking part in a Final Four appearance and later becoming the Director of Career Services.

**Diana Martinez Salinas**

*Women’s Basketball 2002-2005*

Zach Pickelman helped turn the Hardin-Simmons men’s basketball team into one of the top teams in the American Southwest Conference. He was a four-year starter, starting 99 of the 105 games he played in. As a sophomore, he led the team that became the first to make the ASC tournament in school history. As a senior, he helped lead the team to the ASC championship game. After playing, he served two seasons as a graduate assistant and seven years as the lead assistant. He helped the Cowboys to the ASC tournament eight times in his 13-year involvement with the HSU program. Pickelman ranks third in the school’s non-scholarship era in scoring with 1,616 points. He was named the ASC MVP and an all-American as a senior, was a four-time all-ASC West Division selection, and a three-time academic all-ASC performer. He shot 45% from 3-point range as a senior, which led the conference. Zach was a 41% 3-point and an 82% free throw shooter for his career.

**Zach Pickelman**

*Men’s Basketball 2004-2007*

A two-time first-team all-American and a three-time academic all-American, Amy Kuykendall led the team to four consecutive ASC Championships and the 2010 NCAA National Championship. In her career, she recorded 76 career goals and 46 assists for 198 career points, graduating as the leader in career points. She holds the school record for game-winning goals with 18 and is the leader in games played with 107. She was a four-time all-ASC selection and the ASC’s nominee for NCAA Women of the Year as a senior.

**Amy Kuykendall**

*Women’s Soccer 2006-2010*
HSU TENNIS ALUMNI UNITE!

Hardin-Simmons tennis has a long history of success on and off the court. With that, they are expanding their influence on Texas and beyond in the coaching ranks. Several former Cowboys are coaching at both the high school and collegiate level and in tennis clubs across the state.

In the fall, HSU had the opportunity to host Western New Mexico and Dallas Baptist for matches. Both teams were coached by former Cowboys—Wade Morgan ’08 for DBU and Alex Hunt ’19 for Western New Mexico.

Hunt has recently moved back to his hometown of Odessa and has taken over the program at UT-Permian Basin. He is assisted by another former Cowboy, Josh Lopez ’22.

Another tennis alumnus, Cullen Dees ’12, is the head coach at UT-San Antonio after spending some time as an assistant at the University of Texas.

The legacy of HSU’s tennis program is not only the championships won on the court, but also the champions who have developed off the court to promote the game of tennis.

BASKETBALL LOCKER ROOM

The Hardin-Simmons’ men’s basketball locker room underwent a major renovation this summer and fall. It was finished in time for the first practice of the season thanks to a major donation by Mr. Anton Kubacak.

The space received new lighting, flooring, and lockers along with technology upgrades.

Cowboy basketball appreciates the new space and also grieves, along with the family and friends of, Mr. Kubacak after his recent passing.
a look back

No matter the year or generation, cheering for the Cowboys and Cowgirls is always in style. Inside or outside, the noise from the stands bursts eardrums, energizing our teams and drowning out the opponents. Nothing connects alumni with current students more than yelling and clapping from the bleachers, while wearing their purple and gold.
As a third generation Hardin-Simmons alumnus, I’m proud to be working for the university I love. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” HSU's speakLIFE campaign is an example of how our alumni and friends are working together toward a common goal - a testament to HSU’s impact in the lives of our community.

If you believe in HSU, whether you give a cash gift, give through a charitable trust, or name HSU in your will, your gift will help prepare the next generation of Christian leaders and impact the greater HSU family.

As we look ahead, our top priority is HSU's speakLIFE Capital Campaign. I invite you to join me in making a gift to the campaign for the project of your choice. Your gift will not only provide much-needed financial support, but will also demonstrate your belief in the value of HSU's mission, “to be a community dedicated to providing excellence in education enlightened by Christian faith and values.”

Through our speakLIFE campaign, we will update Newman-Richardson Science Center, Abilene Hall, Behrens Residence Hall and Behrens Chapel Auditorium, build an Equine Therapy Center, support the Annual Scholarship Fund, Christlieb Program and Scholarship, and provide Faculty Enrichment, helping the university better serve students and our community while giving our students the opportunity to learn, grow, and pursue their calling.

To learn more or give, visit hsutx.edu/speaklife.

Thank you for continuing HSU’s tradition of giving! We appreciate your vision for HSU’s future.

Cowboys find a way!

Ash Wright ’05
Vice President for Advancement and Engagement

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MEET the TEAM!

From left to right, Dr. Bob Brooks, Senior Development Officer; Dr. Vivian Bland, Office Manager/Campaign Coordinator; Dr. Lanny Hall, President Emeritus; Ash Wright ’05, Vice President for Advancement and Engagement; Dr. Vicki House ’01/’10/’22, Associate Vice President for Advancement; Dr. Heather Hadlock ’97, Associate Vice President for Alumni Engagement; Link Harris ’01/’03, Development Officer; Jessica Carter, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement; and Cheryl Purcell ’06/’10, Assistant Vice President for Advancement.
On February 16, 2023, Hardin-Simmons University unveiled the Donor Wall of Honor, established by President Eric Bruntmyer and members of the Board of Trustees and Administrative Council. The Donor Wall of Honor will pay ongoing tribute to individuals and organizations who have made significant lifetime contributions in support of Hardin-Simmons and our students. This permanent campus fixture will recognize those who have supported HSU in the past and who continue to give in the future.

