

HARDIN-SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

RangeRIDER

FALL-WINTER 2023

*James B.
Simmons*

AI IN THE ACADEMY

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear HSU Alumni, Donors, and Friends,

I am thrilled to present to you the latest edition of the *Range Rider* magazine, a product of collaboration between human creativity and artificial intelligence. Our commitment to innovation led us to explore the possibilities AI offers in communication and storytelling.

In simple terms, AI is a technology that enables machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, and problem-solving. In the context of the *Range Rider*, AI played a role in shaping content and enhancing the overall reading experience.

Looking ahead, AI is set to transform higher education and the global economy. It will revolutionize how we learn, opening new avenues for personalized education and skill development. Embracing AI is essential for staying relevant in an ever-changing world.

I encourage you to delve into this magazine, explore the intersection of human ingenuity and artificial intelligence. Be lifelong learners; try out AI apps, discover the exciting possibilities it brings. As Arthur C. Clarke once said, "The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible."

Let's face the future with hope, recognizing AI as a tool that creates opportunities for growth. Embrace curiosity, not fear, and together we'll navigate the uncharted territories of progress.

In closing, I want to share that this letter was crafted entirely by ChatGPT, a testament to the fusion of human guidance and machine capability. Here's to a future filled with limitless possibilities!

Warm regards,



Eric I. Bruntmyer
President

P.S. This letter was written by ChatGPT and edited by me – a collaborative effort symbolizing the harmonious integration of human and AI capabilities.



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RangeRIDER

FALL - WINTER 2023

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AI



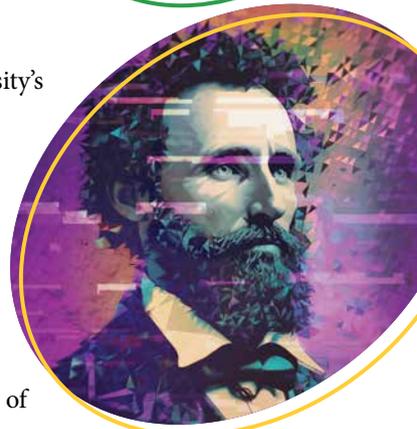
ON THE COVER —

Rev. James B. Simmons, our university's namesake, is featured on the cover, illustrated with the help of artificial intelligence (AI). The creation process included uploading a reference photo, providing key words, and then manually editing the image it rendered.

In his lifetime (1827-1905), Simmons was known for his progressive nature, and we look to him as forward-thinking and ahead of his times.

This edition of the *Range Rider* explores AI in use and theory, and we dive in immediately with the cover design, created jointly with AI and the talents of HSU's senior graphic designer.

Simmons' portrait perfectly complements our theme of AI as both inspire futurist thought.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Given the publicity of OpenAI's ChatGPT over the last year, artificial intelligence (AI) has been a hot topic.

What is AI?

When I teach the artificial intelligence (AI) course at HSU, one of the first steps is not to write code or pull out math equations but simply to ask, "What is intelligence?" If we are to build something artificial, we need to know what we are mimicking. We must define "thought," "rationality," and "emotion" since they play a part in our decision-making and where we like to place intelligence.

The first concept is "thought." In the context of AI, "thought" focuses on the selection of a choice. For example:

In a game, the AI must make a move on their turn.

In Google Maps, a route must be determined.

In writing a paper, the words must be selected.

In these scenarios, there is the concept of choosing what to do, which requires thinking.

This selection process with feedback is really how many AI applications work. Some AI work in defined spaces and pick an optimal path when it is known, such as Google Maps. Other applications will pick based on settings and probability.

For example, if you are playing chess against the computer and you have it on the most difficult setting, then AI will calculate the best it can and select the best move; however, if you change the settings to medium difficulty, then AI will incorporate moves that are not the best and pick at random from these top options. If you lower the difficulty to the easiest setting, then the amount of bad options AI chooses from increases, even if it knows the outcome of the game is its own loss.



Wade Ashby is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Information Systems at Hardin-Simmons University.

In generative AI, it is a series of selections of putting items together. In the case of ChatGPT, each word is selected based on the prompt and the previous word selected. There is AI that can generate music and will do so in a similar fashion, selecting notes and rhythm.

In summary, AI is simply a process of selecting the best choice in a situation.

COMMON CONCERNS ABOUT GENERATIVE AI

There are two types of questions I am asked about regarding AI. The first area of concern revolves around the question, "Will AI replace jobs?" The second centers on the question, "Can I trust AI?"

Both are phrased to make AI sound like it will only result in a negative outcome; however, the first question typically comes from people who are finding ways not to adopt AI, while the second is from people wanting to adopt AI cautiously.

To address the first question, "Will AI replace jobs?" I often answer yes, but it will also create new ones. The United States workforce went from 41% agricultural-related in 1900 to 21% in 1930 and all the way to about 2% in 2000 (Dimitri, Efland, & Conklin, 2005). Technology enhanced how the farm functioned, and as a result, fewer workers were needed. At the same time, people were learning new skills that were being created. Because of generative AI, new jobs are already being made, such as Prompt Engineer, which creates English prompts to achieve the best results from

IN THE ACADEMY

by Wade Ashby



the generative AI. As a result, AI will replace jobs, but it will also make people more productive and create new jobs.

The second area of concern about trust in AI is a valid concern. As machines give us information and inform our decisions, we must ask ourselves if we can trust it. Talking with my students, I have realized many would be unable to navigate Abilene without the maps on their phones. Some even struggle to read a map. This problem is highlighted by stories of people following Google Maps and becoming stranded in remote parts of the country. Relying solely on AI becomes problematic and can be dangerous. To validate AI, like any other source, people need to continue to develop critical thinking skills, which is the purpose of education.

AI IN RELATION TO EDUCATION

ChatGPT received much attention in higher education because students used it to complete course material. This usage became evident when Chegg's stock dropped 48% in one day in May 2023 since many students stopped paying for accounts, favoring ChatGPT and other generative AI. As a result, many people in higher education had a knee-jerk reaction to state that AI in the classroom and education is a problem that needs to be handled. When I spoke with a colleague about this, she mentioned that ChatGPT

provided too much help. I then asked her when she last used a card catalog in the library to find her research articles. The point is that the AI that helps find articles is fine, but the AI that helps write is not. The same can be said of the word processor used to write this article: its ability to help check my spelling and grammar is great; however, is that too much help in writing?

Therefore, the question is not "Should AI be allowed in education?" but instead, "How do we teach AI so students can be more productive and learn better?"

Generative AI is not the first time integrating technology into education has been an issue. When the calculator was available to purchase, it was common for students to use, but this occurred after the students had learned the concepts of arithmetic. At that point, the calculator does not teach the student but aids them in completing the process. In the same method, the use of generative AI should occur after comprehension of the material to expedite and aid the process.

Education is about the process, not about the product. A correct answer without understanding is as helpful as a screen door on a submarine. Therefore, generative AI in the academy should be another tool to aid the students in understanding and problem-solving.

Other industries have been using AI for a while. Many companies have developed apps and websites to gather data to feed into machine learning algorithms, a form of AI. Therefore, it should be no surprise that when generative AI emerged, companies began to find utilization and adoption to automate processes. If you enjoy music, then Spotify can find similar music to your favorites for you to enjoy. When you get hungry, you can easily open the Chick-fil-A app and hit "reorder" to get your food the way you like from the nearest location.

The use of AI is trickling in at HSU. For example, the admission team is looking at leveraging AI to know which prospective students are most likely to select HSU and how to allocate resources to maximize enrollment. Similarly, in the Computer Science Department, we are changing our curriculum to incorporate the new tools that leverage generative AI because this is a skill our graduates need to master before completing a degree.

Works Cited
Dimitri, C., Efland, A., & Conklin, N. (2005). The 20th Century Transformation of U.S. Agriculture and Farm Policy. United States Department of Agriculture. Retrieved from www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/44197/13566_eib3_1_1.pdf

AI

HOW WE USED AI IN THIS RANGE RIDER

In some areas of this magazine, we purposefully went out of our way to use AI. Sometimes it created more work and other times it saved us hours of editing. It was a fantastic learning experience for all of us and created a lot of conversation.

Like all tools, there are many versions, both helpful and unhelpful. Imagine those “As Seen on TV” commercials. Mixed in those silly ideas are game changers that can positively affect your life; it’s the same with AI; some are more applicable than others, depending on the situation.



AI IN WORDS

*Mary Burke,
Communications and
Content Strategy
Specialist*

Time is our most precious commodity when balancing work and home life. As such, we are always looking to streamline processes while continuing to produce at the highest level. We’ve always created tools to help us be efficient and targeted. Some of us gravitate to the newness and immediately integrate the tool into our lives,

while others battle it. I don’t use facial ID to unlock my phone, but I still use biometric readings to unlock my phone with a fingerprint. I recognize the hypocrisy.

“Generative AI” is the newest boogeyman. Generative AI can refer to many things, but I’ll limit myself to my experience.

ChatGPT, one of the more popular essay creators, aggregates and synthesizes information. As the user, you type specific details and prompts into the chat box, and your results reflect the words you input.

The more direction given to the AI, the better the results; however, you can sometimes spend more time developing your string of commands than it would take to do the work yourself. It’s comparable to working with a trainee or intern; explaining a task and the intended outcome takes time and intentionality. Like an intern or new employee, if there is more direction and explanation, there’s less likely to be confusion.

In my experience, best practice is to view ChatGPT as your brainstorming phase, rather than as a finished product.

When I was in school, we used *SparkNotes* and *CliffsNotes*, originally purchased at the mall and then available for free on the web. (Chegg came later, after I was done with grad school.) These resources were known by students to aggregate information and common test questions into a single source.

ChatGPT does the same thing. The kicker is that it’s easier to Ctrl C & Ctrl V (copy and paste) this information without reading and comprehending it. At least before, when we were duplicating the content, we had to read it to physically handwrite the answers.

AI COMPARISON: BEFORE AND AFTER

Todd Clower '99,
Creative Lead and Senior Graphic Designer

Throughout this Range Rider, our team used various AI tools to create or edit photos. In some instances, we had AI accomplish tasks that would take us longer to do manually. And sometimes, we manually edited things generated by AI that we thought could look better. Here are some examples of such photos. We encourage you to find the pages they're on, and compare the before-and-after versions of each photo.

1. The illustration of Eric and Elise Bruntmyer was designed using an AI program called Midjourney. The process included providing key words, referencing photos, and refining specific areas. However, after it was rendered, the image required further adjustments because it did not accurately resemble Eric and Elise, and the background needed replacement as well. Manual edits were made in Photoshop, such as swapping their faces with actual photos and adding HSU logos to their jackets. (inside cover)
2. This illustration was also created in Midjourney. Once we were satisfied, we made some adjustments such as correcting the hand and phone, editing the image on the TV screen, and fixing the structure of the room. (page 7)
3. We thought the composition of this photo would look better if the wall was replaced with more shelf space. (page 42)
4. This photo originated as a low-quality image from an '90s catalog. We used Photoshop's AI filters to not only enhance the image quality, but to recolor the photo as well. (page 10)
5. Photoshop's generative AI tool was used to remove people and objects from the background. (pages 14, 22, 30, 49)

ChatGPT can't create something original. It can only summarize, which is a handy tool. Due diligence is required, though, to check the sources used, which sometimes creates more effort than doing the work yourself from the beginning.

As a copywriter and, more so, as a copy editor, it is my job to vet content. Is it accurate? How deep are the sources? How many points of view corroborate a story? Is the logic sound? What is the timeline? Who are the characters and what is their motivation? Our best sources for storytelling are the people

we interview. **ChatGPT and other open-source systems don't have access to every person's experience, which is the catalyst for most stories.** Additionally, not only is the information that ChatGPT pulls from incomplete, it is also discriminatory and not always fact checked.

ChatGPT can be helpful when I need to edit a story's word count. I can type, "reduce the word count of the following story to 500 words," and then copy my content into the text box. Of course, I check the results to ensure I agree with the flow and tone of the story.

Sometimes the drafts I get back are usable, other times they are not.

As someone who does a lot of writing, I use Grammarly, an AI program that helps with editing. As the go-to copy editor for multiple departments, often no one edits my work, so I need help.

After finishing a piece, I upload my draft into Grammarly and review the suggestions. It will suggest punctuation changes, sentence rewrites, and find formatting inconsistencies. It is an incredibly helpful tool that allows me to learn in real

time and adjust. I continue to improve my skills because I have access to instant feedback.

Ultimately, we need to educate ourselves on the AI tools that are prevalent in our industries and understand how they fit into our workflows. What AI do you use in your workflows? I'd love to hear: mary.burke@hsutx.edu

HSU Partners with Dyess AFB for **CYBER SECURITY TRAINING**

On September 25, 2023, Hardin-Simmons University computer science students and Dyess Airmen united for a unique learning experience. Their mission was to construct operational networks from the ground up, encompassing mail, web, and file servers.

Divided into two groups and stationed in separate rooms, participants embarked on this journey, aided by Datroo Technologies' computer donation and support from HSU's IT and technology departments.

Over four hours, HSU students and Airmen worked together, problem-solving and building their individual networks and servers.

The group reconvened at Dyess Air Force Base on October 26, 2023, to continue their cyber security, where they took the offensive and worked to penetrate already established networks.

The best way to understand where systems are at their strongest and weakest is to build them yourself and then, in turn, try to break them so they can be made better. Wade Ashby, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Information Systems at HSU, shared, "This is a great learning opportunity for our students and the Dyess Airmen." He went on to say, "By working together, they learn as they go and figure it out, adjusting to real-time problems rather than a standard textbook scenario."

The inaugural Hackathon at Dyess, in collaboration with HSU, not only educates participants on network server construction but also strengthens the relationships with the local community.



Dr. Terry Sergeant, Hardin-Simmons University Professor of Computer Science, asks questions about the students' hacking process during the Hackathon event on Dyess AFB.



The Hackathon was the first of its kind at Dyess AFB. Airmen learned new skills in hacking and server creation to bring more multi-capable Airmen to the force while strengthening Dyess' partnership with HSU.

WAYS YOU'RE USING AI

Artificial intelligence is encountered by most people from morning until night. Here are 12 examples of how AI is already used in your everyday life.

Netflix, Amazon, and Google recommendations are generated due to AI.

Closed captions on a live TV show or the transcript of a YouTube Video are compiled due to AI.

Weather forecasts are increasingly being made by AI.

AI navigates, assists, and controls transportation on the road and in the sky.

When typing an email or sending a text message, do you notice word suggestions/text predictions appear before you finish spelling a word? That is AI.

What about grammar suggestions? That red squiggle under a misspelled word. That's AI.

Timely emails based on your data usage.

Shopping suggestions based on your previous behavior.

Do you like how the camera on your phone adjusts the focal length for the portrait feature? That's AI.

Photo filters on Snapchat.

Virtual assistants like Alexa, Cortana, and Siri.

Do you unlock your phone with facial recognition? That is AI.



HSU Summer Speech Camp

» This past summer, the Hardin-Simmons University Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) Department served 65 students from local school districts at the HSU Summer Speech Camp.



This camp is held annually on campus in the university's Speech and Language Clinic for two weeks in June.

Speech camp serves children ages 4-7 enrolled in speech therapy services at their school. It allows students to continue working on speech and language goals during the summer. Students from Abilene ISD, Wylie ISD, and Merkel ISD participated in the camp last summer.

During camp, participants engage in a variety of speech and language activities that are both exciting and interactive. HSU CSD students lead these activities and are supervised by experienced, licensed speech-language pathologists. The children's activities include shared book readings, following directions to make a craft, and sensory/movement games. Each child has specific individualized speech and language goals that are addressed, which the school district provides. Participants have homework each night to ensure that there is carryover into the home environment.

In addition to being an excellent opportunity for children in the Big Country, this is also a great opportunity for undergraduate CSD students at HSU. Becky Saterbak, Assistant Professor and Department Head of Communication Sciences and Disorders, stated, "I love seeing the students achieve their goals and their excitement upon reaching them. It is also wonderful to witness the HSU student clinicians connect their classroom knowledge with clinical practice."

Michaela Basquez, a senior in the CSD program, agreed with Saterbak, saying, "Speech camp gave me a lot more experience and a better understanding of the concepts we are learning in class."

Brylee Smith, a junior in the CSD program, shared how a camper caused her to be a better

student and steward of the CSD program, "There was a kid diagnosed with a rare disorder that I hadn't seen. I completed hours and hours of research on her situation each day to better prepare and help her."

Summer Speech Camp also allows students to earn clinical practicum hours needed for graduate school or to become licensed as an assistant in speech-language pathology.

Basquez appreciated the unique opportunity that Summer Speech Camp gave her. "What I remember the most is the friendships I made with the other therapists and coming together at the end of the day to decompress. I will look for that in my future job."

The HSU Summer Speech Camp will be held this year between June 10 and 21, 2024.



