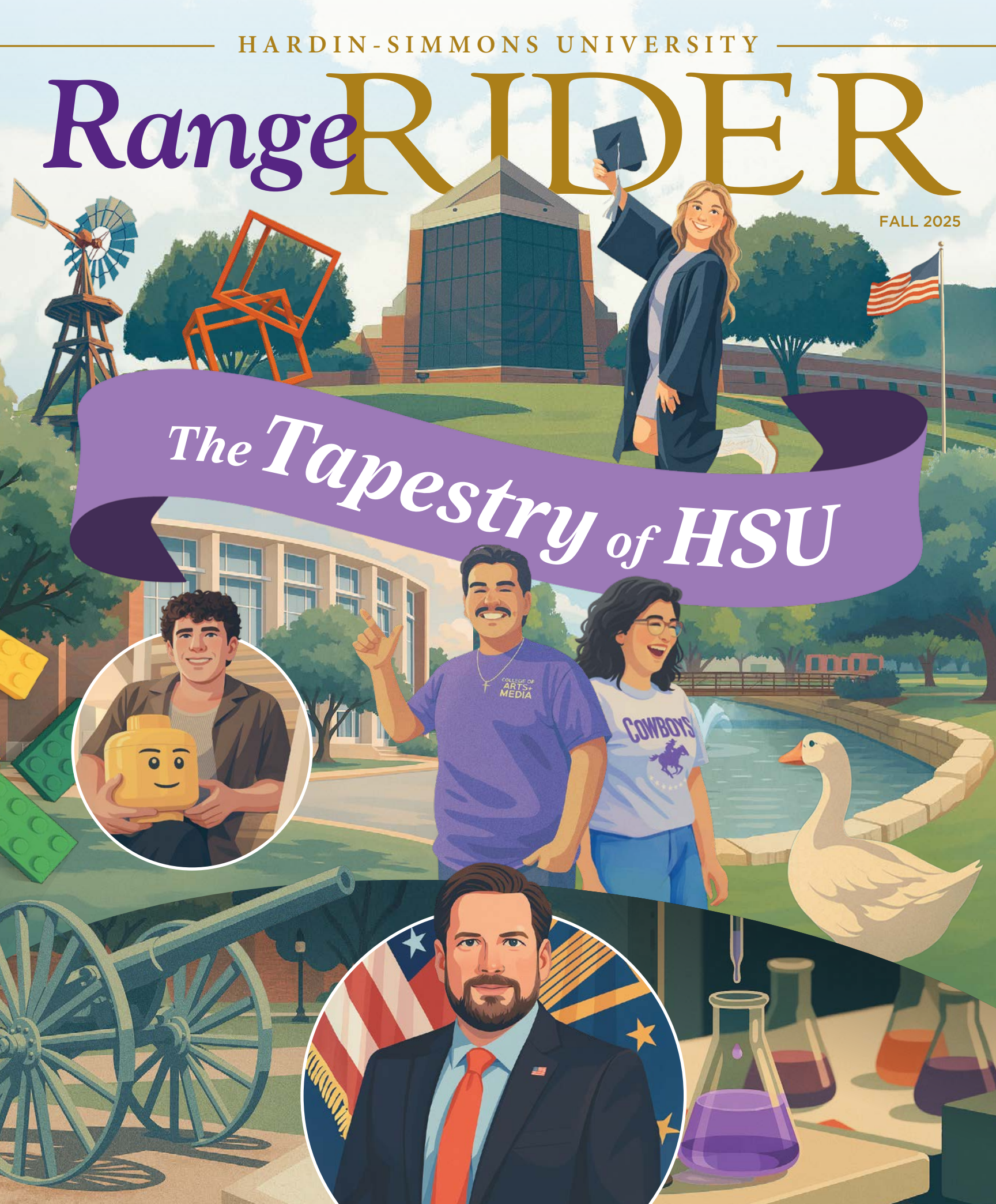


HARDIN-SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

RangeRIDER

FALL 2025

The Tapestry of HSU





Since 1891, HSU has been weaving a legacy of Kingdom impact, where academic excellence and Christian faith are interlaced. Each graduate is a unique thread, adding depth, color, and purpose to a story that reaches far beyond our campus.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

At Hardin-Simmons University, we often speak of a calling. Each one is distinct, shaped by faith, scholarship, service, and story.