To create a space central to university life and reflective of the history and character of the school and community, the wall was installed in front of Moody Center and overlooks HSU landmarks, such as the Reflection Pond and Legett Unity Bridge.

“We feel it is important to capture the names of our major donors in a centralized area,” said Ash Wright ’05, Vice President for Advancement and Engagement. Placing the names of these philanthropists along the most journeyed path on campus is a way to illustrate the role philanthropy plays in supporting the university and will enable future generations to see that they, too, can be part of ensuring the future of HSU.

The base of the wall is constructed of “HSU brick,” a reminder of the school’s legacy of providing an education enlightened by Christian faith and values. Lueders limestone was chosen for the donor markers, recognizing those whose gifts represent a willingness and sacrifice to provide a strong foundation for Hardin-Simmons, much like Lueders limestone provides a strong foundation beneath our Big Country soil.

“We are very appreciative of all who have supported and continue to support our beloved university and wanted something special to honor them, because our donors are special to us,” said President Bruntmyer. “We thank the many individuals and organizations who have donated generously to Hardin-Simmons. It is friends like you that help us fulfill our mission!”

The installation of a second donor wall is already in discussion. Watch for stories from our Donor Wall of Honor in the next Range Rider.
Abilene Higher Education Foundation
Gene Darrell Adams
Aaron and Vera Bergen
Robert and Elizabeth Bline
Pansy Bond
Dr. Charles and Polly Brinkley
Dick and Martha Brooks
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Frank and Lorene Chambliss
CIOS Foundation
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W. S. (Skinny) and Hallie (Jane) Cole
Communities Foundation of Texas
Dr. Virginia Boyd Connally

DONOR WALL of HONOR

HARDIN-SIMMONS UNIVERSITY
HONORING DONORS

The Wall of Honor is a permanent reminder of the generosity of our donors throughout HSU’s history.

THANKS TO ALL 2000+ OF YOU WHO GAVE TO HSU IN 2022!
Below is a list of our top supporters from this year.

SMITH SOCIETY: $1M+
The Smith Society is named for the first Board of Trustees president, Rev. George W. Smith, 1892-1899

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MERCHANT SOCIETY: $100K to $999K
The Merchant Society is named for the second Board of Trustees president, C.W. Merchant, 1900-1902

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The Legett Society is named for the third Board of Trustees president, Hon. K.K. Legett, 1902-1910

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Dr. Bill and Alice Wright
PAXTON SOCIETY: $1K to $9K

The Paxton Society is named for the fourth Board of Trustees president, George L. Paxton, 1910-1913

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Mr. Allen Wright
Mr. John Wright
Mr. David & Mrs. Gina Yarbrough
Brittney Dillman graduated from Hardin-Simmons in 2011 with a BBS in athletic training, then continued at HSU to earn a Doctor of Physical Therapy in 2013. She now lives in her hometown of Elizabeth, Colorado, where she owns and runs her own practice, Hometown Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine.

Before Brittney decided to attend HSU, she had settled on attending a university in her home state of Colorado. She never felt sure of where God intended her to be, though, until April of her senior year, when she received a postcard from HSU. She decided then to pursue what God had for her by attending Hardin-Simmons University. The moment she stepped onto the campus she knew she was where she was meant to be.

While at HSU, Brittney was greatly impacted by Dr. Coleman Patterson, whom she initially met while visiting the campus. Although Dr. Patterson was busy preparing for a class, he took the time to speak with Brittney and her family and made them feel welcome. While she was attending the university, he impacted her by teaching her leadership skills and helping her to think critically. These are lessons she feels prepared her for her future.

Another influential professor was Dr. Chris McNair ’84. When Brittney felt far from home, overwhelmed, and did not know many people, Dr. McNair took the time to learn who she was as a student and a person.

Brittney’s advice to future and present students is to soak up their time at Hardin-Simmons University. She believes all students should take part in campus activities, whether it is through intramurals or by attending events. This is how Brittney met many of her friends.
Katie graduated in 2009 with a BBS in elementary education. While attending HSU, she was greatly impacted by Kimberely (Bryan) McMillon ’97, her Spurs dance team coach. McMillon had high standards but always cared for the team, says Katie, and her discipleship and encouragement were life-changing.

Katie also learned the importance of community through her on-campus experience as an HSU student. She loved how professors cared for the students and appreciated the incredible friends she met along the way.

Katie’s advice to all current and future students is to enjoy every minute. Plug in and get involved in campus activities and invest in the acquaintances you meet, as they have the potential to become lifelong friends.

Katie now lives in Richardson, Texas, with her husband, David, and three sons. She owns and operates Munchkins and Monograms, a small business that creates monogrammed products for adults and children.