Parent Testimonials

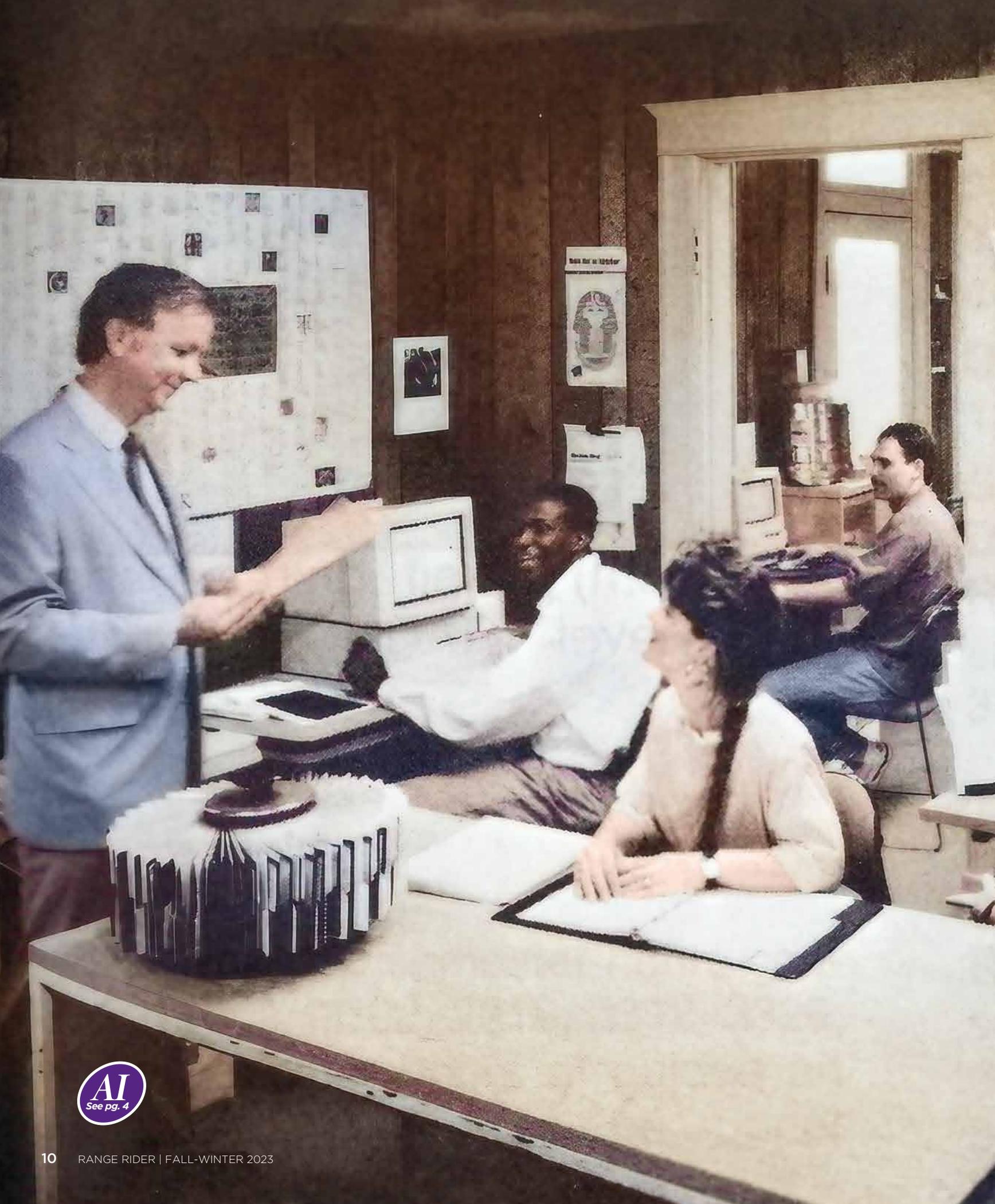
"My child loved it and was eager to return each day!"

"My kids wanted to do their 'homework' each night and have actively been using cues to get their sounds right."

"I have raved about the camp to multiple friends and family. My kids loved it and looked forward to coming. As a parent, I enjoyed that it was engaging, educational, and everyone was so friendly! 5+ stars!"

This image of Hoss was rendered in a generative AI program named Midjourney by referencing an illustration of him and using the prompt "imagine a Pixar style character, wearing a white stetson hat, white shirt, yellow bandana around neck." It took around 30 attempts to reach this final version.

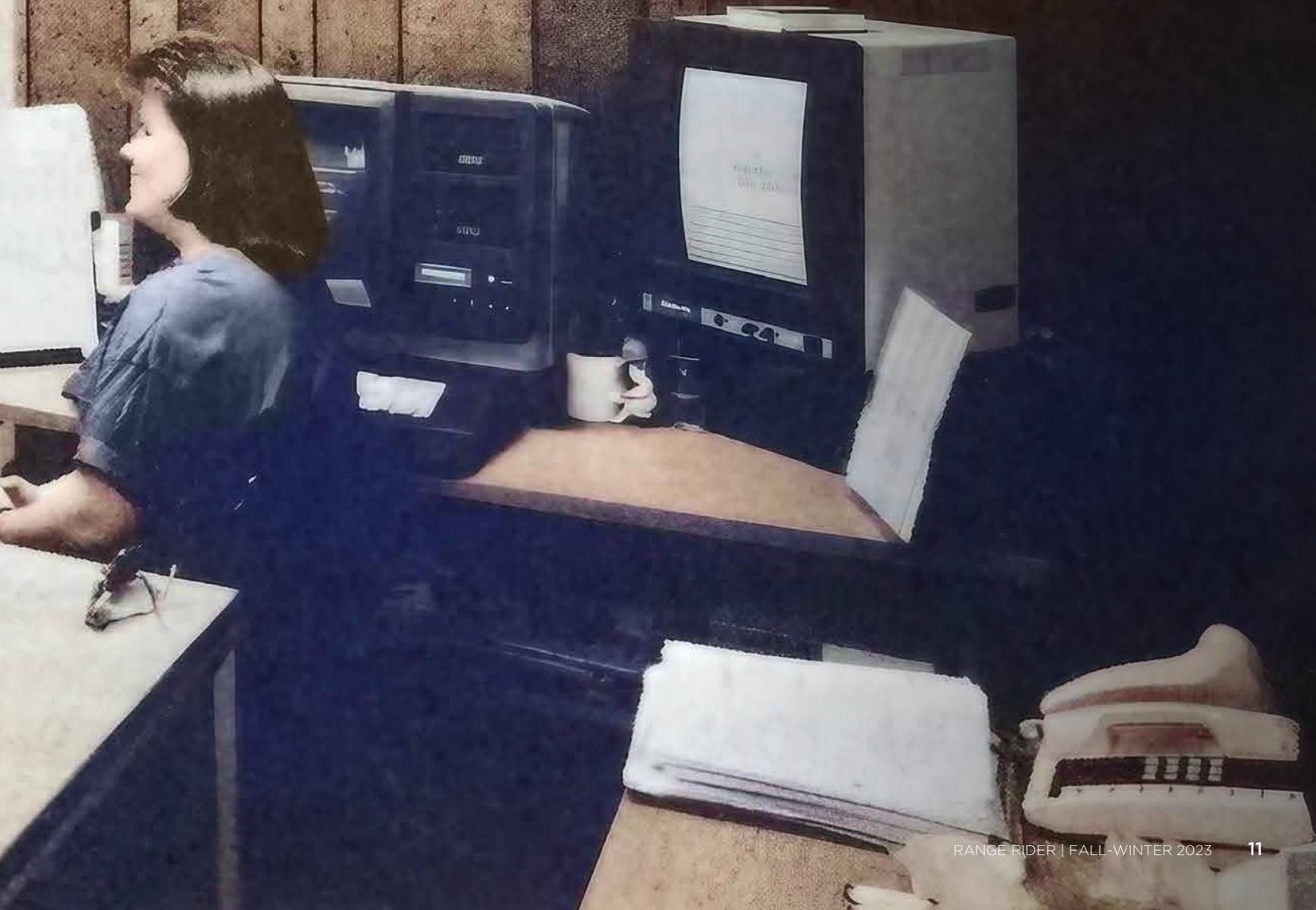




a look back

Computer processors have been on campus since the 1970s and continue in an ever-evolving iteration today.

Pictured here from the 1990-1991 Undergraduate Bulletin, you can see how some aspects of office life have changed, and others have remained the same. From loud, clacking keyboards and the heat given off by monitors, to the fax machine and the screeching of printers, technology may have evolved over the years, however, the human connection of working toward a common goal remains the same.



Meet

DANNY HASSETT, CFA

VICE PRESIDENT *for* FINANCE

Mr. Danny Hassett, CFA joined Hardin-Simmons University in early 2023 as the Vice President for Finance. In this role, he manages the university's budget, various contracts, and other fiscal responsibilities while overseeing accounting, facilities, construction, IT, H.R., media services, and other departments.

While Danny is a whiz with numbers and solving puzzles, his heart is in service and working with and for others, sharing, "Whatever you do, do it with excellence, unto the Lord."

Prior to joining HSU, Danny held the position as the Associate V.P. of Financial Affairs at Dallas Baptist University from 2004-2023. During twelve of those years, he collaborated with Eric Bruntmyer, who is the current President of HSU. It was during this time period that Danny earned his MBA and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. Little did he know, this connection with Eric would eventually link him to Hardin-Simmons.

In addition to his tenure at DBU, Danny refined his skills in various jobs at a Christian financial firm and in the classroom. This diverse experience provided him with a unique perspective and training.

Growing up, Danny always loved numbers. He recalls collecting baseball cards (which he still collects today) because of the stats and shared, "While in school, I loved the races we'd have to the board to solve math problems." In college, he majored in

math and went on to earn a master's degree in math. His favorite subjects were calculus and proofs because they posed puzzles that needed solving.

Danny enjoys the creative ability to solve a problem within limits and rules. A prime example of this is creating a budget for a complex institution like a university. There are many pieces that need to fit while also considering various boundaries and rules that must be followed. In Danny's own words, "I get a great sense of accomplishment taking a complex task, with lots of pieces, and making it all fit, nicely packaged."

Over the years, while working full-time and raising a family with his wife, Janea, Danny found time to teach and pour into students, raising the next generation of financial analysts, mathematicians, and statisticians. Additionally, Danny expanded his network and impact of teaching through working with the CFA Institute for 12 years.

The CFA Institute, located in Charlottesville, VA, is responsible for creating and administering the grueling CFA exam. Each year, Danny joined a team of CFAs from around the world to grade CFA exams and create test questions to be published in CFA study guides.

At this time, approximately 150,000 exams were taken each year. To stay consistent with grading, Danny was responsible for a single question on the test and graded 200-400 tests per day. During lunch breaks, to energize minds and bodies, Danny

and his colleagues would play soccer, cementing their friendships not just with a passion for numbers and logic but also with fun.

Danny has brought this sense of teamwork and camaraderie with him to HSU, joining the ranks with ease. No matter what his workload, Danny has time for you.

At Danny's core is a love for God and his family. "Anything good that happened to me, I attribute to my praying mom. She prays for me without ceasing." Danny shared how the power of prayer has impacted him beyond measure and continues to impact him, adding, "It's now my responsibility to pray for my kids, like she did for me."

Danny and his wife have two daughters, Hannah and Savannah, who is a current student at HSU, a son-in-law, Cohen, and a granddaughter named Nyla. When Danny is not working, you can still find him on campus, eating with his family in the Caf or working out in the Fletcher Fitness Center, because weightlifting is a priority. When you see him, be sure to say, "Hello!"

*Learn more about
Danny here:*





SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOT

Stay connected!
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Thankful to be a part of @hsutx.art alumni show for a second year in a row!

 **emiliot_art**
October 11, 2023



“Yet I still dare to hope, when I remember this The faithful love of the Lord never ends His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.”
Lamentations 3:21-23

Thank you Beltway Park North for letting our guys worship with you!

 **HSU Men's Soccer**
August 20, 2023



Beanie szn #freshie

 **h1_cauthen**
August 26, 2023



I am heading to Hardin-Simmons University this morning to meet with Dr. Kelvin J. Kelley. This is a man of influence and someone who spearheaded the transformative years of my life, faith, education, and career.

I would say, “If I can be half the man he is someday, I would be proud,” but I know he would tell me to stop limiting what I believe God can do.

 **Brody Powell**
September 28, 2023





Just a girl and her class ring.
#HSU #wemadeit #latina
#collegegraduate

f **Maira Mendieta**
November 10, 2023



I had so much fun seeing my baby girl! The football game was awesome. Gooo Hardin-Simmons University!!

f **Amanda Dorwaldt-wallace**
October 29, 2023



It was such an honor and privilege to be asked by my alma mater to speak at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Opening of the Skiles Building.

I am eternally grateful for the generous donors including the Skiles family who gave me the opportunity to earn an education at Hardin-Simmons University.

ig **alexaraegist**
December 13, 2023



I got to treat my Uncle Joe to breakfast this morning. He was a professor at Hardin-Simmons University for 45 years!!

f **Victor Gutierrez**
November 15, 2023



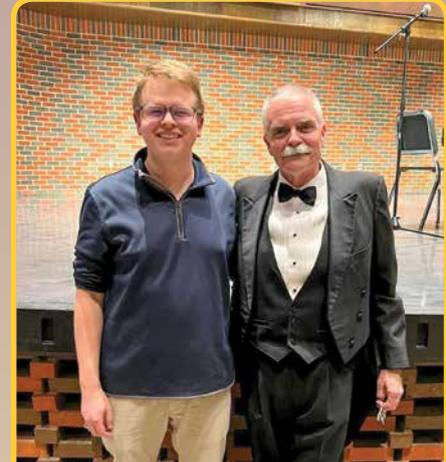
16 year old me was definitely onto something ...

To finally receive my white coat in not only a milestone, but also an opportunity, to show the community my capabilities in advanced healthcare practice.

I am thankful to God, my family, Jackie, friends, and my classmates for accepting me and being a part of my journey as a Physician Assistant.

I will persevere and do what God has called on me to do. And one day, leave my mark through my patients.

ig **jasonn_trann**
October 6, 2023



The Hardin-Simmons University Choir premiered my new choral work "I Will Sing" last night in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Caldwell Music Hall on campus. Their performance was also a testament to the faithfulness of the Lord on this campus. Thank you to everyone in the choir, accompanist Abigail Rebekah Payne, and especially Dr. Dee Romines for making this dream come to life!
#choir #premiere #composer #sing

f **Christian Fortner**
December 5, 2023



RETREAT 2023!

This weekend was a BLAST! I guess you could say it was an HONOR to be there! #quidquid

ig **hsuhonors**
September 17, 2023

On September 28, 2023, the Hardin-Simmons University Chapel Band introduced an original new song called “Every Reason.” This is the third original song released by the university’s Chapel Band, preceded by “Detours” in 2022 and “Here I Am” from 2021.

“We wanted to write a song of praise that reminds us who God is and invites us to come into His presence with thankfulness and joy,” Tiffany Stotts, Instructor of Worship Leadership, said. “Sometimes, as humans, we forget that God has already extended the invitation to come to Him. This song is simply a response to that invitation and a reminder of all the reasons we have to give Him our love and devotion.”

“I think it’s a really cool and unique thing when we get to come together as a student body of instrumentalists and musicians to write songs,” Alex Govea said. Alex is a junior majoring in worship music and is one of the main writers and contributors of the new song.

“Every Reason” was written during the summer by several students involved in Chapel Band with the direction and assistance of Professor Stotts. “Sometimes the melodies and lyrics come quickly, and other times it’s a labor of love to find the right words and instrumentation that communicates clearly,” Stotts commented on the songwriting process.

“We always meet to pray and ask God to give us a song that glorifies Him first. Then, we throw around some ideas, try different keys and melodies, and work on lyrics. We also do this through co-writing, which helps the process go faster.”

Both Stotts and Govea shared their hope for the song to unify the HSU community. “We are not only students that go to class together, but we are believers in the Kingdom, and we are people who participate in this Kingdom and in worship. So, I think it’s really important that we recognize that and come together to praise God,” Govea said. “At the end of the day, that’s really why we’re here at Hardin-Simmons, at a Baptist University, because we believe that there is one God and that He is good.”

Govea said the song focuses on being a song to God, not just a song about Him. “Some of the lyrics say, ‘God is all we need,’ and even in the crazy mystery of life in college, we can just give it all to Him. Because He’s why we’re here. He’s our joy and our fortress of salvation,”

Govea said.

Stotts mentioned the Biblical importance of songwriting and why she feels the Chapel Band should continue to write music.

Songwriting is a way to express all that God is doing in our world in a creative and artistic way. The Bible tells us that when God moved among the people, they built an altar or dug a well as a marker and reminder of God’s faithfulness. Songwriting is a way for us to capture these moments and be able to revisit them.