You can see it across campus every day: a first-generation student mentoring peers, a veteran pursuing a degree with quiet determination, a student-athlete leading in academics and student government. Together, these lives are weaving something lasting.

And this year, our tapestry is growing.

Enrollment and student persistence are rising, thanks to investments in academic coaching, advising, student life, and scholarships. Students are thriving and becoming who they're called to be.

That momentum is also reflected in our recognition as a 2025–26 College of Distinction, with honors in Christian education, career development, military support, and Texas higher education. HSU is one of just five Texas universities named an Affordable College of Distinction, affirming our mission to offer accessible, Christ-centered education.

But the real story isn't in the accolades. It's in the students who come here and find where they belong. Each one adds something irreplaceable to this university, and it's our shared calling to help them become who God created them to be.

That's why we remain focused on:

- Academic programs that prepare students for purpose-filled careers
- Financial access that opens doors
- Support that helps students thrive
- A Christ-centered community that shapes both heart and mind

This fall, we also celebrate the return of the Fletcher Lecture Series, welcoming thought leaders like Jim “Mattress Mack” McIngvale, Mayor Jeff Williams, and Justice Craig Enoch for meaningful conversations on faith, leadership, and service. I hope you'll join us.

Our mission is real, and our momentum is strong.

Thank you for being part of it.
Serving Him as President,



Eric I. Bruntmyer, J.D./M.B.A.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Fletcher Lecture series.



in this magazine:



Range Rider is the official publication of Hardin-Simmons University for its alumni, staff, and friends, and is published biannually as a joint effort between HSU's Office of University Marketing, Engagement and Advancement, Athletics, and the President's Office. Postage paid at Abilene, Texas, and additional mailing offices. Opinions expressed in *Range Rider* are those of the individual authors and subjects and do not necessarily reflect the views of the university administration, faculty, staff, or students. No portion of this magazine may be reprinted without express written consent from the editor at rangerider@hsutx.edu. If you have any questions or concerns, please call: (325) 670-1317

6 **On the Forty Acres**
The Dean's List
Between the Field & Frame

16 **Great are Thy Victories**
10 for 10 – Weaving Excellence
Former Players Return Home to Lead Championship Teams

26 **Long Live Thy Noble Cause**
Academic Foundation Impact: Beyond the Spectrum
Scholarship Impact: Interwoven Moments
SpeakLIFE - Behrens Chapel Auditorium
Giving Societies

40 **Connected for Life**
What will you miss after leaving Hardin-Simmons?
HSU is calling - Are You Coming Home?
Golden Reunion
Saddle up for Cowboy's Raise Gold
From Beanie to Pentagon
Family News
Friends We'll Miss
Awards

62 **We'll Sing of All Your Praises True**
Devotional
LiveSent

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Your voice helps shape the *Range Rider* magazine. Take a few moments to share your thoughts — what you love, what you'd like to see more of, and how we can make each issue even better. Scan the QR code below.



SHARE YOUR HSU NEWS

From milestones to memorials, we want to honor and share the moments that matter to our HSU family. Submit your updates to be included in the next *Range Rider*.



HELP SHAPE THE NEXT ISSUE

Your memories and stories bring the *Range Rider* to life. Look for QR codes throughout the magazine to share your HSU moments — you might be featured in the next issue!