CHANCE SAMPSON ’98

Chance Sampson graduated from Hardin-Simmons University in 1998 with a B.A. in philosophy, then earned a law degree from the University of Texas. Now President of Sampson Public Affairs, LLC, a lobby firm in Austin, Chance lives with his wife Kathryn and their two sons, Owen, 10 and Gus, 8.

The first time Chance visited HSU, he fell in love with the campus. It was hard to explain the feeling when he arrived, but he knew he liked it. Chance liked how vibrant it was, full of old, well-maintained buildings and students. He also wanted to attend a university where he could play football, an opportunity HSU was able to provide.

During his time on campus, Chance was impacted by Professor Scot Miller ’81, who taught PHIL 1301 (Critical Thinking). Chance says Professor Miller and this course “prepared me for life by introducing me to logic, a standard by which I can test the validity of every claim.” Chance notes that this is a course he has used every day since taking it.

Chance was also impacted by his football coach, Jimmy Keeling ’15HD.

“I learned that relentless effort, combined with a little talent, is generally better than superior talent combined with minimal effort,” says Chance. He had heard this saying before he arrived at HSU but got to experience the meaning of it firsthand under the mentoring of Coach Keeling.

Chance believes all students should select a major based on their interests. He feels one should consider how one’s studies will help in a future career and learn to think critically, noting “if you think critically and solve problems, you can do just about anything.”
Cowboy football players prayed before kickoff against East Texas Baptist University.

The classes of 1982 and 1987 gathered to celebrate their 35-year and 40-year reunions.

The HSU Cowboy Band played hymns to begin the Family Worship Service.

This year’s SING show winners Zeta Omega Phi and Kappa Phi Omega put on their version of “Top Gun.”

Families enjoyed lunch in the Don Bridges Courtyard during the Homecoming Tailgate.

Alumni and current students attended Student Organization breakfast events. Pictured here are a few members and alumni of Tri Phi.

During half time of the HSU football game, Jailyn Woods-McGarthy and Karson Gopfarth were crowned the 2022-2023 University Queen and King.

Playing yard games at the Friday Night Festival was a popular activity for both current students and families.

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Hardin-Simmons recognized alumni award recipients for their service to HSU and outstanding work in their career field.

Every year, the Ex-Cowgirls gather for a coffee Saturday morning.

Fireworks after the HSU Pep Rally were a great way to kick off Homecoming 2022 celebrations.

Alumni reconvened over a meal at the HSU Hispanic Alumni Dinner.
JENNY (BELL) VAN DORF ’07

Jenny Van Dorf studied public relations and advertising at HSU, graduating with a BBS in communications in 2007. She currently is director of marketing and communication for Del Sol Food Company, the manufacturer of BRIANNAS Fine Salad Dressing, the number one premium salad dressing distributed around the world.

Jenny previously served as public relations manager for Blue Bell Creameries, one of North America’s largest ice cream companies. She guided Blue Bell’s marketing and PR during a period of rapid expansion, as well as a widely reported consumer crisis which was followed by the company’s return to success.

ALLISON (CAUSEY) KENDRICK ’14

Allison Kendrick graduated from HSU in 2014 with a B.A. in communications. In the few short years since, she has established a career working with community and state entities to promote tourism and economic growth in Texas.

Allison currently serves as executive director of the Texas Plains Trail Region, an award-winning Texas Historical Commission program. She is responsible for promoting heritage tourism and economic development throughout 52 counties of West Texas.

While still a student, Allison worked for the Abilene-based Texas Forts Trail Region. After graduation, she worked at Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau until 2019.

JAMES JESSE ’04

James Jesse received a B.A. in English and philosophy from HSU in 2004. As a person whose family was challenged by generational poverty, Jesse found freedom and opportunity through education and the support of others, including his HSU professors. Since graduation, James has devoted his life to helping others in the same way.

In 2010, after working for seven years in student support services for Tarrant County College, James cofounded an educational nonprofit organization, Opportunity Resource Services. ORS has flourished, now assisting thousands each year through partnerships with school districts, nonprofits, and businesses. James remained with ORS for almost a decade, building a team of employees, establishing programs, and raising millions in federal grant funds.

FOR COMPLETE DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL HONOREES, visit us at www.hsutx.edu/alumni/alumni-awards
Family NEWS

1960s

1. Evelyn (Meadows) McAnelly ’67BS and husband John McAnelly ’69BM/’73MA, while shopping for a new mattress in San Antonio, met two Sleep Experts from HSU: Jess Greenway ’12BBS and Darius Nesby, ’11x. HSU alumni are everywhere!

2. Keith Clark ’75BS and John Humphrey ’77BS, Kappa brothers, reconnected on the HSU campus on October 20, 2022. It was the last time they saw each other was 38 years ago. Keith lives in Clyde, Texas and John in Chadron, Nebraska.

1970s

3. Cathy (Fisher) Ashby ’82BE and several Delta alumnae met for dinner in November 2022. Pictured from left to right: Evelina (Castro) Baker ’81BM, Cathy (Fisher) Ashby ’82BE, Robin (McNeil) Youngblood ’82BBS, Jeannie (Cole) Schulz ’82BBA, Pam (Painter) Ivey ’83BE, (front) Teri (McIntosh) Waite ’82BBS.