The Chapel Band plans to write and release an original song every year, typically that reflects the chapel theme.

“Our main goal is that a believer or non-believer could hear this and learn how to praise God for every breath that He’s given us,” Govea said.



Every



“
 Some of the lyrics say, ‘God is all we need,’ and even in the crazy mystery of life in college, we can just give it all to Him. Because He’s why we’re here. He’s our joy and our fortress of salvation.
 ”

— Alex Govea



Reason

Chapel Band's Original New Song



AVAILABLE NOW



Listen at [YouTube.com/HardinSimmons](https://www.youtube.com/HardinSimmons)
 — or scan this QR code:





Irish Inspiration cruise (6/2023)

Front: Stephanie David, Sherry Barsch '63, Sharon Pezzarossi '90, Rick Featherston '71x, Janie Featherston, Aaronda Gerow '78, Kaye Schwertner '66, Britt Jones '84 *Middle:* Linda Jones, Mary Ingram, Virginia Keys, Kathy Coll, Janey Murray *Back:* Jane Jones, Linda Wheeler '85, Jon Wheeler '87, David Jones, Terri Lyles, Richard Evans '76, Leigh Evans '76



Kenya Safari: The Big 5

(8/2023) Guide Frank, Britt Jones '84, David Jones, Brian Hull, Terri Lambert '81, Tena Yeary '81, Johnny Yeary '82, Melody Hull '84, Lucia Arrant, Guide Abdi



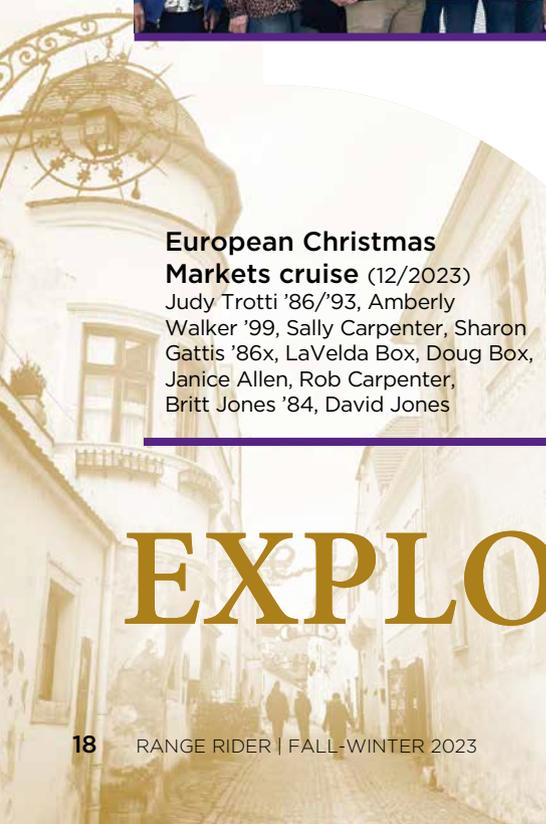
Experience the Victory at the National WWII Museum

(10/2023) Gayle Bailey '83, Mark Bailey '88x, Michelle Cranor, Dan Cranor, Barry Thomas, Dan LeRoy, Travis McGraw, Rick Featherston '71x, Britt Jones '84



Fall Colors on Mark Twain's Mississippi cruise (9/2023)

Britt Jones '84, Doniece Allen '59x, Joe Allen '60, Judy Eiland '70, Don Eiland '69, Becky Edington



European Christmas Markets cruise (12/2023)

Judy Trotti '86/'93, Amberly Walker '99, Sally Carpenter, Sharon Gattis '86x, LaVelda Box, Doug Box, Janice Allen, Rob Carpenter, Britt Jones '84, David Jones



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with alumni and friends!

FALL CRUISE OF EASTERN CANADA SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 6, 2024 "IN THE PATH OF CARTIER"



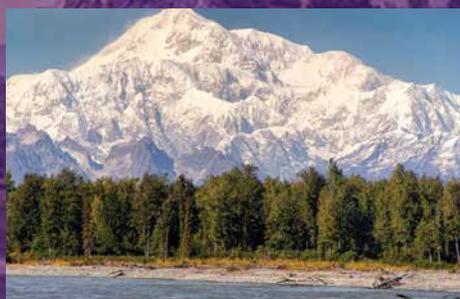
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DISCOVER OUR JUST-ANNOUNCED 2025 TRIPS & SIGN UP FOR MAILING LIST: [HSUTX.EDU/TRAVEL](https://hsutx.edu/travel)



Freshmen and transfer students celebrate the time-honored tradition of beanie capping during STAMPEDE this fall.





COWBOY CLUB

The Cowboy Club is a community of supporters who understand the transformative power of collegiate athletics. By becoming a member of the Cowboy Club, you will provide crucial support for our student-athletes in their pursuit of academic and athletic excellence. Your contribution will ensure that our teams have the resources they need to compete at the highest level.

VARSITY SPONSOR

(\$25 per month or one-time donation of \$300)

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- In-Season Monthly Newsletter
- Window Decal

HOSS SPONSOR

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- In-Season Monthly Newsletter
- Window Decal
- HSU Hat or Visor
- Meet the team after a game
- Early availability and half-price football and basketball tickets

GOLD SPONSOR

(\$100 per month or one-time donation of \$1,200)

- HSU T-shirt
- In-Season Monthly Newsletter
- Window Decal
- HSU Hat or Visor
- Meet the team after a game
- HSU Sweatshirt
- Two early selection football and basketball tickets
- Chance to be a mentor for a student-athlete

PURPLE SPONSOR

(\$500 per month or one-time donation of \$6,000)

- Swag Pack (4 T-shirts, 4 sweatshirts, 4 hats or visors)
- In-Season Monthly Newsletter
- Window Decal
- Four early-selection football and basketball tickets
- Videoboard recognition at football and basketball
- Speak to the team about your HSU experience

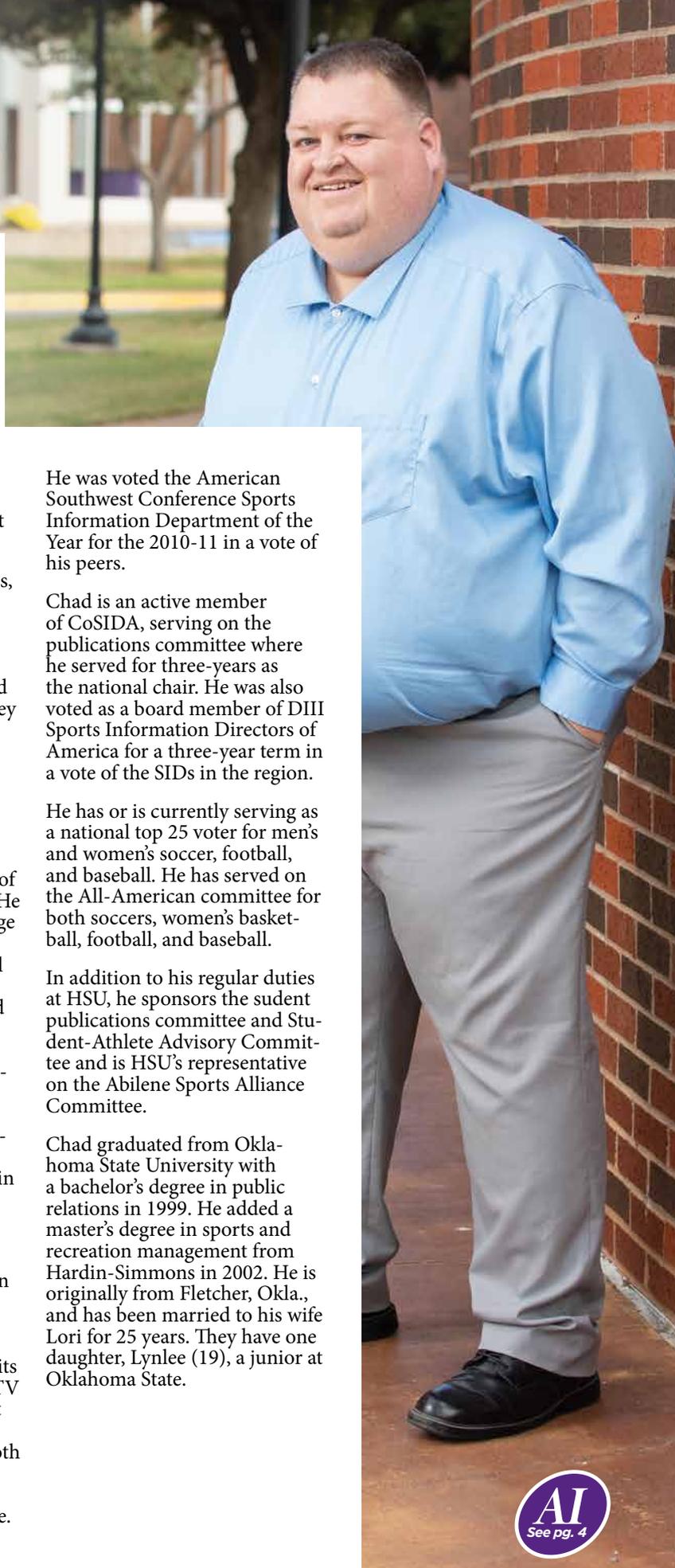


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CHAD GRUBBS

HSU's Associate Athletic Director for External Relations



Chad Grubbs is in his 25th year at Hardin-Simmons University. In September 2023, he was promoted to Associate Athletic Director for External Relations. While still providing sports coverage for the football, baseball, and golf teams, he has added administrative duties, including revamping the Cowboy Club (read more about this endeavor on the next page) and strengthening relationships with former HSU athletes. Chad has handed over the day-to-day operations of athletic communications but still oversees the department.

Chad and the Athletics Department are synonymous; one does not exist without the other. His work is all-encompassing for the department. If he didn't personally produce it, he oversaw the production of everything from photography, broadcasting, stats, website and app updates, press releases, media coverage, graphics, social media, and more. He's the prime example of "no one knows what you do until you don't."

Throughout the HSU community, Chad is known for getting work done and mentoring students. **His humility and focus on others have kept him out of the spotlight when, in reality, Chad's the reason so many have had an opportunity to shine.**

Students who work with Chad or have crossed paths with him can speak to his influence. "I feel like I have a lot to teach them," Chad said. When working with students, his three points to get

across are: "I believe in you. Don't mess it up," "Go do your thing," and "What do you want out of this?"

In his time at Hardin-Simmons, he has successfully publicized several athletes to national awards – including three national players of the year in Kendra (Anderson) Whitehead '03 (women's basketball), Ashley (Allen) Huston '09 (women's track and field), and Kenne Kessler '19 (women's soccer). HSU is the only school in the ASC to have a Honda Award winner, a National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete winner, and a NCAA Woman of the Year Finalist (four times). He also has promoted three College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) national athletes of the year. Chad also leads the ASC in academic and athletic All-Americans and NCAA postgraduate scholars during his time at Hardin-Simmons. He has led the publicity efforts that have landed HSU student-athletes on SportsCenter Top Plays and/or College Football Gameday nine times in his career.

Chad has overseen two major trendsetting standards among Division III Sports Information Director (SID) departments. HSU was the first Division III school in the nation to go to a sport's specific vendor to host its website when it went with CSTV in 2001. HSU was also the first Division III school to add live stats to the website in 2000. Both of those trends are something that a majority of the schools around the nation now provide.

He was voted the American Southwest Conference Sports Information Department of the Year for the 2010-11 in a vote of his peers.

Chad is an active member of CoSIDA, serving on the publications committee where he served for three-years as the national chair. He was also voted as a board member of DIII Sports Information Directors of America for a three-year term in a vote of the SIDs in the region.

He has or is currently serving as a national top 25 voter for men's and women's soccer, football, and baseball. He has served on the All-American committee for both soccer, women's basketball, football, and baseball.

In addition to his regular duties at HSU, he sponsors the student publications committee and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and is HSU's representative on the Abilene Sports Alliance Committee.

Chad graduated from Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's degree in public relations in 1999. He added a master's degree in sports and recreation management from Hardin-Simmons in 2002. He is originally from Fletcher, Okla., and has been married to his wife Lori for 25 years. They have one daughter, Lynlee (19), a junior at Oklahoma State.



HSU

ATHLETICS

The Cowboys smile after learning they have earned their first outright American Southwest Conference (ASC) championship since 2004.





FALL RECAP

FOOTBALL

In a season that was one of survival and next-man-up mentality, the Hardin-Simmons' football team fought through adversity and earned their first outright American Southwest Conference championship since 2004.

The Cowboys finished the year with a record of 9-2 and advanced to the NCAA playoffs for the second straight year.

Throughout the season, the Cowboys had many different players go down to a range of injuries, from broken bones to an appendectomy. Captains Matt Mitchell, Gaylon Glynn, Jordan Hammonds, and Miguel Valdez all missed significant time, but the Cowboys continued to find ways to win games.

HSU opened the season with a home win, 47-8, over Albright College and then went on the road to play at UW-La Crosse. The Cowboys dominated the second half and won 28-21 over a team that won the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The Cowboys then went to Beverly, Mass., and lost to Endicott College.

The Cowboys responded with three straight grind-it-out wins over Howard Payne, McMurry, and Texas Lutheran. A final trip to Alpine to play Sul Ross State saw the Cowboys win 55-7 and set up a first-place showdown with Mary Hardin-Baylor at Shelton Stadium.

HSU came away with a 24-14 win over the Cru, the first over its top rival since 2015. The Cowboys won at Austin College to claim at least a share of the conference title. They then went to East Texas Baptist to close out the regular season where they tamed the Tigers to claim the outright American Southwest Conference title.

The Cowboys lost to Trinity, 20-6, in the first round of the playoffs but it was a championship season for HSU.

HSU had 23 players named to the all-conference team and seven players named all-region. Miguel Valdez, who was injured for the season in the Austin College game, racked up a slew of awards. He was named the ASC Offensive lineman of the year, named as the Dave Campbell's Texas Football non-FBS offensive lineman of the year in the state of Texas, and was named an All-American by the American Football Coaches Association.

Dameon Gomes, who led the nation in punt return average, was also named an All-American by the AFCA as a kick returner. Punter Cody Harral was named the ASC special teams player of the year.

Once again, the Cowboys had a season, where through all of the ups and downs, they lived up to their motto of "Cowboys Find A Way."

The Cowgirls have now won 25
ASC Championships, leading the
conference.





WOMEN'S SOCCER

Hardin-Simmons' women's soccer team had another outstanding season that saw the Cowgirls back in the saddle as American Southwest Conference champions and another trip to the NCAA Tournament.

The Cowgirls finished the year with a record of 17-2-3 and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. HSU beat rival Trinity 1-0 in the first round and advanced over national power Emory in the second round. HSU lost 1-0 in the third round to eventual national champion Cal Lutheran.

After the season, second-year head coach Lance Key announced his retirement, leaving the Cowgirls looking for a new leader as one of the most successful programs in the country.

Individually, the Cowgirls won several awards in the postseason. Junior Gabby Aviles was named the ASC midfielder of the year, Lexi Templin was named the ASC offensive freshman of the year, and Alyssa Stanley was named the ASC sportsmanship athlete of the year.

Six Cowgirls – Aviles, Templin, Mercy Mummert, Kaylen McNatt, Keanne Alamo, and Haley Foley – were named first-team all-ASC. Kaylee Maddox, who was the MVP of the ASC Tournament, was named second-team all-ASC.

Mummert, Maddox, and Templin earned all-region honors by the United Soccer Coaches Association. Templin led the Cowgirls with 18 goals on the season.

The Cowgirls will return with the majority of their team next year.



Sabrina Nelson squares up against the UTD Comets.

MEN'S SOCCER

The Cowboys soccer team made significant strides from the beginning of the year to the end under first-year head coach Brad Bankhead. HSU took on an ambitious non-conference schedule and went 0-4-3 to start the season. Even in defeat, the Cowboys made progress and then, once conference play started, HSU had great success. They went 5-1-2 in conference action and the one-loss was a one-goal defeat.

The Cowboys defeated Howard Payne in the first round of the ASC Championship before falling 1-0 to Concordia in the ASC semifinal. HSU finished the season with an 8-6-5 record and have plenty of momentum heading into next season with a majority of the team set to return.

Senior Jakob Fiol finished his outstanding career with 27 goals and 13 assists for his career. The 27 goals are the fourth most by a Cowboy in the non-scholarship era.

VOLLEYBALL

The Cowgirl volleyball team had another solid season and made another trip to the American Southwest Conference tournament where they advanced to the semifinals. It was the first year for head coach Kendall Crisp.

HSU featured a young team with most of the players in the rotation being freshmen and sophomores. The Cowgirls had six players earn all-American Southwest Conference honors with sophomore Gabby Jones being named first team for the second straight year. Sophomore Liz Underwood and freshmen Jady Hernandez were named second team. Junior setter Ali Meyer and freshmen Kat Martinez and Rachel Nordt were named honorable mention all-ASC.