CONTRIBUTORS

SENIOR EDITOR
Kacie Eurek '17/'19
Director for University Marketing

ALUMNI EDITOR
Laurie Harris '13
Director of Alumni Engagement

EDITOR
Laurin Kocurek
Communications and Content Strategy Specialist

ATHLETICS EDITOR
Chad Grubbs '02
Associate Athletic Director External Relations

CREATIVE EDITOR
Todd Clower '99/'25
Art Director and Senior Graphic Designer

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS
Dr. Vicki House '01/'10/'22
Vice President for Engagement and Advancement

CREATIVE TEAM
Fernando Hernandez '14
Graphic Designer

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

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Emily Garner
Visual Media Coordinator

Shelli Presley
Director of Spiritual Formation

ADVANCEMENT EDITOR
Dr. Vivian Bland
Office Manager, Campaign Coordinator

STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS
Malachi Daniels
Student Writer

Hailey Erlund
Student Graphic Designer

The Dean's List:

Threads of Leadership

At Hardin-Simmons University, our academic tapestry is strengthened by the leadership of six exceptional deans. Together, they steward our mission with wisdom, purpose, and a Christ-centered heart for students.

This year, we welcome three new deans to the team, each bringing fresh vision, deep experience, and a passion for shaping the next generation. Alongside their colleagues, they weave a strong and faithful foundation for every academic journey at HSU.

From health professions to liberal arts, business to arts & media, theology to STEM, these leaders reflect the vibrant and enduring fabric of our university.



Dr. Doug McIntyre
*Kelley College of Business
and Professional Studies*

His Mission:

To develop Christ-centered business leaders who excel in ethical decision-making, pursue innovation, and transform communities through faith, integrity, and purpose-driven leadership.

His Experience:

23 years of business experience as a former banker, now using real-world knowledge to help students understand what the business world is truly like.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."
— Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

Most Surprising Fact:

He rode bulls for 15 years, and it took him nine years to earn his Ph.D.!

Campus Love:

Just about anywhere!

Passion:

Roping steers; anything with horses.

Student Hope:

Persistence and grit

His Vision for Students:

"You can do hard things, accept challenges, and never quit. Hard things and challenges produce endurance, creativity, and grit."



Dr. Jill Jumper, '02/'08
College of Health Professions

Her Unexpected Journey:

"It happened very, very slowly — and truthfully, I didn't see this coming. However, looking back, I can see how God was there every second, guiding me step by step."

Her Joy:

Watching God use the gifts of COHP faculty to support students, seeing students mature in Christ, and watching graduates live out servant leadership in their work.

Recent Adventure:

She and her husband, Alan, spent 18 months building a barndominium outside Abilene — less than 1,300 square feet, but "we know where every nail and board is placed!"

Greatest Joy:

Time with adult children and grandchildren.

Student Hope:

Faithful

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."
— Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Her Prayer for Students:

"First, I want them to know the Lord and be His hands and feet within their own communities. Second, I want them to see HSU as part of their family."



Dr. Jacob West, '04/'07/'13
Logsdon School of Theology

His Heart:

The dean of Logsdon holds an administrative and teaching role rooted in a pastor's heart. We educate students with our eyes on Jesus.

Early Signs:

"As a six-year-old, I recall organizing curriculum and content for my four-year-old brother. I also recall his strong resistance!"

"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."
— Colossians 3:2 (NIV)

Campus Haven:

Richardson Library

Recreation:

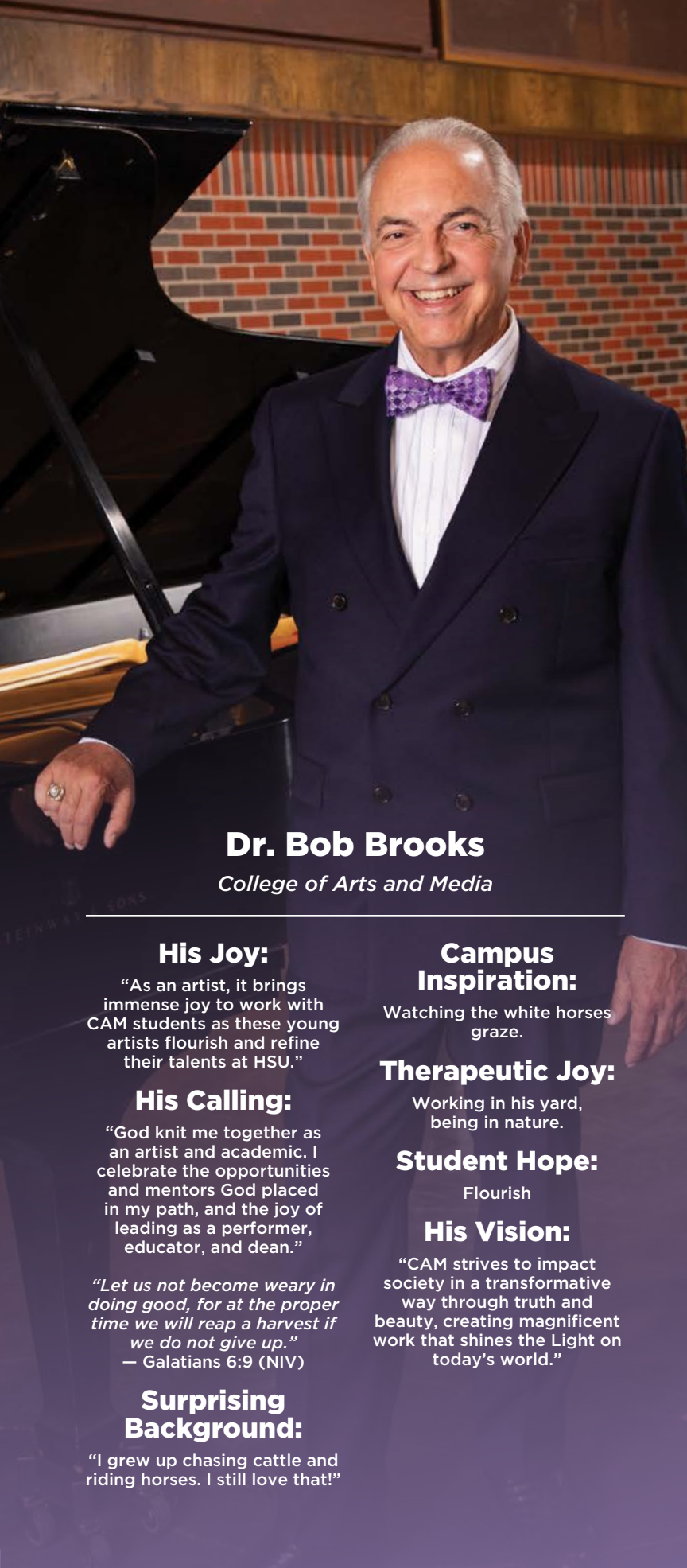
Golf

Fun Fact:

He is a twin.

His Vision:

"The labor of Logsdon's faculty translates into students living out a call. If students are equipped and we are faithful, the joy will be immeasurable."



Dr. Bob Brooks

College of Arts and Media

His Joy:

“As an artist, it brings immense joy to work with CAM students as these young artists flourish and refine their talents at HSU.”

His Calling:

“God knit me together as an artist and academic. I celebrate the opportunities and mentors God placed in my path, and the joy of leading as a performer, educator, and dean.”

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”
— Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

Surprising Background:

“I grew up chasing cattle and riding horses. I still love that!”

Campus Inspiration:

Watching the white horses graze.

Therapeutic Joy:

Working in his yard, being in nature.

Student Hope:

Flourish

His Vision:

“CAM strives to impact society in a transformative way through truth and beauty, creating magnificent work that shines the Light on today’s world.”



Dr. Matt Jackson

Holland School of Sciences and Mathematics

His Identity:

“We are the math and science nerds of the Cowboy team! STEM is a rapidly growing field in industry and at HSU, representing opportunities in science, technology, and engineering.”

His Conviction:

“If our Christian faith isn’t distinctly saturating all aspects of what we do at HSU, then we are no different from secular schools — and are failing at our calling.”