Phillip Hamilton ’83BBS is the new communications manager at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview after a 40-year career in journalism, including 15 years as owner of three community newspapers under the Triple S Media name. He continues to serve as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Plainview. He has been married to Ursula for 30 years and they have three adult children. He can be contacted at joeflegal@gmail.com.

4. Jay Matthew “Matt” Barnes ’01BA and his wife Alida (Smith) Barnes ’02BBS and their three sons moved to Wilmore, Kentucky in September 2022 where Matt joined the Asbury Theological Seminary family as the Director of Community Formation. Shortly after his arrival, a new position became available and Matt applied. In January 2023 Matt was appointed as the new Vice President of Formation at Asbury Theological Seminary.

2010s

Catherine Compton-Custred ’12BBS and her family, along with two other families, followed the Lord’s call for Christian education in Santa Fe, New Mexico. On August 16, 2022, Santa Fe Christian (SFC) opened its doors to children in grades K-6th grade. The prayers, along with all the donations of time, talents, and treasures, have truly formed SFC into a storehouse undoubtedly being used by God. “We are completely humbled by the excitement, involvement, and unity from twelve other local Christian churches!” Catherine wants to share the good news of the opening of Santa Fe Christian and thank HSU for continuing to instill the importance of having an education enlightened by Christian faith. The goal of Santa Fe Christian is to see children from birth through high school. Please keep them in your prayers as they are on the forefront of the battle over the minds of the children in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Catherine says, “So proud to be an HSU graduate and proud to be a Santa Fe Christian Founder, to currently serve on its Board of Directors as sitting secretary, and to pursue the hearts and minds of our children for Christ!”

Sara Ward ’16BBS married Taryn Thompson in November 2022.
Welcome to the FAMILY

Levi Tobias Barnes, son of Alida (Smith) Barnes ’02BBS and Jay “Matt” Barnes ’01BA, was born on April 30, 2022.

Sierra J. Thompson, daughter of Sara Ward ’16BBS and Taryn Thompson, was born on June 7, 2022.

Collins Drew Cooling, daughter of Neely (Lott) Cooling ’18BBS and Taylor Cooling ’18BBA, was born July 25, 2022.

Submit your news!
We want to hear updates from the HSU family.
You can submit your news by visiting:
connectnow.hsutx.edu/register/FamilyNews

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Future Alumni: Please indicate whether the addition to your family is a boy or girl and provide the full birthdate.

Marriages: Remember to indicate the date & place of your wedding.

Friends We’ll Miss: Memorial announcements must be submitted by a family member or be accompanied by a link to or photocopy of a published obituary. Please include class year for all HSU exes in the family.

You can also email news to RangeRider@hsutx.edu

Editor’s Note: All cities are in Texas unless otherwise noted. Email addresses are included when possible. Information reflects submissions received from May 12, 2022, to January 11, 2023.

Acronyms: AHOF Athletics Hall of Fame/DAA Distinguished Alumni Award/HOL Hall of Leaders/HDD Honorary Doctorate Degree/KASA Keeter Alumni Service Award/LDA Logsdon Distinguished Alumni Award/OYA Outstanding Young Alumni Award
MRS. HELEN “KAY” (HALLMARK) MCHANNEY ’51BA

September 25, 2022

Born during the Great Depression in 1931, Helen Kay Hallmark learned early in life to be resilient and rely on her own gifts for survival. As a young teen she found a faith in Jesus Christ that changed her life and directed her in the years to follow.

Arriving at Hardin-Simmons at age 16, Kay graduated at 19 with a degree in mathematics. She and Sid Mchaney ’55BA were married in 1951 and dedicated their lives to following Christ and serving others, literally worldwide. During Sid’s career with two major oil companies, they lived on five continents.

Upon retiring, Sid and Kay settled in Huntsville, Texas. Kay became involved in prison ministry—though not in a women’s prison or a men’s minimum-security prison. Instead, she became the first female volunteer in the Estelle Unit, a men’s maximum-security prison.

After Sid passed away in 2004, Kay continued to volunteer in the prison. She received the Chaplaincy Department Award during the Governor’s Criminal Justice Service Award Program in 2017 in recognition of her 20-plus years as a volunteer chaplain. Kay Mchaney taught Bible studies to more than 16,000 prisoners and led many hardened criminals to faith in Jesus.

Kay is survived by her three children: Dana and her husband Jeff Puschell, Toni (Mchaney) ’79BA and her husband David C. Smith ’79BS, Scot and his wife Leslie Mchaney; her eight grandchildren: Ann Puschell and her husband, Phillip Reichl; Brian Puschell, and Kris Puschell; Nicki Aniol and her husband, Chris; and Lisa Smith ’09BA/’10BFA, Megan Mchaney and her husband, Robin Parker; Sarah Mchaney, and Iona Marelino and her husband, Jeremiah; and seven great-grandchildren.

DR. ELMIN HOWELL JR. ’52BS/’97HD

August 29, 2022

Elmin Kimbol Howell Jr., founding director of the Texas Baptists’ (Baptist General Convention of Texas) River Ministry along the Texas-Mexico border, died on August 29, 2022, at age 92.