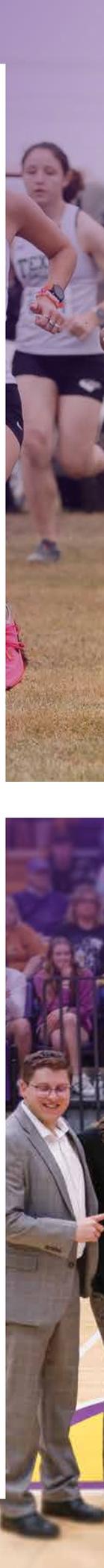
The Cowgirls finished the season with a record of 13-15 and will return 15 of the 17 players for next season, creating optimism for the program's future.

CROSS COUNTRY

Kylah Holland had another banner season for the Hardin-Simmons women's cross country team. She repeated as the American Southwest Champion and qualified for the NCAA meet for the second straight season. She set the conference meet record with a time of 22:37 at the ASC Championship. She ran a 22:34 at nationals which was :33 seconds better than her time at the NCAA meet a year ago. She is the only HSU runner to ever qualify for the NCAA meet.

As a team, the Cowgirls finished fifth at the ASC Championship in Abilene. Jasmin Mendez finished 16th and Hope Fuentes placed 26th overall.

The men's cross country team finished the year with an eighth-place finish in the American Southwest Conference Championship. Zach Mitchell led the way for the Cowboys with a 13th place finish and was named second-team all-conference. It was the fourth time for Mitchell to earn all-ASC honors in his career.



Kylah Holland continues to lead the pack with her record breaking times.



Hardin-Simmons' women's basketball won its eighth ASC Championship and second in three years with an 86-76 win over Mary Hardin-Baylor. Stay tuned to read more in the next edition.





“Everything is in place; it’s just a matter of making sure we take care of business this year as far as living up to our potential.”

WELCOME CASEY WILSON

Casey Wilson took over the Hardin-Simmons softball program in August 2023.

He made his way to Hardin-Simmons after starting the women’s soccer program at Abilene Christian University from scratch and leading it for 16 seasons. Prior to that, and, even during his tenure as the ACU soccer coach, he was an assistant coach for the ACU softball program.

Casey also played baseball for two years after a football career at Central Michigan. To Casey, making the change back to softball has been an easy adjustment.

“It hasn’t really been too difficult. It’s something that’s always been with me and I followed closely,” said Wilson. “Some things have changed over the years within the sport, like the technology to integrate, but, other than that, it hasn’t been a big step.”

He’s joined a program stocked with experience, creating a competitive edge.

“Fortunately, I took over a program that was well put together. Not every coach gets to come into a program with the shelf full, when it comes to talent and team camaraderie,” said Wilson. “Everything is in place; it’s just a matter of making sure we take care of business this year as far as living up to our potential.”

Coming to Hardin-Simmons has been a smooth transition for Casey because of the people on campus.

“It’s been great. Even through observation over the years, being down the street, I know that this is a pretty tight-knit community,” said Wilson. “Everybody’s been super helpful and nice.”

With the success of other sports on campus, he hopes to add to that with the softball program. “There’s a standard of excellence around here,” said Wilson.

Coach Wilson and the Cowgirls opened the spring season on February 16 at Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana.





ATHLETE MARKETING PLATFORM

Hardin-Simmons' athletic department has teamed with Opendorse to provide a name, image, and likeness (NIL) marketplace for its student-athletes and provide them with education and tools to maximize their value and marketability.

"We are proud to team our student-athletes with Opendorse to manage their NIL activities," said Associate Vice-President for Athletics Dr. John Neese. "The NIL era is relatively new and is ever-evolving. Our administration and Board of Trustees have made a great commitment to our student-athletes because they see the importance of giving them the tools to stay educated on the NIL process and promote their brand."

Student-athletes will be able to promote their name, image, and likeness and be compensated for the usage of their NIL.

A NIL activity includes any situation in which a student-athlete's name, image, likeness, or voice is used for promotional purposes by a non-institutional entity, including the individual student-athlete, a commercial entity, or a noninstitutional nonprofit or charitable entity.



ABOUT OPENDORSE

Opendorse is the leading athlete marketplace and NIL company, providing technology and services to the athlete endorsement industry. More than 100,000 athletes use Opendorse to build and monetize their name, image, and likeness.

THE PARTNERSHIP

Every Hardin-Simmons student-athlete receives full access to the company's all-in-one NIL platform, providing student-athletes and staff with Opendorse's best-in-class compliance, content, and education tools.

1. **Compliance:** upon completing NIL deals, athletes can automatically disclose activity details to their institution to ensure eligibility.
2. **Content:** athletes receive on-demand access to share photos and videos from games, practice, and more. Athletes can also receive content suggestions from their teams, encouraging fan engagement, fundraising initiatives, ticket sales, and more.
3. **Education:** athletes receive in-person and on-demand virtual education sessions from industry leaders at companies including Meta, Overtime, Players' Tribune, Opendorse, and more.

ATHLETE EXPERIENCE

In addition to industry-leading NIL content,

compliance, and education solutions, every Hardin-Simmons athlete will receive an Opendorse profile, which they can customize and promote to fans on their personal social media channels.

Athletes review opportunities, receive deals, accept compensation, and disclose NIL activities to their institution, all within the Opendorse app.



COACHES CORNER

TEAM TRADITIONS

HSU athletes are linked by their shared experiences. They support each other in early morning practices and afternoon strength training sessions; they travel hours together on buses and planes; they spend the holidays together on campus; they celebrate their wins together and mourn their losses together. They are more than a team. HSU athletes and their coaches are a family, and, like any family, they have their own traditions that strengthen their bonds.



SOFTBALL

— Casey Wilson, *head coach*

“The Cowgirl Competition Teams” began six years ago. The ladies are divided into four teams, called HS-Pew, Rough-N-Tough Cowpokers, Gilbert’s Girlfriends, and Hardin-Sisters. Each team accumulates points throughout the year for grades, Bible studies, participating in the team talent show, Cowgirl Olympics, Halloween Scavenger Hunt, Christmas Party Activities, and other character development events throughout the school year.

GOLF

— Bart Craig, *head coach*

An ongoing tradition since 2011 has been for our players to see “a little more” than Abilene, Texas. I look for tournaments that our teams can participate in from coast to coast, hoping to incorporate an educational experience while we play golf. From first time airplane flights to the first time seeing the ocean, students create memories during these trips.

TRACK & FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY

— Issac Hamilton, *head coach*

Throughout the season, we have a tradition of hosting team events every four weeks. The purpose of these events is to foster fellowship among team members and create a strong familial bond. This is instrumental in cultivating a positive environment, which is essential for team success.

TENNIS

— Shane Williford, *head coach*

The tennis teams have many traditions, including Bible studies, playing intramurals together, team dinners the night before matches, annual End of Year Team Awards, annual Team Christmas Party, annual Women’s Team Pumpkin Painting Party, annual Senior Day Recognition, and more.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

— Matt Brackett, *head coach*

We attend Tuesday morning chapels as a team and host a team devotional and leadership meeting every Thursday, where we discuss our faith and host guest speakers. Every year, we support our community in several projects with the AYSA, assist in setting up for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Fields of Faith, volunteer at the United Way Winter Lightfest, and participate in the annual MLK Bridge March in Abilene. We also host several basketball camps, alumni basketball games, and our annual Golf Tournament in the fall.

MEN’S SOCCER

— Brad Bankhead, *head coach*

On Sunday nights, we get together to play some kind of game—we call these “Man Nights,” where there is no soccer, no studying, and no cell phones. Mondays before practice, we have story time. We select someone from the program (player or staff) to share their story.

We want to win. We want to be on the national stage. But more importantly, we want to build a culture of selfless love for others in and out of our soccer program. I want the guys to have the experience of a lifetime as we build “great husbands, fathers, and bosses.”

FOOTBALL

— Jesse Burleson, *head coach*

We do a team devotional the Friday night before every game that our players lead. This is so unique and such an awesome opportunity for our guys to grow in their unity and, more importantly, their faith in Christ.

CHEERLEADING

— Kelsey Berry, *former head coach*

We have a few traditions, but the most important is sharing our individual testimonies every year. We share these so we can have better understanding of each other, lean on each other, and help each other grow in our walk with the Lord. To continue to grow as a family, I say this prayer over my team: “Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls, one can help the other up.” C. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.



Students walking away from the sun, between Van Ellis Theatre and Caldwell Hall.



It is hard to believe that I have now been serving in the office of Engagement and Advancement for over a year. I continue to be thankful every day to be able to give back to my alma mater in this way. There is no better group of people to work with than HSU faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends.

Part of my role at HSU is to help this school we all love to thrive financially today and into the future. Our speakLIFE Capital Campaign is one way we will continue to bless new generations of Cowboys and Cowgirls.

As part of our speakLIFE Campaign, the Advancement team is continuing to raise funds for Prichard Residence Hall (opening fall 2024), Behrens Residence Hall, the 3rd floor of Abilene Hall (where the nursing program will be housed), Behrens Chapel Auditorium, Newman-Richardson Science Center, and an Equine Therapy Center.

Perhaps the stories and photos in this issue of the Range Rider will remind you of special memories from your time on the HSU campus and why it is important to continue to support this university that we all love so much.

To continue speaking LIFE into HSU's students and campus, visit: www.hsutx.edu/speaklife

Ash Wright '05

Vice President for
Engagement
and Advancement



RECAP OF LARGE GIFTS FROM THIS YEAR

HSU's current fiscal year, which runs from June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024, has been full of blessings and successes due to the generosity of our donors and the hard work of staff.

Goals are being made, met, and surpassed.

Thank you for your continued support and prayer!

\$2.1 Million from the Department of Education

The **Department of Education** has awarded Hardin-Simmons University a five-year development grant equaling \$2.1 million, the first-ever Department of Education grant HSU has received.

Read more about this academic development on page 42.





\$1.5 Million from the Vera (Bryant) Harrell Estate

Vera (Bryant) Harrell was a 1925 graduate of HSU. During her time at HSU, she majored in education. Funds from her estate go toward scholarships.



\$2 Million from the Allsup Family Charitable Foundation

HSU's award winning PA program continues to attract students and graduate accomplished healthcare professionals. These donated funds will support the students who are accepted into the program.

Over \$1 Million toward the Newman-Richardson Science Center

Updates to the Newman-Richardson Science Center started in fall 2022 and are on-going. Labs, equipment, and infrastructure updates are in various stages, some of which students are already experiencing. This massive revitalization of the building is made possible thanks to many donors:

- **J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation** \$600K
- **Bettye (Reeves) Kamstra Estate** \$349K
- **Anonymous** \$200K
- **Anonymous** \$200K
- **Anonymous** \$200K
- **Anonymous** \$200K (Challenge Grant)



Over \$1 Million from Family Foundations

Two family foundations have blessed HSU with generous gifts. The **Holland Family Foundation**, whose name you will recognize from the Holland School of Sciences and Mathematics, has given \$319,000. Another foundation, that wishes to remain **Anonymous**, has given \$1 million. These funds go toward start-up costs for HSU's own nursing program.



HARDIN-SIMMONS

UNIVERSITY



BOARD of DEVELOPMENT

Where We Are & Where We're Going!

From its inception, HSU's Board of Development has included leaders from various walks of life who love Hardin-Simmons University and are called to help advance HSU's mission through philanthropic efforts. The purpose of the Board of Development has always been to promote HSU, help recruit students, and seek to raise funds. The Board's goal for 2023 was to focus on its original purpose and work closely with HSU Development Officers to help identify prospective new donors and raise funds for HSU's speakLIFE capital campaign. A focus for 2024 is to increase awareness for planned giving.

Research has shown that 51% of alumni who give to their alma mater do so to "give back" and "pay it forward." A survey by Ruffalo Noel Levitz explained that college graduates give to their alma mater because they believe in the mission, had positive college experiences, and desire to help future students. "I appreciate how faith is woven into the university as it educates the next generation of leaders," shared Board of Development member, Matthew Dowling '06. "I came to HSU without knowing a single person, but it is a place that I will always cherish because I developed lifelong friendships. The environment on campus was unlike anything I was expecting on a college campus. We were all like a big family."

HSU's Board of Development meets on-campus once each fall (during Homecoming) and spring. They also meet online via Teams every couple of months for professional development training. When asked why he became involved in HSU's Board of Development, Matthew explained:

"I am brand new to the Board of Development and I became involved because it is important to support HSU's mission to educate and train the next generation of leaders. HSU continues to graduate students who will occupy the highest levels in their industry whether it's business, healthcare, science, government, ministry, or education. I believe HSU's success needs to continue, and the Board of Development plays an important role in that effort."

When asked "How can alumni help the Board of Development?" Vice President for Engagement and Advancement, Ash Wright '05 stated: "The Advancement Office nor the Board of Development could fulfill our purposes if it wasn't for HSU's amazing alumni and friends. Their assistance promoting the University and providing financial support is valued and appreciated."

Pictured above: President Eric Bruntmyer, Ash Wright '05, Dr. Vicki House '01/'10/'22, Cheryl Purcell '06/'10, Fran (Richardson) Patterson '83, John Wickham '07, Lou Ann (Prichard) Draper '83, Ryan Kana '06, Kim Garcia '07, Guinn Smith, Melissa (Boler) Wickham '98, Susan Keeling, Angela (Fortney) Emens '04, Dr. Bob Brooks, Dr. Stacey Martin '96/'01/'23, Dave Roberts, Dr. Heather Hadlock '97, Link Harris '01, Dr. Stephen Cook, Dr. Vivian Bland

Not Pictured: John Best '73, Jeff Brush '05, Ty Carvalho '03, Clint Cheek '98, Tom Cheek '62, Blair Church '86, Vance Cooksey '85/'87, Matt Dowling '06, Paul Gomez '82, Paul Grohman '78, Jett Lowrance '09, Matt Morgan '05, Kayla (Moore) O'Rourke '92, Filemon Ortiz '66, Greg Solomon '83, John Snapp '70, Lance Terveen '02, Debbie (Schuler) Zarsk '83



For info about serving on the board, or to ask about Planned Giving, email

advancement@hsutx.edu



Would you like to join us in supporting the speakLIFE Capital Campaign? Visit:

hsutx.edu/speaklife

Dr. Jimmie Keeling H.D.'15 and Jeff Goodin '60 at the Abilene Hall Dedication Ceremony



Vishia (Wilson) Coleman '03 and Angie (Jones) Wiley '86 in HSU's newly renovated cafeteria.



FALL DEDICATIONS

Celebrating Campus Improvements

ABILENE HALL

Over the past two years, Abilene Hall has been retrofitted to house HSU's engineering program. The third floor continues to be under construction as it's prepared to house HSU's nursing program, scheduled to open in 2025. A dedication ceremony for Abilene Hall's engineering labs and classrooms took place on August 29, 2023.

Read more about Abilene Hall's progress: hsutx.edu/abhall

THE CAF

Also over the past two years, HSU's cafeteria, known as the Caf, has been undergoing restoration and expansion. During this time, the university implemented clever solutions to ensure service was never interrupted. Temporary walls, storage, coolers, and kitchens were orchestrated throughout the construction process to keep the student experience as "normal" as possible, and on September 7, 2023, the campus celebrated the project's completion with a dedication ceremony.

Read more about the Caf: hsutx.edu/caf

Be part of campus growth by giving to one of our current projects:



**SANDEFER FIELD HOUSE
WEIGHT ROOM**

Rendering of new fieldhouse space



HARDIN-SIMMONS UNIVERSITY HONORING DONORS

DONOR WALL of HONOR

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

Abilene Higher Education Foundation	Dr. Virginia Boyd Connally Kelly Cox	Dr. Claude and Jenny Hicks	Gip and Virginia Oldham	Simon Family Trust
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W. S. (Skinny) and Hallie (Jane) Cole		Dr. George and Carolyn Newman	Dr. A. B. (Stormy) and Ruby Shelton	

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE TO HSU IN 2023!

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

Mrs. Vera Harrell Estate

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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	J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation	Dr. Rosa Lee Prichard	

LEGETT SOCIETY: \$10K to \$99K

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

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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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	Dr. John Gassler			Mr. Lance Terveen	
	Mrs. Leigh Gibson			The Charles and Kaye Schwertner Trust	



STRATEGIC LEARNING INITIATIVE

The Department of Education (DOE) has awarded Hardin-Simmons University a five-year development grant equaling \$2.1 million, the first-ever DOE grant HSU has received. The funds are from the competitive Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) authorized under Title III and will directly impact student and post-graduation success.

Dr. Tony Morrow, Director of Student Achievement, Dr. Vicki House '01/'10/'22, Associate Vice President for Advancement, and Mr. Mike Monhollon, Associate Provost and Chief Data Officer, produced a compelling and detailed plan that was submitted and selected by the DOE.

“This grant will fund two big initiatives to drive students’ academic success

at Hardin-Simmons,” said Mr. Monhollon, “allowing our professors to maintain rigor in their courses and deliver excellence in education. That is the university’s promise.”

HSU data showed that 34% of its incoming freshmen were academically underprepared. These students had lower average first-semester GPAs, fall-to-spring persistence, fall-to-fall retention, and graduation rates than academically prepared students. To improve all students’ academic success, retention, and degree completion, HSU developed the Forward Together Program, which the DOE grant will help support.

The Forward Together Program has two components: 1) Strategic Learning Initiative (SLI) and 2) Guided Pathways (GP).

The SLI is a semester-long course dedicated to implementing the skills and habits of academic success. Students who enroll in SLI will learn the fundamental skills to adjust and succeed at university-level learning and beyond. Dr. House explained, “The learning delays brought on by COVID-19 resulted in students who are less prepared for college than ever before. The skills developed in the SLI courses will prepare students for the demands of college work and give them the skills to persist through graduation.”

The positive habits brought on by the SLI course, like active learning, time management, and communication, will be applicable throughout college and into the workforce.

GP, the second component of The Forward Together Program, is a nationally recognized strategy for improving four-year graduation rates. It includes tailored course schedules and program mapping so students maintain “program velocity” (earn 30 credits annually for a 120-credit degree program, graduating in 4 years). GP ensures student courses are correctly scheduled and adjusts for students who switch majors, minimizing excess credits that are not applicable to their new degree plan.

Funds from the SIP grant will go toward hiring faculty and staff to oversee the SLI and GP programs and construction costs to create designated spaces for SLI and GP meetings and conversations.

Hardin-Simmons already provides academic resources and support, such as free tutoring, workshops, and peer mentors, to empower its students. The impact of the Strategic Learning Initiative and Guided Pathways programs will continue to bolster HSU as a community dedicated to providing excellence in education enlightened by Christian faith and values.

ACADEMIC FOUNDATION NEWS

Although the Academic Foundation may not be a widely known organization, its impact is essential to Hardin-Simmons University. Through the efforts of Dr. Lee Hemphill '29 and others, the idea of creating a separate entity to benefit the work of the university became a reality. The Hardin-Simmons University Academic Foundation was formally organized in February 1965 under the presidency of Dr. James Landes. Dr. Vivian Bland, the Office Manager and Campaign Coordinator in the Advancement Department, shares the purpose of the Academic Foundation.

"Initially, the Foundation supported the University by subsidizing faculty salaries," she said. "Today, the Foundation largely supports the University through financial grants to enhance programming and to meet special needs. The mission and purpose of the Hardin-Simmons University Academic Foundation is to provide direction

and approval of requests for funds for programs to strengthen academics at Hardin-Simmons University." In the decades since Dr. Hemphill's idea became a reality, the Academic Foundation has grown to serve Hardin-Simmons University through an endowment in excess of \$500,000.

Although associated with the University, Bland shared that, "The foundation operates separately from the University, electing and maintaining its own governing body entrusted with overseeing the investment of foundation funds and charged with disbursement of earnings."

Grants from the Academic Foundation are awarded based upon applications from university faculty or departments. In 2023, the Foundation issued grants totaling approximately \$30,000.

"The Academic Foundation, thanks to generous donations to the University, has funds available to fund equipment and projects for faculty members that are not budgeted for on an annual basis," said past President of the Foundation, Corby Flanagan '93.

"The goal is to fund projects that affect a large number of students," he said.

Nine total directors served on the first board, with Sam Waldrop serving as President. Now, between 15 and 31 men and women are to serve on the board as deemed necessary by the officers and directors.

"We are always looking for new members to serve. We meet one evening in September each year to discuss and select the projects to fund," Flanagan shared. Any member may submit prospective candidates for consideration to the president, president-elect, and vice-president. Flanagan encourages anyone interested to get connected with the Foundation.

"Serving on the Foundation is an easy way to get involved at Hardin-Simmons, connect with former classmates, and meet alumni from different generations," Flanagan said.



Pictured: Kathryn (White) Mitchell '99, Frances (Kesner) Renfroe '60, Ryan Gibson '06, Dorothy (Houston) Kiser '65/'92, Kylene Williams '19, Marci (Follis) Cole '88, Corby Flanagan '93 **Not Pictured:** Lea (Clayton) Hutt '98, Elyse Lewis '09, Dr. Rocky McAdams '04, Jon Sims '96, John Weeks '93, Cindy (Harrison) Wier '73

HALL OF LEADERS

2024 HONOREES



MR. GEORGE ROBERT (BOB) BRYAN '67

BUSINESSMAN UTILITY EXECUTIVE

Bob graduated from Harvard's Advanced Management program after graduating from HSU and used his training to rise through the executive ranks of Enserch Exploration, Lone Star Gas and Enserch Corporation.

As one who gave back to his community, Bob served on the Board of the Dallas Petroleum Club, Board of Trustees of Hardin-Simmons University, Board of Texas Commerce Bank-Brookhollow, and as a Deacon at Richardson Heights and Wilshire Baptist Churches. Additionally, he raised Beefmaster cattle on his ranch in Grand Saline.

During his time on HSU's board, Bob served as Chairman of the Budget and Audit Committee and, for three years, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

After his death in 1998, scholarships were created in his memory thanks to the generosity of his family and continue to benefit students today.



DR. ROBERT MANGRUM '70

EDUCATOR PUBLIC SERVANT

Serving 43 years at Howard Payne University, Robert has held the title History Department Chair, Assistant Director and Director of the Academy Honors Program, and the Burress Professor of American History and Genealogy. Currently he is the Coley Professor of American History and University Historian.

Robert earned a B.A. in history and political science from HSU and was commissioned as a U.S. Army officer. Robert served 28 years of active and reserve duty, retiring June 1998 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Along with extensive civil and community engagement, including involvement with the Kiwanis Club of Brownwood, Brown County Museum, and Lehnis Railroad Museum, he was elected mayor of the city of Early in May 2005.

Currently, Robert is serving his tenth term as mayor. He will seek reelection in May of 2025.



MRS. LAURA (WARREN) MOORE '86

NON-PROFIT EXECUTIVE CIVIC LEADER

As a public servant, Laura has given her time as the chair of Leadership Abilene, the Downtown Development Committee, and Together 2011, which, among other things, brought the first splash pad to Abilene. Additionally, she has chaired the HSU Board of Trustees and the Abilene Chamber of Commerce and served two terms on the Abilene City Council.

Highlights of her career include serving on staff at HSU for 12 years, as Director of the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, and as Director of Development with Hendrick Health System Children's Hospital.

Following her service at Hendrick, Laura spent several years as a consultant and worked with a variety of non-profits. Since 2012, she has served as Executive Director of the Grace Museum in Abilene.

Her most valuable gift in life is her family --her husband Jay '82/'96 and daughters, Madison, London, and Annelise.

READ MORE ABOUT ALL HALL OF LEADERS INDUCTEES,
visit us at hsutx.edu/about-hsu/hall-of-leaders

Spirit of Giving

Giving is an expression of gratitude, trust, and increasing joy.



Dr. Vicki House '01/'10/'22, Associate Vice President for Advancement

At its core, giving is not solely about financial contributions or material donations; it embodies a deeper commitment to making a positive impact. It encompasses offering our time, skills, resources, or compassion to uplift others, promote social good, and contribute to the well-being of society as a whole.

The spirit of giving is universal – it knows no bounds of age, social status, or geographic location. It can manifest in a myriad of forms, such as volunteering at a local shelter, tutoring a struggling student, organizing a neighborhood cleanup, or simply offering a listening ear to someone in need. It's about recognizing that every small gesture, when done with sincerity, has the power to catalyze profound change.

The Bible has a lot to say about giving.

God loves generously.

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16. The Father's love is unconditional. He gave His perfect son to an imperfect world. That is extreme generosity!

Sow first, harvest later.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2 Corinthians 9:6. God gives seed to sowers and desires for us to live with open hands. The role of a Christ follower is to scatter seeds of love, truth, and resources. He blesses us so we can bless others. Those who give their resources leave a legacy in the lives of others. The faithful sow generously in the present, knowing the harvest will come.

God loves a cheerful giver.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7. When we realize that everything we have is a good and perfect gift from our Father, and we live with open hands to be a blessing to others, we experience the joy of advancing His kingdom and the joy of generosity as we see our giving make a difference in the life of someone else.

Give to live.

Remember the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20:35. Jesus reminds us that giving is not a one-sided endeavor. While both givers and receivers are blessed, the greatest joy is in giving.

When we give, it's not because God needs anything but because we want to show our love for Him. Giving is an expression of gratitude, trust, and increasing joy. In a fast-paced society often preoccupied with personal ambitions, nurturing the spirit of giving reminds us that dedicating time and resources to help others enriches our lives.

Hardin-Simmons University is grateful for the support and generosity of our donors, friends, families, and foundations, and we are honored to be recipients of your spirit of giving. It is life-giving and life-changing. By investing in Christian higher education and our students, you play a vital role in shaping future leaders and change-makers of our world.

When we look beyond ourselves to extend kindness and generosity, we create a legacy of compassion that transcends generations. Together, through our collective acts of generosity, we have the power to shape a brighter future for all. Would you join us by releasing your spirit of giving?

Meet HSU's TRUSTEES



MR. CHUCK DAVIS '84

God's strength—the answer to my weakness

The life of Mr. Chuck Davis, Chairman of HSU's Board of Trustees, has been shaped by faith, humility, and service.

Recently retired from a distinguished 23-year career as a Foreign Service Officer, Chuck reflects on a professional trajectory that began at Hardin-Simmons University, where he first sensed a calling to overseas missions work. From Taiwan as an SBC Missionary Journeyman to roles with the U.S. State Department, each chapter contributed to his growth and understanding of God's purpose.

Educationally, Chuck's journey spans Texas Tech University, Hardin-Simmons University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and language and leadership studies at the George P. Shultz Foreign Service Institute.

The realization that HSU was his educational "home" struck Chuck when he first stepped on campus as a transfer music student. He found a warm welcoming faculty. President Jesse Fletcher's foreign mission service and innovations inspired him. And he quickly made great friends which have proven to be lifelong.

"During my time at HSU, I began to sense God's leading to overseas mission work," Chuck says. "He later guided me through the pains-taking examination and interview process of Foreign Service selection, and opened doors for me to serve Christian congregations in seven foreign countries, including a church plant in China that thrives to this day."

Two Bible verses stand as pillars in Chuck's spiritual life. Hebrews 12:1-2 inspires hope and emphasizes perseverance and communal faith, while John 5:44 cautions against the pitfalls of people-pleasing, urging a focus on obtaining God's approval.

Chuck encourages his children to passionately pursue their God-given gifts while redirecting any glory to the Creator. He cautions against the cliché "follow your heart," citing biblical wisdom that underscores the deceitful nature of the human heart.

As a university Trustee, he believes his diplomatic, leadership and management skills align with the university's mission. Each Trustee, in Chuck's perspective, has responded to a divine calling, serving HSU "for such a time as this."

While studying at HSU, Chuck met coed Elaine (Martin) '83. They've now been married for 40 years and have two grown children. In retirement, Chuck dedicates spare time to service, from local church leadership at a BGCT-affiliated congregation, to men's prison ministry.

Chuck Davis's story is one of a life intricately woven with faith, resilience, and a commitment to service—an inspiring narrative that continues to unfold.

MRS. ANGIE WILEY '86

Team player—willing to step up

Mrs. Angie Jones Wiley's life story is a testament to dedication, faith, and a profound sense of community.

Raised in a small town, Angie's journey to faith began in second grade. Her parents and grandmother played pivotal roles, serving as intercessors and shaping her unwavering commitment to Christianity. Finding solace in Philippians 1:9-11, Angie often prays this passage over her children and herself, finding it grounding.

Learning about Hardin-Simmons through friends, Angie attended a High School Weekend and fell in love with HSU and Abilene. "My parents didn't even come with me, but they were pleased with my choice and worked very hard to send me."

Involvement at HSU in Student Foundation and as a student library worker deepened her connection. "I grew spiritually in the academic setting, learning from people committed to learning and advancing," Angie says. Friendships and relationships formed at HSU continue to shape her life. She and her husband, Dr. Rob Wiley '87, first crossed paths as students.

Education, for the first-generation graduate, is immensely important. Angie believes education is key in communicating effectively and fully appreciating the world. She champions both private and public education, currently serving in her eighth year on Abilene's Independent School Board.

As a Trustee for Hardin-Simmons University, Angie is impressed by the intelligent and invested individuals on the Board. Respectful conversations and diverse opinions lead to informed decisions; the university's well-being is paramount.

"I have a strong desire to see Hardin-Simmons University continue as a vital part of the Abilene and Big Country community," Angie remarks. Witnessing the impact HSU graduates make locally and globally, she emphasizes "the quality of education available at Hardin-Simmons is second to none, and the professors and staff make a positive difference in lives of students."

With a marriage spanning 37 years, three adult children, and several grandchildren, Angie finds joy in her role as GiGi, cherishing precious moments with her family. Community involvement extends to Pioneer Drive Baptist Church, Abilene, where Angie engages with committees and connects with the 30-Somethings Sunday school class.

In the mosaic of HSU's leaders, Angie Wiley's portrait emerges—a woman of faith committed to collaboration and action, and a fervent advocate for education and community welfare. Her life story resonates with a spirit of service that inspires those around her.





Darren Jones '23 accepts his diploma from President Bruntmyer.

2023 Fall COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations to our newest alumni! The HSU Alumni Association provides discounts and benefits for all HSU Alumni. Campus benefits, like VIP parking passes, membership to the fitness center and pool, and assistance from Career Services are just the start of what's offered. To learn more, scan the QR code.



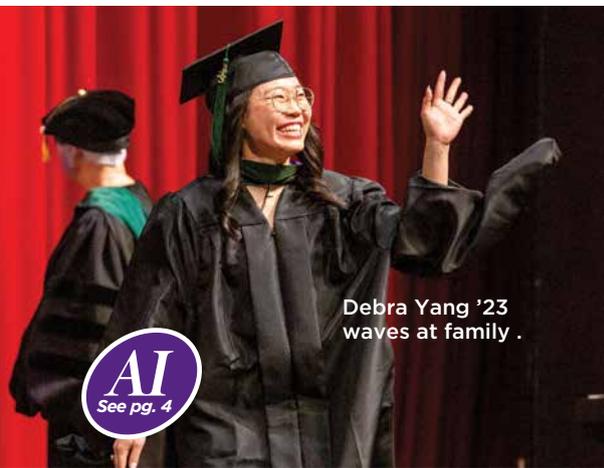
Haley Foley '23 faces the crowd for their reaction.



D.P.T. graduates Dr. Karla Espinosa '23, Dr. Adam Coberly '23, Dr. Brady Dumas '23, and Dr. Shania Hernandez '23



Dr. Renee Lyles '23 hugs her mother after her graduation ceremony.



Debra Yang '23 waves at family.



Rebecca Ravens '23, Hannah Weatherly '23, Estrellita Palacios '23, Hannah Nelson '23, Morgan McCauley '23, Chimalis Mustambi '23, Tariro Marara '23, Kathryn Tovar '23, Sydney Graff '23, Urmila Ghimire '23, and Haley Folly '23 pose for a group shot.



Jaidyn Hays '23 accepts her diploma from President Bruntmyer.



Eduardo Quintero '23 poses for a picture.



Homecoming '23

SNAPSHOTS

1 This year's SING show winners, Delta and Phi Phi Phi, danced to their version of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

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

3 Button making was a popular activity for kids and their families at kids club on Saturday morning.

4 During halftime of the HSU football game, Andrea Ashburn and Zorian Burley were crowned the 2023 University Queen and King.

5 The HSU Hispanic Assembly joined together for fellowship with alumni and friends.

6 The Gathering Place and Academic Showcase returned for alumni to reconnect with professors and learn about growing programs at HSU.

7 Hardin-Simmons recognized alumni award recipients for their outstanding work in the community.

8 The class of 1983 celebrated their 40-year reunion at the Reunion Reception along with alumni from the classes of 1993, 2003, and 2013.

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

10 Alumni and current students attended student organization breakfast events. Pictured here are a few members and alumni of Kappa Phi Omega.

Outstanding YOUNG ALUMNI AWARDS 2024

This award recognizes alumni less than 45 years old who have attained outstanding achievements in their field of endeavor, community, state, or nation. This award was created by the Board of Young Associates and was first presented in 2004. This year's recipients were honored at the Outstanding Young Alumni Dinner on Friday, March 1, 2024.



MRS. SARAH (WESLEY) CAMERON '12

Sarah Cameron graduated from HSU in 2012 with a B.B.S. in social work. After graduation, she returned home to Arizona and began working at Hands of Hope, a Christian pregnancy center where she assisted women as an advocate for their health and healing.