Early in his career, Elmin was a teacher and coach. He later led mission and recreation programs in Baptist organizations. He is best known for dedicating nearly 30 years of his life to the River Ministry. Under his leadership, 670 churches were started along the Rio Grande, six children’s homes were formed, and 67 healthcare clinics were established in Mexico. Elmin coordinated the work of more than 10,000 volunteers a year, developed a field staff of 45, and worked with about 900 summer missionaries, many of whom went on to serve as career missionaries or denominational leaders. In his early retirement, Elmin served three years as president of the board of directors for Mission East Dallas Medical Clinic, a ministry of Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church, where he and Betty were longtime members.

Elmin earned his M.A. from George Peabody College and participated in an additional graduate study at the University of Colorado at Boulder and at Pan American University in Edinburg. He received numerous honors and awards in his lifetime, most notably the Texas Baptists’ Legacy Award in 2017 and an Honorary Doctorate from Hardin-Simmons in 1997.

Survivors include his beloved wife Betty (Kelton) Howell ’55x; daughter Kimberly Howell Todaro and her husband John Todaro; son Paul S. Howell and his wife Amy C. Head; grandchildren Brannan K. Howell, Zachary O’Dell and Benjamin O’Dell; step-grandson John R. Todaro; seven great-grandchildren, two half-brothers, nieces and a nephew.
DR. E. “LEWIS” ADKISON ’54BS/’88HD
June 23, 2022

E. Lewis “Preach” Adkison died June 23, 2022, at the age of 89. He and Sara (Fleming) ’54BS were married in December 1953. After Preach graduated from seminary, the couple moved to Colorado in 1958 and started First Baptist Church of Security, where they remained for 10 years. In 1968, Preach became pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church, where he served until his retirement in 2000. He started a bus program and a TV program. The church also had summer camps and youth retreats, most notably “Camp Circle D.”

Preach mentored many “preacher boys.” His greatest joy was seeing one of those boys go on to become a fruitful pastor. He was President of the Colorado Baptist Convention from 1965-1967 and again from 1991-1992. He received an Honorary Doctorate from Hardin-Simmons in 1988.

Lewis Adkison is survived by his wife of 68 years, Sara; son Tony Adkison ’77x, daughter Traci (Adkison) Cowger ’79x, son-in-law Brad Cowger ’82BA, and son Timothy Adkison; eight grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

REV. JOSE “JOE” MARTINEZ ’57BS
January 4, 2023

Joe Martinez was born in Abilene in 1933. After attending Abilene High School, he joined the U.S. Army. Following discharge, he returned to Abilene and enrolled at HSU. He married his lifelong friend Minnie Ortiz in 1954 and graduated from HSU in 1957.

His first job after graduating was serving as chief inspector for the Texas Highway Department for the I-20 project in and around Abilene. He spent the next 36 years as an engineer, retiring from Jacobs Engineering in Houston after 28 years. He then became an ordained minister, serving as lead pastor at Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel from 1993-2022. Joe also taught at the University of Houston Downtown for many years.

Joe loved Hardin-Simmons and proudly served on the Board of Trustees from 2004-2012. For decades, he tirelessly promoted HSU. He faithfully attended HSU Homecoming and especially enjoyed gathering with fellow Hispanic alumni and supporting the Hispanic Alumni Scholarship.

Survivors include: daughters Sandy Leathers and husband Terry, Donna Bell and husband Steve; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one sister; three brothers; and many nephews and nieces including Sylvia (Gonzalez) Villarreal ‘74BS.
REV. LOUIS “PALMER” MCCOWN ’61BA
December 25, 2022
Palmer was born in Hillsboro in 1939 and graduated from Littlefield High School in 1957. He received his bachelor’s degree in Bible and history from HSU in 1961 and married Patsy Jones ’62BS just weeks later. Palmer earned his Master’s of Divinity in 1967 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. Palmer worked as a Baptist Student Union (BSU), now Baptist Student Ministry (BSM), minister at three other colleges in Texas before returning to Abilene to serve at HSU, where he was beloved by students, faculty and staff. Retiring in 2001, he served as interim church minister and pastor for various churches in the Abilene area. He then served as a minister to senior adults at First Baptist Church in Abilene from 2006 until his second retirement in 2016. Palmer served on HSU’s Board of Development, was named a Distinguished Alumnus by Logsdon School of Theology in 2000, and in 2022, he received the Altom Christian Service Award from HSU.
Survivors include his wife Patsy McCown, daughter Stephanie Markgraf and husband Jim, son Michael McCown ’97BA and wife Barb, sister Sue (McCown) Thomas ’58BM/’60MM, and two grandsons.