In 2014, Sarah and her husband Alec felt God's call to become licensed foster care parents. After multiple foster placements, the Lord led a sibling group to Sarah and Alec and they are now a forever family.

Sarah works as a foster care trainer at Christian Family Care Agency where she uses her hands-on-experience as a foster parent to teach, equip, and support the next generation of foster families. She also works at Sage Creek Ranch Events as an event manager where she creates experiences that make her clients feel seen and heard, making their event as special as it can be.

Sarah and Alec have three daughters and one son. The family attends Second Mile Church.



DR. JORDAN DANIEL '07

Jordan Daniel received a B.B.S. degree in sport, fitness, and leisure studies in 2007 and an M.E. in sport and recreation management in 2008, both from HSU. In 2013 he received a Ph.D. in recreation, parks, and tourism science from Texas A&M University.

Jordan is Associate Professor of the Department of Kinesiology at Angelo State University. Initially hired in 2013 as an instructor of kinesiology, he has progressed through the professorial ranks. He has presented at multiple conferences and published or co-published numerous articles in the sports and recreation arena.

While at HSU, Jordan played football for the Cowboys, serving as team captain in 2007. He was an ambassador in the leadership program and served as a resident assistant in Anderson Hall.

Jordan and his wife, Jill, have three daughters and are members of Southland Baptist Church in San Angelo.



DR. BEN LOVVORN '04

Ben Lovvorn serves as the Executive Pastor of First Baptist Church Dallas where he leads and oversees all matters related to the church's ministry, administration, and operation. Lovvorn also leads FBC Dallas' worldwide broadcast ministry, Pathway to Victory, which airs on over 1,000 radio stations and 11,000 cable and satellite systems. Additionally, he serves as the President of First Dallas Media, which owns and operates one of the most listened to Christian radio stations in the country.

Ben graduated from HSU in 2004 with a B.B.A. in business management. He earned a juris doctorate from Baylor University Law School in 2007 and completed a Ph.D. in Christian leadership in ministry from Liberty University in December 2023.

While at HSU, Ben received the Outstanding Management Student Award and the John Wood Award in Business Ethics. He played football for the Cowboys, winning two ASC Championships, and was named to the NCAA ASC All-Academic Team.

Ben and his wife, Parris, have four sons and one daughter.

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

Family NEWS

1960s

Eddie Jenkins '60 B.A. and his wife Martha have moved to Alabama after living in Maryland (in Martha's childhood home) for the past 60 years to be near their son and grandchildren. Eddie retired in 2001 after 40 years as a biochemist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, DC.

John T. Baker '63x and Barbara (Mayes) Baker '65 B.M. have completed 56 years in dental practice. Still working, they continue to enjoy their 5 year old granddaughter Scarlett- the daughter of HSU graduate **Dr. Shawn Baker '96 B.S./'01 D.P.T.** & her husband David Maddox. They still look back on their years at HSU as some of the happiest years of their lives.

Josephine (Linville) Ivey '67 B.S./'97 M.E. was presented the prestigious Riverview High School Legacy Award by the Riverview Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame on September 8, 2023. There have been ten recipients of this award in the school's 65 year history. She was honored for her teaching career, involvement in school activities, and establishing, preserving, and maintaining the school's Archive Room which houses and displays Riverview's legacy of excellence in academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities.

1970s

Janet (McDonald) Fuller '74 B.A. and Lonny Ray Fuller '71 B.B.A. celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on November 17, 2023. They have lived in Oak Cliff, Texas since leaving HSU. They are proud parents of son, Isaac and his wife Mandy, and their two children, and daughter Elizabeth Fuller Sampson. They are members of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Oak Cliff.

1 Brenda (Porter) Calhoun '75 B.S. was recognized for her unwavering dedication to Prosper ISD with the naming of the early childhood school as the Brenda Calhoun Early Childhood School. Prosper ISD School Board President, **Bill Beavers '02 B.B.A.** had the privilege of presenting Brenda this incredible honor.

Morris Johnson '76 B.M. is retiring from full-time ministry, serving the last 6+ years as pastor of the Rochelle Baptist Church in Rochelle, Texas. After 52 years in church music and pastoral ministry, Morris is looking forward to relaxing and working

on his and **Judy (Lenz) Johnson's '74x** retirement home as well as being available for pulpit supply and interim ministry opportunities. They have three adult sons and seven grandchildren.

1980s

Tim Tremaine '81 B.A./'87 M.A. retired from law enforcement in Fort Worth after 34 years of service and moved to Franklin, TN in July of 2022. Tim is now a certified church consultant and would love to help your church overcome difficulties and/or reach the next level of Kingdom impact. Visit www.tntremaine.com/consulting or contact Tim at tim@tntremaine.com.

2 Chuck Davis '84 B.M. and Elaine (Martin) Davis '83 B.B.S. share that their son Daniel Davis will be married to Hannah Fluker in Taneytown, Maryland in May 2024.

Laura (Wilkins) Drumwright '84 B.B.A. is becoming a nationally known watercolor and oil artist. She has been in multiple shows in the Dallas and Central TX area just this year. Because she was again among the 80 artists selected out of over 300 entries she will be awarded Signature Status from Southwestern Watercolor Society, a group of over 400 members nationwide. To achieve this level she has had to be accepted into five National SWS Exhibitions. Her first time to enter was 2017, when she was accepted by the juror. She has also served on the SWS Board. Today she paints en plein air wherever she travels, which is often to Colorado, the Pacific Northwest, and Hawaii. She also has a studio in Dallas, TX and Pagosa Springs, CO. www.lauraleegallery.com/email-newsletter

1990s

Jon Skinner '92 B.B.A. was recently promoted to Regional President for Select Medical, overseeing the Inpatient Rehabilitation Division across the United States. He has served in various executive roles with Select Medical and Baylor Scott & White Health for over 20 years.

David Crowe '94 B.S. retired from public education after 29 years of serving as a high school principal, middle school principal, high school assistant principal, and coach/teacher at both the middle and high school level. He transitioned to a position in the private industry in July of 2023 as the Director of Safety and Loss Management for Ace Mart Restaurant Supply in San Antonio, TX.



Jay Lester '94 B.M./'95 M.M. is excited to begin work as Director of the Cowboy Band and Assistant Professor of Music in January 2024. He recently retired from Abilene ISD as Executive Director of Fine Arts. Jay continues to play trumpet with the Big Spring Symphony, the San Angelo Symphony, and the West Texas Jazz Orchestra, and serves as Executive Secretary for UIL Music Region 6 in which he organizes over 25 music contests for schools in West Texas.

Janna (Walker) Rasmussen '96 B.B.S. along with husband, **Dr. Dan Rasmussen, '96x**, recently moved to Washington. Dan accepted the position of Lead Pastor at Church For All Nations in Tacoma, WA in June 2023 after serving in ministry in Mineral Wells and Graham, TX for many years.

Drew Altom '99 B.B.A. has been promoted to Executive Pastor of Indian Lake Peninsula Church in Hendersonville, TN.

2000s

Daniel Julian '05 B.A. began his own business, Creative TimberWorks, in January 2023. www.CreativeTimberWorks.com

Jill (Singletary) D'Entremont '08 B.A. works for the City of Abilene as the graphic designer and webmaster, and was awarded the General Government Department's Employee of the Year for 2023.

2010s

Samantha (Thompson) Baker '10 B.B.A. received the Abilene Young Professionals Mark Rogers Young Professional of the Year award at the Abilene Chamber of Commerce Celebration event in September 2023.

John Boyd '12 B.A. married Kelly Ann Brown in Vik, Iceland on May 24, 2023. They now reside in Pocatello, Idaho.

Submit your news!

We want to hear updates from the HSU family.

You can submit your news by visiting:

connectnow.hsutx.edu/register/FamilyNews



...or you can scan this QR code.

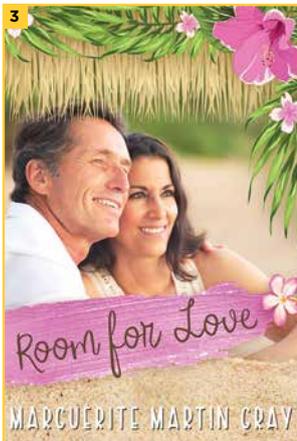
Please note, HSU administration reserves the right to review and include, or reject, any submission made for publication in the *Range Rider*. Also, because of printing limitations and deadlines, inclusion of news and use of submitted photos cannot be assured for any date or particular issue.

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



3 Marguerite (Martin) Gray '15 M.A. recently released her eighth book, *Room for Love*, on July 25, 2023. margueritemartingray.com

Brionna (O'Donald) Pritchard '17 B.B.S./'19 M.A. and Jack Pritchard were married on August 5, 2023 in Buffalo Gap. They are now living in Winters, TX on their family farm where they plant and harvest cotton and wheat as well as run a custom hay baling business for the community.

4 Elizabeth (Burroughs) Sheppard '19 B.S. married Mark Sheppard on September 3, 2023.

2020s

5 Raegan (White) Gonzales '23 B.F.A. and **Adrian Gonzales '24 B.B.S.** were married on May 14, 2023.

Paige (Luney) Hudson '23 B.B.S. and **Alex Hudson '22 B.B.A.** were married on August 6, 2023.

Welcome to the FAMILY

6 Michael Furl '67 B.A. and **Sharon Moe Furl's** granddaughter, **Gabriela Furl** was born on August 29, 2023 to **Dr. Nicholas and Teri Furl** in London, UK.

Judy (Harris) Saunders '71 B.A. and **Buddy Saunders** welcomed their first grandchild, a boy named **Ozzy**, on October 20, 2023.

Shelly (Cobb) Cummings '88 B.E. and **George Cummings** welcomed a sweet baby granddaughter, **Adaline**, on May 11, 2023.

7 Henry James McClurg was born to **Kristina and Kyle McClurg** on August 10, 2023. Grandparents are **Mark Kiser '97 B.B.A.** and **Toi (Wellington) Kiser '09 B.S.N. Dorothy (Houston) Kiser '65 B.S./'92 M.B.A.** is Henry's great-grandmother.

8 Craig Curry '02 B.B.S./'05 M.Div. and **Fallon (Smith) Curry '04 B.A.** welcomed **Theodore William Joseph Curry** on August 17, 2023. Proud older siblings are **Lylah, Shepherd, and Herschel**.

9 Kyle Finleon '06 B.B.A. and **Mariah Finleon** welcomed their third child, **Kolton Booker Finleon** on October 20, 2023.



Debbie (Gallimore) Hicks '06 B.S.N. welcomed granddaughters **Emily Victoria** on October 10, 2021 and **Tabitha Faith** on August 8, 2023.

Kayla (Bender) Rigney '11 B.M. and **Daniel Rigney** welcomed baby boy **Ezra Rex Rigney** on November 14, 2022.

10 Daniel Bertrand '13 B.B.S. and **Jessica (Lauderdale) Bertrand '14 B.B.S.** welcomed **Norah Praise Bertrand** on May 31, 2023. Proud older siblings are **Iris Grace, Stella Joy, and Titus West**.

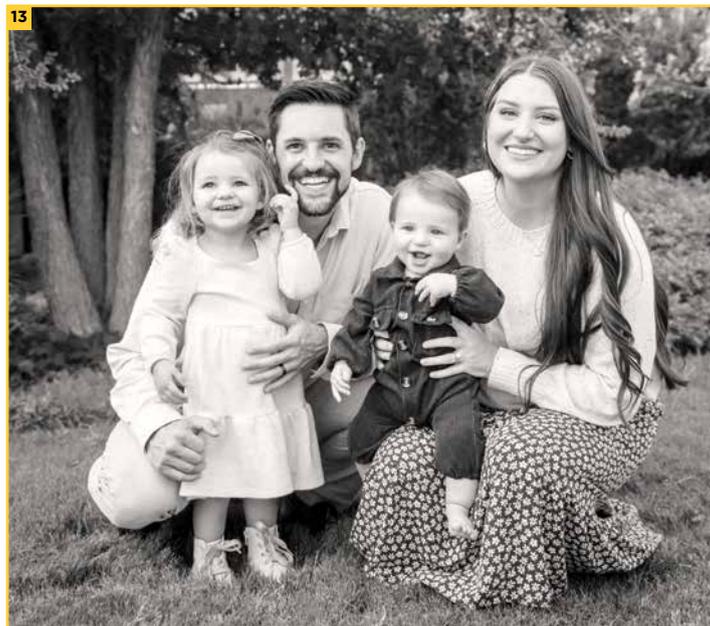
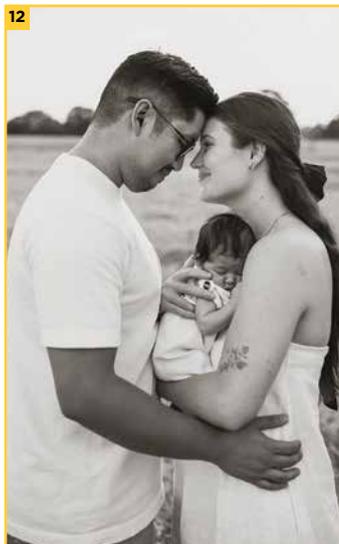
Bethany (Barton) Carroll '13 B.S.N. and **Nathan Carroll** welcomed their third child, **Laurel Elizabeth Carroll** on February 11, 2023.

11 Stephen White '13 B.B.S./'15 D.P.T. and **Ashley (Mensik) White '10 B.B.S.** welcomed their 5th child, **Jackson David** on September 27, 2023. "The steadfast love of the Lord is to a thousand generations to those who love him." Deut. 5:10.



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12 Ashley (Mitchell) Fry '14 B.B.S. and Seth Fry welcomed their second child, Matthew Rand Fry on October 5, 2023.

13 Thomas Kelley '14 B.B.A. and Amber (Ediger) Kelley '14 B.B.S. welcomed daughter James Melrose Kelley on July 24, 2023.

14 Ezra Alexander Malacara was born on August 5, 2023 to Audrey (Heffington) Malacara '15 B.A. and Josh Malacara '13 B.B.S./'15 M.E.

15 Megan (Doe) McKinney '16 B.B.S. and Tye McKinney '15 B.B.S. welcomed baby boy Maddux Lee McKinney on March 20, 2023.

16 Jared Armstrong '18 B.B.A./'19 M.B.A. and Katy (Copeland) Armstrong '17 B.B.S., along with big sister Avery, welcomed Dean Jared Armstrong on January 23, 2023.

17 Campbell Dempsey, son of Rachel (Hanna) Dempsey '18 B.B.S./'20 M.A. and Jordan Dempsey '19 B.S., joined the world on May 18, 2023.

18 Esther Grace Petree was born on September 20, 2023 to Dylan Petree '18 B.B.A. and Abby (McCarty) Petree '19 B.A./'21 D.P.T.

19 Katlynn (Nichols) Welker '19 B.B.S. and Asa Welker '21 B.B.S. welcomed Ellison Kay Welker (6lbs, 10 oz, and 19 inches long) on September 18, 2023.

20 Barrett Wayland Young, son of Kayla (Copher) Young '19 B.F.A. and Drew Young, was born September 20, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. weighing 7 lbs 11 oz and 20 inches long.



HSU Posse Kids Club is BACK! Saddle Up!

The Posse Kids Club is a club for children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends of HSU graduates. This club provides unique opportunities for kids 2 years old through the 8th grade to be involved with Hardin-Simmons University and learn what it means to be a Cowboy.

Membership is \$25 per child and will run from January to December each year. Registration for 2025 will be open in October.

Membership Includes

- Unique HSU T-shirt
- HSU Swag Bag, including coloring pages, stickers, and more
- A card on your child's birthday
- A Christmas card from Hoss
- Access to 3 exclusive Posse
- Kids Club events during
- HSU athletic games (dates and details to come)

Family WE'LL MISS

GRADUATES



MR. BILL WOODS '54 B.M.

June 12, 2023

Bill was a member and drum major of the Cowboy Band and a member of the A Capella Choir. He had a long, distinguished career as a high school band director and served as Director of Bands at HSU from 1981 until 1984, during which the Cowboy Band performed in Los Angeles (twice), in the Cotton Bowl Parade, and toured Europe for 18 days. Bill was a longtime member of the Texas Music

Educators Association (TMEA) and served as President from 1983-1984. Also involved for decades in the Texas Bandmasters Association, he was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 1997.

Survivors include son Bruce Woods and wife Phyllis, son Brad Woods and wife Barbara, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.



SUE (CHERRY) COX '56 B.S.

July 31, 2023

Sue was a member of the Cowgirls and served as the organization's president her senior year. Making lifelong friends with fellow Cowgirls, Sue remained connected individually as well as collectively through the Ex-Cowgirls organization. She had a deep love for HSU, serving on the Board of Development and making numerous trips to campus for Homecoming and other events.