MRS. MICKEY (HOWELL) CASSLE ’65BS
December 14, 2022
Born in Cisco in 1926, Mickey Howell graduated from Albany High School in 1943 and spent her entire life in West Texas. She and James Cassle married in 1950. They became charter members of Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in Abilene, where Mickey continued to be active well into her 90s, teaching second grade Sunday School for more than 50 years. She was very active in the community, serving in a variety of leadership roles and as a Trustee at HSU. She never sought recognition or praise but was a true servant leader.
Her children were in school when Mickey enrolled at HSU. After graduating in 1965, she never stopped learning as she had an inquisitive mind and a thirst for knowledge. For more than 30 years, Mickey worked alongside James at Cassle & Cassle.
Survivors include her son, James H. Cassle (Susie) and daughter, Molli Elliston (Gary); four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.
DR. LAWSON HAGER ’67BM
November 19, 2022

Lawson James Hager Jr., former director of Hardin-Simmons University’s Cowboy Band and former dean of the HSU School of Music and Fine Arts, died November 19 at the age of 78. In 1962, Lawson enrolled at Hardin-Simmons to play French horn in the Cowboy Band. At HSU, he met and fell in love with Jane Dennis, whom he married in August 1967, shortly after receiving his Bachelor of Music degree. Lawson served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969 and was a quartermaster of a unit in Vietnam.

Lawson received a Master of Music degree in 1971 from North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas). He returned to HSU to be the third director of bands, including the Cowboy Band. In 1982, he became assistant professor of brass and music theory. In 2002, he accepted the position of dean of the School of Music and Fine Arts, from which he retired in 2011. During his four decades as a faculty member, he attended every recital on campus and was always the first one there.

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As a student, Lawson was known by fellow band members and other students as “Butch.” As director of the Cowboy Band, he was known to his band students as “Boss” and Jane was known as “Mom;” titles they both relished because of the love with which they were spoken. As assistant professor, he was known as M. Hager. In his final role, he was known as Dean Hager. No matter the name one called him, Lawson Hager was beloved and respected by people of all ages.

Lawson Hager leaves a lasting legacy on the HSU campus. Survivors include his beloved wife of 55 years, Jane Dennis Hager ’67BS; daughter Heather Baker ’92BM and husband Cory ’05BBS and their children Bailey, Braden and Sydney; daughter Emily Clancy ’95BBS and husband Patrick and their children Elizabeth (current HSU student), Meredith, and Jared; daughter Holly Soben ’95X and husband Wes and their children Davis, London, and Gibbs. Lawson was welcomed into heaven by the granddaughter he never got to know on earth, Faith Davis Soben.

SAM PRESTIDGE ’94HD
August 11, 2022

Samuel W. Prestidge, Jr., longtime director of the Church Music Department for the Baptist General Convention of Texas (Texas Baptists), died on August 11, 2022, at the age of 93.

Sam became associate director of the church music department in 1961 and director in 1971. He is credited for establishing The Singing Men of Texas in 1975, the Texas Baptist All-State Youth Choir in 1976, the Texas Baptist All-State Youth Band in 1978, and All-State Strings in 1994.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Lew and Terri Prestidge (former HSU staff), and their daughters Kelsey (Prestidge) ’13BFA/’15ME and her husband Joe C. Davis ’13BA, Kristin (Prestidge) and her husband Zach McClary, Kasi (Prestidge) ’19BBS and her husband Jared Asbill; and daughter Lisa (Prestidge) ’91BE and son-in-law John Phillips ’91BE/’19EdD and their son Walter Phillips ’21BS.

BRIAN CARGILE, HSU STAFF
September 14, 2022

Brian Walker Cargile joyfully joined his Savior, with the love of many friends and family, on September 14, 2022. For the last months of his life, Brian fought cancer like he did everything else in his life: quietly and with a deep, abiding faith. A 35-year employee of Hardin-Simmons, Brian was a network and A/V technician. He did a little of everything in Technology Services, though his primary focus was supporting the campus network.

Brian was instrumental in the network infrastructure upgrades of 2000 when all buildings were interconnected with conduit and fiber optic cable. Every building constructed or renovated on campus since at least 2000, if not before, has Brian’s fingerprints on it. Brian either personally installed or oversaw the installation of every network cable on campus.

In March 2022, Brian was surprised by the naming of the Brian Cargile Data Center, a new server space on campus named in his honor. In May 2022, he was voted staff member of the year by his peers and celebrated during the annual faculty/staff appreciation luncheon.

A selfless servant, Brian worked behind the scenes to support other people, almost always joined by his beloved wife Linda. He enjoyed working with others on service projects in the community, with the JABEZ Sunday school class of Pioneer Drive Baptist Church and Shining Star Fellowship Church, among others. Brian is survived by his beloved wife Linda (Davis) Cargile ’82BE; his brother Jim ’77BS/’93MA and wife Jerene ’82Ed; and his sister Elaine and husband Mike; along with numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, and many, many friends.
Mr. Bryant Davis ’62BBA, 8/10/2022
Mr. Paul Hinds ’62BS, 4/15/2022
Mr. Garry Hodgin ’62x, 11/9/2022. Survived by wife June (Regeon) Hodgin ’66BS, daughter Alison (Hodgin) Sims ’96BS/99ME, son-in-law Jon Michael Sims ’66BS, and grandson Jonas Sims ’22BA.
Mrs. Margaret (Hartsfield) Johnson ’62BS, 8/30/2022. Survived by sister Mary (Hartsfield) Hollinger ’62BS and daughter Leigh Ann (Lockett) Sides ’87BE.
Mr. Larry Letz ’62BBA, 10/3/2022
Mrs. Mary “Loveta” (Bryant) Bales ’63BS, 11/18/2021
Mr. Buddy Carter ’63BS, 8/31/2022. Survived by wife Romara (Derusha) Carter ’90ME.
Mr. Joseph “Joe” Grear ’63BA, 8/10/2021
Mr. James Thomson ’63BA, 8/2/2022
Anita (Epps) Hairston ’63BS, 6/21/2022. Survived by husband William Hairston ’62BA.
Mr. Richard “DicK” Hughett ’63BS, 11/7/2022. Survived by wife Lawanda “Jo” (Stone) Hughett ’59BS.
Mrs. Barbara (Lowe) McCollum ’63BA, 9/22/2022
Mr. Terry Robertson ’64BBA, 1/12/2021
Dr. Thomas “David” Yeilding ’64BA, 7/9/2022. Survived by sister LaNell (Yeilding) Spears ’60x, sister-in-law Patsy (Hicks) Yeilding ’59BS, brother-in-law Norman Spears ’60BA, and cousins Lana (Yeilding) Goodrich ’85BE and Philip Yeilding ’85BS.
Mr. DuEy Riddle ’65BBA, 5/27/2022
Mrs. Leila (Frank) Fisher ’66BS, 11/21/2022
Mrs. Laura “Jane” (Lollar) James ’66BS, 1/21/2021
Mrs. Frances (Elam) Neidhardt ’66MA, 6/15/2022
Mr. Warren Townley ’66BS, 5/27/2022
Mr. Winston “Louis” Barclay ’67BBA, 10/4/2022
Rev. Theron “Bruce” McNair ’67BS, 3/23/2022
Mr. Roney “Mark” Permenter ’67BA, 8/29/2022
Dr. Patrick “Pat” Alvarado ’68BA, 5/12/2022
Mr. Ernest “Allen” Clendenen ’68BS, 10/16/2022
Mrs. Maria (Kloss) Griffith ’68BA, 8/14/2022
Mr. George Partin ’68BBA/’72MA, 9/10/2022
Mrs. Susan (Rafferty) Richardson ’68BA, 8/24/2022
Rev. Roy Smith ’68BS, 8/2/2022
Mr. Fredrick McDaniel ’70BA, 10/6/2022
Mrs. Dorothy (Hill) Myers ’70ME, 9/12/2022
Mr. Frederick “Fred” Armbruster ’71BA, 9/12/2022
Ms. Billie (Walton) Evans ’71BS, 1/6/2022
Mr. Granville Griffith ’71BS, 9/15/2022
Ms. Victoria “Vickie” (Mendoza) Mendez ’71BS, 1/30/2022
Mrs. Carolyn (McHugh) Shott ’71BA, 12/25/2022
Mr. Leslie “Les” Blackburn ’72BA, 10/4/2022
Mr. Kelly Autry ’73BA, 12/14/2022
Mrs. Gloria “Jane” (Taylor) Allred ’74BS, 10/13/2022
Mr. Charles Caldwell ’74ME, 12/13/2022
Mr. Richard Threat ’74BS, 8/21/2022
Mr. Tryon “Temple” Lewis ’76x, 11/1/2022
Mr. Michael “Mike” Mulkey ’76BBA, 10/10/2022
Mr. Ricky Dean ’78BS, 9/20/2022
Mr. John Cummins ’82BA, 12/2/2022
Mr. Jeffrey Gurney ’82BBS, 7/13/2021
Mr. Marion Dollar ’83MBA, 7/13/2021
Mrs. Mary Trevino ’86BSN, 9/21/2022
Mr. William “Bill” Dowdy ’87BA, 6/25/2022. Survived by sisters Beth (Dowdy) Laurence ’82BA and Lisa (Dowdy) Bruegeman ’85BE.
Mr. Gary Poynor ’88BBA, 12/2/2022. Survived by niece Carolyn (Poynor) Petrencik ’02BS and nephew Adam Poynor ’05BME.
Ms. Linda (Cooley) Boyd ’89ME, 11/15/2022
Mrs. Mary Daul ’95ME, 7/20/2021
Mrs. Karen (Sawyer) Berry ’96BBS, 10/23/2022
Mrs. Sandra “Sandy” (Loftus) Benefit ’00BS, 3/10/2021
Mr. Curtis “Lance” Beard ’05MDiv, 10/20/2022
Mr. Andrew McNeill ’07BBA, 9/30/2022
Mr. Tony McCrerry ’07MDiv, 11/24/2022
Ms. Jennifer Robason ’07BSN, 10/24/2022
Mr. Paul Thebeau ’09BBS, 11/18/2022
Dr. Robert “Bob” Hamner, Former Faculty, 8/11/2022. Survived by sons Jared Hamner ’97BA, and Ryan Hamner ’97x
Mrs. Carol Hamner, Former Faculty, 11/18/2022.
The HSU Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) exists to minister to the spiritual needs of students and to equip those students for ministry in their daily lives. Under the direction of Manny Silva, the BSM is active across the campus and community through various programming and outreach. A new BSM program, called Front Door, launched this year to build stronger connections between HSU students and local churches. Manny Silva, BSM Director, shared about this new initiative.