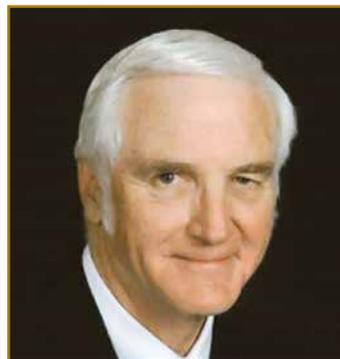
A devoted educator, Sue taught 1st and 2nd graders in the public schools of Fort Worth for 35 years. After retiring, she continued to tutor elementary school students.

Sue is survived by her husband **James Cox '54 B.S.**, daughter Kathy Hood and husband Michael, grandson John Mills and wife Skylar, grandson Cameron Mills and wife Lauren, and great grandchildren Camden and Sawyer.

James and Sue established the James and Sue Cox Endowed Scholarship at HSU to benefit future educators/coaches.

HILTON HEMPHILL '63 B.A.

October 19, 2023



Hilton met Carolyn Armstrong '63 at freshman orientation and after one date, he told his roommate that he would marry Carolyn. Hilton was very involved on campus, serving as President of the Student Body and ROTC Corps Commander among other roles. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in economics, then entered Columbia University in New York City where he earned an M.B.A. in 1964. After graduating from Columbia, Hilton and Carolyn married.

The following year, Hilton reported for duty with the U.S. Army where he served as a Finance Officer. He served two years in the Army, then began working on Wall Street as a securities analyst before becoming Director of Equity Research for the U.S. Trust Company in New York. While they lived in New York, Hilton and Carolyn grew from a couple to a family of six.

After 12 years in NYC the family moved to Houston where Hilton continued to enjoy a highly successful career in the finance world. The family settled permanently in Dallas in 1983, and in 1989 Hilton founded Hourglass Capital Management. While there,

he served as President of the Dallas Association of Investment Analysts and spoke at various financial seminars. He remained at Hourglass until retiring in 2008.

Hilton and Carolyn were active members at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas where he was a deacon, served as Chairman of the Deacons, and taught Sunday School. He was a devoted volunteer involved in prison ministry, a children's home, and other local Christian organizations. Hilton also served on several Texas Baptists (Baptist General Convention of Texas) boards and committees.

Hilton gave generously and actively served HSU, including two nine-year terms as a Trustee, holding the offices of Board Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Budget Committee Chairman. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007, was inducted in the Hall of Leaders in 2015, and received the John J. Keeter Alumni Service Award in 2019.

Hilton was predeceased in death by his father **Lee Hemphill '29 B.A.**, mother **Lunelle (Nix) Hemphill '29 B.A.**, and wife **Carolyn (Armstrong) Hemphill '63 B.S.** Survivors include his sister **Rosa Lee (Hemphill) Prichard '58 B.S./'06 H.D.**, niece **Lou Ann (Prichard) Draper '83 B.E.**, son Harlton Hemphill and wife Wendy, son Hayden Hemphill and wife Mishal, son Clayton Hemphill and wife Teresa, son Carter Hemphill, nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Hilton and Carolyn established the Hemphill Leadership Endowment and the Hilton and Carolyn Hemphill (Endowed) Scholarship at HSU.

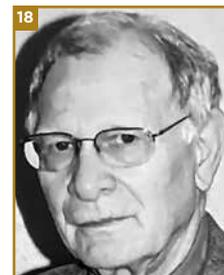
GRADUATES

Ms. Rebecca "Becky" (Beltram-Flores) Kolar '46 B.B.A., 10/4/2023

Dr. Weldon Estes '49 B.A., 9/10/2023

Ms. Bobbie (Bilderback) Keeney '49 B.A., 8/6/2023

Mrs. Mary (Arnett) Richardson '49 B.A., 7/8/2023



18 Dr. Truman "Gene" Spires '49 B.A., 2/10/2023

Mrs. Wanda (Baker) Meador '50 B.A., 10/20/2023

Mrs. Betty (Post) Kelley '51 B.A., 8/12/2023



19 Ms. Wanda Lee '51 B.B.A., 11/8/2023

Mr. Robert "Bob" Moates '51 B.A., 7/23/2022

Rev. James "Jimmy" Hinton '52 B.S., 8/18/2023

Mrs. Marian "Jo" (Stephenson) Russell '52 B.S., 10/13/2023

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GRADUATES

Mrs. Bonnie (Wilkins) Myers '53
M.A., 8/30/2023

Chap. Lewis Burnett '54 B.S.,
11/21/2023

Mrs. Annie (Henley) Burt '54
B.S., 8/18/2023

Mrs. Doris (Green) Freeman '55
B.S., 10/13/2023

Mrs. Melba (Matney) McCall '55
B.B.S., 6/18/2023

Dr. Charles Prewitt '55 B.A.,
8/11/2023

Mrs. Nancy (Cheaney) Mickler
'56 B.S., 9/7/2023

Mrs. Christine "Bobby"
(McPhail) Speer '56 B.S.,
8/31/2023

Mr. Connie Baird '57 B.S.,
7/6/2023

Chap. Bobbie "Bob" Bundick '57
B.A., 6/5/2022

Mr. Jerald Speck '57 B.A.,
8/1/2023

Mr. Robert Green '58 B.A.,
9/7/2023. Survived by wife
Billye Louise (Franklin) Green
'57 B.A.

Col. Max Marks '58 B.B.A.,
8/30/2023. Survived by wife
Mary Lou (Proctor) Marks '57
B.S.

Mr. Wallace "Don" Williams
'58 B.S./'68 M.E., 10/26/2023.
Survived by sister Nelda
Williams '55 B.S.

Mrs. Alice (Garlington) Young
'58 B.S., 5/3/2023

Mr. William "Bill" Young '58
B.B.A., 10/7/2023

Mr. Royce Barnes '59 B.A.,
6/20/2023

Maj. Richard "Dick" Kincaid '59
B.B.A., 6/9/2023

Mr. Bobby Stalcup '59 B.A.,
9/14/2023

Dr. Arthur "Art" Travis '59 B.A.,
8/25/2023

Mr. Larry Lockett '60 B.S.,
6/15/2023. Survived by wife F.
Gay (Nippert) Lockett '60 B.S.,
daughter Shanna Kay (Lockett)
Harris '84 B.E., and daughter
Rhonda (Lockett) Paniszczyn
'86 B.S.

Mr. Bobby "Bob" Sharp '60
B.B.A., 9/3/2023

Lt. Col. Adrian Ashley '61 B.A.,
9/23/2023

Mr. David Kissinger '61 B.S.,
9/1/2023

Mrs. Mary (Ingram) Adams '62
B.B.A., 10/27/2023



20 Mrs. Clarecia (Roe) Jackson
'62 B.B.A., 6/13/2023. Survived
by husband Don Jackson,
daughter Sheri D'Lyn (Jackson)
Wickman '89 BBS, and son-in-
law Brad Wickman '85 B.B.A.

Mrs. Shirley (Fowler) King '62
B.A., 6/28/2023

Mr. Lowell Rowan '62 B.B.A.,
8/31/2023

Mrs. Fay (Ivy) Underwood '62
B.A., 6/24/2023. Survived by
daughter Sarah (Underwood)
Haskins '88 B.A.

Dr. Jerriann Hacker '63 B.A.,
12/25/2022. Survived by
sister Peggy "Janel" (Hacker)
Markwood '57 B.S. and brother-
in-law Lewis Markwood '57 B.M.

Mrs. Marilyn (Berry) Reeves
'65 B.B.A., 11/9/2023. Survived
by brother Bill Berry '62 B.B.A.,
daughter Shila Reeves '01
B.S.N., daughter Kayla (Reeves)
Stephenson '92 B.B.S., and son-
in-law David Stephenson '90
B.B.A./'09 M.B.A.

Mr. William "Bill" Green '66 B.A.,
5/8/2023

Mr. George "Jerald" Haynes '66
B.S., 5/5/2023. Survived by wife
Carolyn (Pieper) Haynes '66 B.S.

Mr. Robert "Butch" Butler '67
B.S., 10/17/2023

Mr. Oliver "Terry" Covey '67
B.A., 8/27/2023

Mr. George "Gary" McBrayer '67
B.A., 7/13/2023

Dr. Brady Vardeman '67 B.S.,
10/27/2023

Mrs. Sue (Chaims) Clair '68 B.A.,
8/24/2023

Mrs. Clotie "Susan" (Hopkins)
Head '68 B.A., 11/13/2023

Mrs. Mary (Teaff) Melton '68
B.S., 9/20/2023. Survived by
husband Thomas "T.C." Melton
'57 B.S./'59 M.A., daughter
Lisa (Melton) Blackwell '92
B.B.S., daughter Katrina
"Katy" (Melton) Miller '86
B.E., son-in-law Phillip Miller
'86 BBA, daughter Debra
(Melton) McFadden, son-
in-law Don McFadden '00
B.B.S., granddaughter Laura
(Miller) Owen '11 B.B.S., and
granddaughter Christina
"Chrissy" (McFadden) Fewell
'05 B.A.

Mr. Luis Picot '68 B.A./'71 MBA,
7/6/2023

Mr. Jack Ryle '68 B.S., 6/24/2023

Mrs. Winifred (Yates) Waller
'68 B.A./'75 M.A., 11/2/2023.
Survived by cousin Britt (Yates)
Jones '84 B.M.

Mr. Roger Weaver '68 B.A.,
8/7/2023

Mrs. Mary (Hillard) DePeri '69
B.S., 7/11/2023. Survived by
husband Frank DePeri '65 B.S.

Mrs. Barbara "Carolyn"
(Beckham) Wiggins '69 M.E.,
11/15/2023

Ms. Linda Caster '70 B.S.,
6/17/2023

Ms. Sandra Estes '70 B.S.,
6/23/2023

Mr. Mark Farquhar '70 B.S.,
7/31/2023

Mrs. Gerre (Colbert) Larned '70
B.S., 9/30/2023

Ms. Katherine "Kathy" Favor '71
B.A., 9/8/2023

Mrs. Alta (Parker) Hinson '71
B.S., 9/20/2023

Mr. David Nowlin '71 B.A.,
6/30/2022

Mrs. Lana (Mims) Chambers '72
M.E., 10/3/2023

Mrs. Lynn (Thompson) Reed '77
B.S., 11/9/2023

Mrs. Bobbidee (Duck)
Thompson '83 B.E./'95 M.A.,
8/7/2023

Mrs. Cheri (French) Graham '85
B.E., 7/3/2023

Mrs. Jill (Reiff) Stovall '85
B.B.S., 6/13/2023. Survived by
mother Barbara "Joan" (Althoff)
Reiff '61x, brother Todd Reiff
'87 B.B.S., sister-in-law Jacki
(Arnett) Reiff '87 B.E., nephew
Jared Reiff '14 B.M./'16 M.M.,
and sister Tomi (Reiff) Robinson
'73x.

Mr. Leland Mitchell '87 B.B.S.,
10/4/2023. Survived by wife
Ruth (Fountain) Mitchell '87
B.A./'89 M.E., sister Lu Anne
(Mitchell) Weaver '82 B.E.,
brother-in-law David Weaver '82
B.S., and brother David Mitchell
'86 B.B.A.

Mrs. Amanda "Mandy"
(Johnson) Hemphill '95 B.B.A.,
7/28/2023

Ms. Lydia (Garcia) Ortiz '97
M.E., 6/16/2023

Mrs. Edwinia (Haynes) Foster '98
B.B.S., 9/23/2023

Mrs. Jennifer "Jenny" (Tandy)
Jimenez '00 B.S., 9/20/2023

Mr. Reynaldo "Rey" Ledezma '09
B.A., 8/2/2023

Mr. Jonathon Slaughter '14
B.B.A./'15 M.B.A., 10/3/2023

FORMER STUDENTS

Mr. Leo "Allen" Baker, 11/7/2023

Mr. Michael "Mike" Brower,
7/25/2023

Mrs. Katherine (Bailey) Byrd,
11/21/2023

Mr. W. "David" Counts,
8/18/2023

Mrs. Betty (Connell) Haywood,
6/12/2023

Mrs. Rita (Shults) Hogue,
9/17/2023

Mrs. Pauline "Polly" (Preston)
Horn, 9/11/2023

Mrs. Betty (Kelton) Howell,
10/9/2023

Mrs. Gladys "Marie" (White)
Hughlett, 10/4/2023

Mrs. Ada "Mickey" (Carter) Ivey,
9/5/2023

Mr. Hugh Jeffrey, 6/20/2023

Mrs. Helen (Burrow) LaDuke,
10/27/2023

Mrs. Shirley (Sproul) McAdams,
6/14/2023

Mrs. Evelyn (Plummer) McClure,
9/17/2023

Dr. Carry "Ed" Spann,
11/11/2023

Mr. Wilbert Washam, 7/20/2023



MR. FRANK LOZA, JR.

November 4, 2023

Frank joined the HSU Police Department in 1982, working his way up through the department to the rank of Police Chief where he served with distinction until retiring in 2018. Over three decades, Frank amassed an impressive collection of police patches from all types of law enforcement agencies near and far, from small towns to major cities. Frank was also proud to share an HSU Police Department badge with alumni and friends who shared his collecting passion.

Survivors include his wife Darlene Loza, son **Frank Loza, III '02 B.B.S.** and wife Jennifer, son **Lance Loza '82 B.B.S.** and wife Rachel, and granddaughter Cora Kathleen Loza.

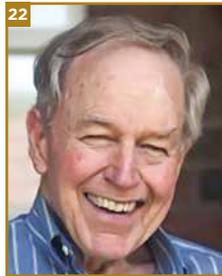
Editor's Note: All cities are in Texas unless otherwise noted. Email addresses are included when possible. Information reflects submissions received from June 13, 2023 - November 26, 2023.

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



21 Mrs. Mary Lynn (Wiman) Cantrell, 10/9/2023

Mr. James "Wayne" Culvahouse, 7/21/2023



22 Dr. James "Jim" Heflin, 10/28/2023

Dr. Houston "Taylor" Rankin, former faculty, 8/10/2023

Read more about Dr. Houston "Taylor" Rankin, beginning on page 62.



23 Mrs. Barbara (Hardy) Sartain, 11/20/2023



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Tell us your thoughts about the *Range Rider*! We want to hear your opinions and suggestions so the *Range Rider* can best serve your interests. Your participation in this survey is entirely voluntary.

Scan this QR code to complete the Hardin-Simmons Range Rider survey.



Range Rider Crossword

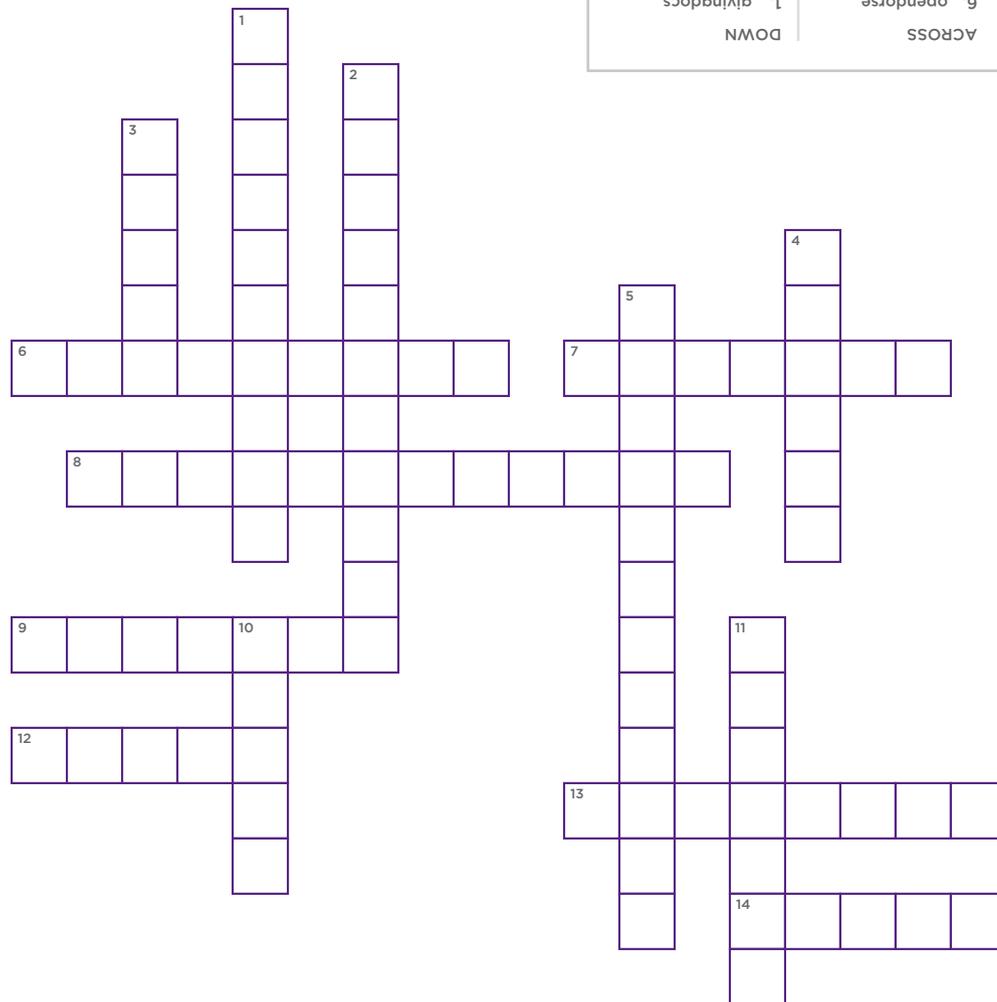
Read through the magazine to find the answers!

ACROSS

6. HSU Athletics has partnered with _____ to provide a name, image, and likeness marketplace
7. Last name of HSU's VP for Finance
8. The string band Dr. Rankin played with
9. Location of weekly Chapel
12. Laura Moore '86 is director of the _____ Museum
13. This men's team won its first ASC Championship since 2004
14. Kids Club, another name for group

DOWN

1. This service, free from HSU, allows you to create a legally valid will
2. Chapel Band's new original song
3. First name of the Alumni Association Board of Directors' president
4. The Skiles Building celebrated this number anniversary
5. The magazine's cover features a futuristic version of this person
10. Air Force Base that collaborated with HSU
11. Name of the popular generative AI used to produce essays



1. givindocs	ACROSS
2. everyreason	6. opendorse
3. chase	7. hassett
4. twenty	8. catclawcreek
5. jamesjimmons	9. logsdon
10. dyess	12. grace
11. chatgpt	13. football
	14. posse
	DOWN



Share the
WORD

WILL YOU GIVE
A BIBLE TO A
STUDENT TODAY?

For \$17.50, help ensure each HSU student has the chance to know God's Word. To make your gift, go online to:

[connectnow.hsutx.edu/
register/Bible2024.](https://connectnow.hsutx.edu/register/Bible2024)



Spring-Summer Semester CALENDER

We hope to see you at one (or more) of these events, located in Abilene and across the state!

Be sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date on other events.



Scan this QR code to see the full HSU events calendar.



Western Heritage Day
Thursday, April 25 | morning

Scholarship Luncheon
Friday, April 26 | 11:45 a.m.

National Day of Prayer Breakfast
Wednesday, May 1 | 7:30 a.m.

Abilene Family Gathering at the Abilene Zoo
Saturday, May 4, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Spring Commencement
Friday, May 10 | morning & afternoon

Houston Family Gathering*
Thursday, May 16 | dinner

Dallas Family Gathering*
Thursday, June 20 | dinner

Fort Worth Family Gathering*
Friday, June 21 | dinner

San Antonio Family Gathering*
Thursday, June 27 | dinner

Austin Family Gathering*
Friday, June 28 | dinner

Tyler Family Gathering*
Thursday, July 18 | dinner

HSU at the Texas Rangers
Friday, July 19 | 7:05 p.m.

Prichard Hall Dedication
Late July, TBD

*Family Gatherings locations TBA



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Front Row: Anna (Porter) Channell '84, Sydney (Bemrick) Griffiths '19
Second Row: Stephen Currie '96, Kaylee (Burns) Channell '12, Chase Crenwelge '18
Third Row: Pam Hailey '19, Mike "Chico" Ukle '87, Lynn (Blyth) Skluzacek '91, Kelsey (Farrington) Berry '13
Back Row: Corbett Boone '00, Rick Brown '81, Barrett Thomas '01
Not Pictured: Jaime (Higginbotham) Aleman '16, Joanna (Horn) Cone '92, Derrick Formby '89, Kristi (Cargill) Kincheloe '99, Laurie (Edwards) McAdams '88, Jan Meares '75, Joseph Randell '11, Chelsea (Skinner) Sims '13.



Hello! This is Chase Crenwelge '18, and I am the 2024 President of the HSU Alumni Association Board of Directors. The HSU AAB is an alumni-run board with the primary goals of encouraging alumni engagement, assisting with alumni events such as Homecoming, and creating projects to benefit Hardin-Simmons, its current

students, and alumni. The Board meets four times a year and volunteers at various events throughout the spring and fall semesters.

2023 was an exciting year! We launched four specific initiatives I want to highlight for you.

1. HSU Flag Campaign—Beginning in July, HSU themed flags became available, giving alumni and friends the opportunity to show their school spirit at home, work, or even the lake. Each purchase supported the Alumni Legacy Endowed Scholarship, which is awarded to children and grandchildren of HSU graduates.



3'x5' Flag \$35



Scan this QR code to order one for yourself.



Garden Flag \$15
 *Stand not included

2. Professional Networking Campaign

—The Board is currently collecting information from alumni across all professions who are interested in assisting our students and recent graduates in their career endeavors. Our vision is to create a centralized database where students and alumni can connect to one another in industry and geographic area, allowing virtual or in-person meetings. We believe the strong connection HSU provides can be leveraged to help students successfully begin their careers. In turn, we hope that this can create strong relationships among alumni and with HSU for generations to come.



Scan this QR code to sign up for the HSU professional network database.

3. Posse Kids Club—In October, we re-launched the Posse Kids Club. This club is for children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends of HSU graduates. See the Posse Kids Club ad on page 53.

4. Chocolate Truffles—The Board provided the opportunity for alumni and friends to purchase HSU branded, Texas-shaped chocolate truffles as Christmas gifts or as a treat for themselves. Proceeds from the chocolate sales benefitted the Alumni Legacy Endowed Scholarship.

We are excited for what 2024 has in store and the opportunities

to make further positive impact for HSU, its students, and alumni. Please make sure to check your email and social media for upcoming initiatives launched by the Board and how you can participate. If you have ideas for future projects or are interested in joining the Board, please email me at chasecrenwelge@gmail.com or the alumni engagement office at alumni@hsutx.edu.

Go Cowboys!

Chase A Crenwelge

Matching GIFTS

Did you know you can double your donation to Hardin-Simmons University through our matching donation program?

More than 26 million people work for companies with employee matching gift programs. Gifts from employees' spouses and retirees may also qualify for a match.

When you request a donation match for your gift to Hardin-Simmons University, you can increase the effect of your investment in HSU's students.

Learn more about your employer's matching gift programs by visiting hsutx.edu/alumni/matching-gifts/ or scanning the QR code below.



Supporting you IN ALL PHASES OF LIFE

HSU is offering our family and friends two estate planning tools, GivingDocs and an Estate Planning Course, for FREE!

GivingDocs allows you to create a legally valid will to protect the people and communities you love in just a few minutes. Write your free will at plannedgiving.hsutx.edu/giving-docs or scan the QR code.



Learn how to keep more of what's yours and give to those you love and support by downloading a personal estate planning course lesson book from HSU's Planned Giving website. Just scan the QR code.



REMEMBERING TAYLOR RANKIN

Dr. Taylor Rankin embodied the essence of Hardin-Simmons University's mission statement, which is rooted in providing excellence in education, enlightened by Christian faith and values. His impact as a professor and in his personal life allowed him to be a catalyst for excellence.

In his classroom, Dr. Rankin refused to settle for anything less than the best from his students. His daughter, Rachael Bein '80, witnessed firsthand the passion and dedication he poured into his teaching. "My father knew from personal experience the value of education and the cost and investment necessary to fully benefit from it," she shared. "He passed this value on to his students by expecting their best, which he measured not by grades, but by engagement, effort, and understanding."

Dr. Rankin's legacy is not just in shaping academic achievements but in the lives of those he taught, leaving an indelible mark on the HSU community.

Leading as the department head of biology, his true passion was in the world of botany, a love that resonated throughout his career. Dr. Chris McNair '84, current HSU Provost and former biology professor, fondly recalls a conversation with Dr. Rankin about his love for the study of plants. When asked why he was so captivated by botany, Dr. Rankin, with that trademark grin of his, responded, "Plants aren't going anywhere, man."

His devotion to plants extended beyond the classroom to the herbarium. His botanical "man-cave," as Dr. McNair referred to it, was complete with the distinct aroma of mothballs that greeted anyone entering. It was here, Dr. Rankin

meticulously collected, studied, pressed, cataloged, and preserved plants, creating a legacy beyond the textbook.

In 2000, the Holland School of Sciences and Mathematics acknowledged Dr. Rankin's outstanding service, and as a testament to his uncompromising commitment to HSU, the university named the greenhouse in his honor.

One of Dr. Rankin's most prized accomplishments was his pivotal role as the pre-health advisor where he personally undertook the task of guiding students to their future career paths. Dr. McNair, who formed a friendship of over 43 years with Dr. Rankin, experienced his guidance firsthand as a student and later as a coworker. Reflecting on the impact Dr. Rankin has made, Dr. McNair stated, "There are literally hundreds of professionals in those fields today who can thank Dr. Rankin for writing their letters of recommendation, making endless phone calls, sending emails, and helping them get shadowing experiences to prepare for the next step of their academic careers."

From home, Dr. Rankin's daughter, Rachael, observed her father's commitment to the classroom. "Our family saw the time and energy he put into preparing lectures and labs that would be interesting and informative for his students. We saw the care and commitment he put into building relationships with his students, advising

them not just for the short term, but in terms of decisions and values that would be important for the rest of their lives."

Dr. George Newman, a former professor of biology at HSU and former Board Chair for the Board of Trustees, vividly recalls his first encounter with Dr. Rankin during the interview process. "We took Taylor to lunch at Underwood's to get to know him when he came to interview and to give feedback to the administration. We were sold on Taylor from that moment on. He was congenial, a solid botanist with ecological and research interests, and a down-to-earth personality. Being strong Christians, he and his wife, Libby, fit the position superbly. This tall Tennessean had a folksy personality that made anyone in his presence feel comfortable." It was his unique combination of academic prowess and personal warmth that endeared Dr. Rankin to the HSU community and made him a beloved figure in the hearts of students and colleagues.

Beyond his dedication to teaching, Dr. Rankin found immense joy in a diverse array of hobbies. These include tennis, which he continued playing past the age of 85, classic cars, music, and family. Amongst his greatest joy was his family.



Dr. Taylor Rankin
with his wife, Libby.

His son, Andrew Rankin '85, not only took classes from his father but also worked alongside him. Andrew shared, "By the time I graduated, I realized that he was an intellectual force, a wise counselor, a respected colleague, and an example of Christlikeness. My life was transformed during my years at HSU, and my relationship with my father was changed as well."

His other love landed in the realm of music. In the long-time tradition of Western Heritage Day, Dr. Rankin would showcase his musical talents as a member of Catclaw Creek, a string band. Fellow bandmate, Jim Jones '75, talked about his time with Dr. Rankin in the band, "Catclaw Creek provided him an outlet to pursue the mountain dulcimer as a hobby and a way to engage other musicians in the music he loved." Dr. Rankin's love for learning extended seamlessly into his passions, showcasing his lifelong commitment to his personal growth and curiosity.



At Western Heritage Day, Dr. Rankin and the string band, Catclaw Creek, showcased their musical talents.

Dr. McNair captures the essence of Dr. Rankin's spirit, "I like to think that Taylor Rankin is driving a new 1957 Corvette to a tennis match at Wimbledon, where he will play better than Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, and Bjorn Borg, on his way to identify a new vascular plant species."

Dr. Rankin's memory and impact lives on not just in the world of academics but in the hearts of all those who were transformed by his wisdom, warmth, and enthusiasm for the world around him.



CHAPEL IMPACT: Exciting Chapel Changes

by Shelli Presley

Join us in chapel worship:

9:30-10:10 a.m. Tuesdays *and* Thursdays
in Logsdon Chapel

Live stream on our YouTube channel.



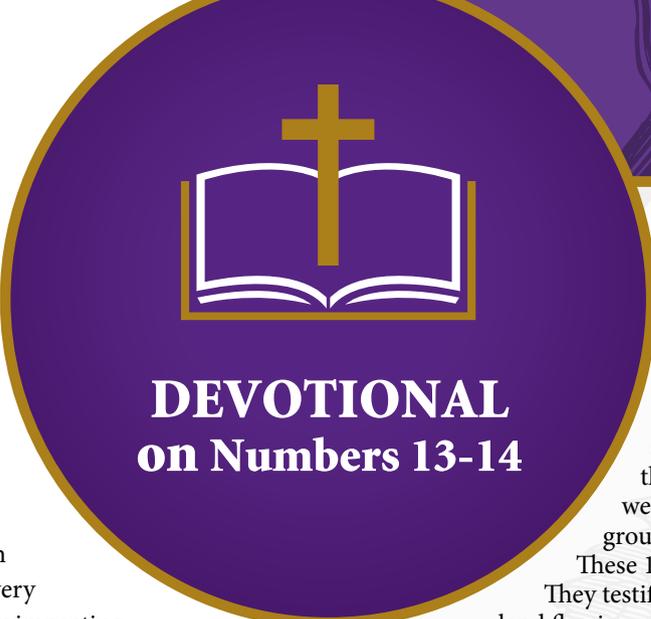
Beginning in the fall 2023 semester, the location and frequency of weekly chapel were changed. Now meeting twice per week and in Logsdon Chapel, the campus comes together to worship and celebrate God's word and impact. Our deepest heart-cry each week is that our students encounter the Lord, that they feel His presence and love for them, and that they can come, worship, and adore our great God. We know as we cultivate a space for that to happen, our students will want to come to chapel. They will walk away strengthened and encouraged in body, mind, soul, and spirit. In this way, we will move from a culture of "I have to go get chapel credits" to people wanting to be present to enjoy a time of rest and refocus on what is most important.

On Tuesdays, the campus comes together to study the word of God with the assistance of a guest speaker. Then, on Thursdays, we invite someone from our faculty, staff, student body, or our alumni to come and share their spiritual journey and how God has or is moving in their lives. These testimonies have been an incredible addition to the spiritual fabric of our community.

There is so much power in people opening up and sharing vulnerably the journey they have walked personally with their Lord. We have had so many tell us how encouraged they have been to hear from others and learn from their stories.

One of the most powerful things about this process has been students coming to realize that they are not alone





in their struggles or in their feelings. As people share testimonies, it is helpful for others to hear how others have walked with God through hard times. Or how God has moved in power to bless and care for them. We will continue testimonies on Thursdays because of how very encouraging and profoundly impacting it has been both for those giving their testimony and for those hearing it.

The word tells us that we *overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony* Rev. 12:11. Our theme this year for chapel has been “Strength.” Hearing one another’s testimonies in chapel this semester has done just that—strengthened our faith that our God is alive and well and moving among His people.

It is an exciting time twice a week in Logsdon to reset and refocus our hearts and minds on the eternal and what matters most. It is our prayer that chapel here at HSU will plant seeds as well as bless and encourage our students, faculty, staff, and alumni in their spiritual journey with God. If you are ever on campus, please come and join us in Logsdon! We would love to share this special time with you.



Numbers chapters 13-14 teach a powerful lesson that can transform our lives as we extract the revelation it holds for us as believers.

In the story, Moses called 12 leaders to enter the promised land. Generations of Israelites had held onto faith believing they would one day see this land. These were the 12 leaders who stood on the ground of what others merely saw by faith.

These 12 saw it and experienced it in the flesh. They testified to the truth that this land truly was a land flowing with milk and honey just as God had said.

They even carried the evidence of this back to show Moses and the people. Grapes so large they had to be carried on poles with men working together to bring them back.

All 12 saw the evidence of God’s faithfulness to be true to His people and true to His word. However, in the story, all 12 also saw the giants in the land, the barriers, and opposition that could keep them from taking hold of the promise that was rightfully theirs. Imagine being the generation invited to enter and take hold of His promises.

The story reveals that two, Joshua and Caleb, believed God. They took Him at his Word. They trusted His power and His faithfulness to be enough over any opposing evidence that stood in the way of the promise. They spoke and testified to what God had said. They believed and encouraged God’s people to think and act on that faith.

The other 10 saw evidence but doubted. They focused on the giants and spread a bad report to the people. Much oppression, fear, and even death ensued because they did not believe God or trust what He had spoken. A whole generation did not enter and experience the promise of what God had for them because of disbelief. Two leaders had their life prolonged to see the promise land and their generational line was honored in receiving the promise God had given. All because they believed and were in agreement with God.

We have the same invitation today in our own lives. We can look at culture, circumstances, or personal giants and focus there or, we can exalt God, His power, the promises of His word over us as His children. We can speak in faith and encourage others to believe God. We can take hold of the authority given to us IN CHRIST, speaking, believing, living, and appropriating the promises of God in our families, work places, churches, communities, and our nation!

Let us be a people who know God’s promises through His word. Let us be His people who invoke FAITH and empower others to take hold of all that Christ Jesus has opened to us. Let us live our lives in FAITH demonstrating God’s goodness to others. For it is said, “The righteous will live by faith.” Hebrews 10:38



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