How did you come up with this program?

Front Door emerged from a desire to meet the needs of two distinct groups: college students and local churches. One of the first conversations I had on campus was with a student who expressed her wish for a church that met on campus for students. Then, during one of our monthly meetings with local college pastors, they expressed a desire to see more Hardin-Simmons students involved in their ministries and churches. There were two groups that couldn’t find a way to connect for whatever reason.

As a BSM, we took a step back to assess who we are and how we can best serve those around us.

One, we are not the church; we are a part of it.

Two, we have campus access.

“We want to go out and make disciples while also serving others.”

—Manny Silva
Three, we want to go out and make disciples while also serving others.

What the BSM, the local church, and the college students needed was a front door to each other.

How is this program addressing student needs?

We aim to be a step toward solutions rather than the solution itself. A typical college student’s struggles include questions about faith, mental health, loneliness, and discovering one’s identity. We believe that specific elements of what we do can contribute to meeting those needs.

Our gathering services at Front Door include worship and a message. Many of the answers to students’ problems, we believe, can be found in scripture. This semester, as we read through the book of Ecclesiastes, our goal is for students to see themselves and the world through God’s truth. Our first glimpse of needs being met come after Front Door.

What can we expect from future Front Door events?

The BSM currently plans to host Front Door for students on campus once a month. We hold Front Door with open hands. I tell my students that it is God who makes things happen. He is free to increase or decrease as he sees fit. As the campus’s needs grow, we allow God to take our hands and lead us to what we are called to do. Front Door may look different, but its foundation remains the same: to be a place where people can find God, connect, and be sent out into the world.

As BSM Director, what is something you want readers to know about HSU?

Front Door is only possible thanks to the partnership of Hardin-Simmons University and Texas Baptists. The university’s desire to see students encounter Jesus allows Texas BSM to come in and serve as a campus missionary. Thank you for your generosity, support, and prayers. I am confident that the gospel will do incredible things on campus through HSU, BSM, and local churches.
On January 16, 2023, Hardin-Simmons sponsored the inaugural Dr. Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast. The Big Country began Martin Luther King, Jr. Day gathered in prayer on the HSU campus.

Pastor Demotis Sherman, Jr. of Mount Zion First Baptist Church and Pastor Mike Harkrider of Wylie Baptist Church hosted the event with Dr. Delvin Atchison of Westside Baptist Church, Lewisville as the guest speaker.

The morning was a tribute to Dr. King by celebrating his impact as a preacher and by beginning the day with prayer. As Dr. King said, “The time is always right to do what is right,” and focusing on the unity of prayer is the right way to start any day.
I am, it seems, middle-aged. If I double my current age it results in a number that sounds, well, old. If I look in the mirror, I see gray at my temples and in my beard. I’ve been married for over half of my life. And, somehow, my kids are in college. All the signs point to my continuing…maturity.

I’m certainly not at the end of my life but growing older makes me think more and more about running and finishing my race of life well. I didn’t consider Paul’s words in 2 Timothy 4:7 much when I was a Bible student at HSU many years ago, but now they mean a great deal to me: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Now, I understand. There are so many difficulties, ditches, and distractions along the way. I’m 47 years old as I write this and I am thankful the Lord has seen fit to preserve me to this moment. I increasingly recognize how blessed I have been. It seems each day I hear of another friend who has been stricken with tragedy, loss, scandal, or disease. Life is hard, and without the Spirit, I would have been sunk a long time ago.

In the midst of striving to lean into the sustaining winds of the Spirit, I’ve found that unexpected boosts of breath come from a surprising place—friendships I forged some 25 years ago at HSU. I don’t know that I thought much about the people I was meeting in those days, nor did I think about where the Lord would guide us. I didn’t know that many of them would go on to do incredibly influential things in leadership, business, politics, arts, or the church, but they did.

I didn’t know that I was making friends whom I would love for the rest of my life, but I was.

Thanks to the miracle of cell phones and the Internet, I hear from many of them when I least expect it. And they always blow fresh wind into my sails.

Just like me, they’ve grown in their faith, in their understanding of the Lord. And the Spirit has sustained them through valleys and struggles, smoothing their hard edges and breaking their hard hearts along the way.

Philippians 3:10 reminds us that we are given both the power of the resurrection AND the joy of suffering with Christ. And while we may not voluntarily or cheerfully choose the sufferings, it is only in those sufferings that we find the power of the resurrection.

And it’s that power—resurrection power—that makes those old college friendships forged in faith so renewing today. They’ve found the power of the resurrection in their sufferings—as have I. And when we reconnect, we find a way to encourage one another to stay on the path.

I wonder if Paul and Peter had a reunion late in life where they thought about all the years that had passed and all the things they saw Jesus do. I wonder if they encouraged one another and I wonder if the winds of the Spirit given by resurrection power gave them the last bit they needed to finish their respective races.

As I continue moving towards my finishing my race well, I know those friendships are a means of grace by which God gives those winds to me.

May it be so with you.
SAVE THE DATE

HARDIN-SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER 12-15 2023

Registration opens in September
Get updates at www.hsutx.edu/homecoming