“But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.”
— Philippians 3:7 (NIV)

Hidden Talent:

Plays electric guitar on his church’s praise team.

Campus Inspiration:

The classroom

Recreation:

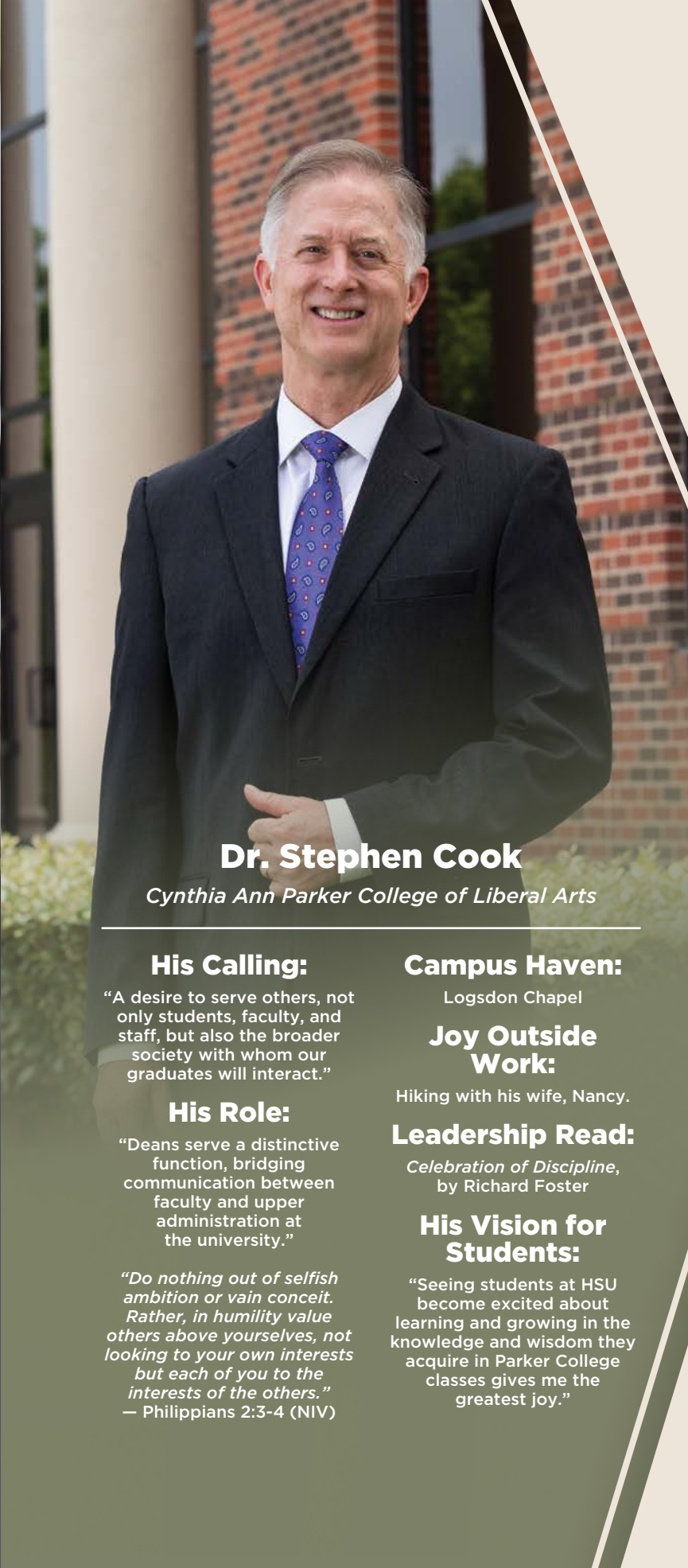
Cycling

Student Hope:

Fervency

His Vision:

“We are one of a small number of Christian institutions heavily engaged in STEM education. These investments have the potential to be transformative to the spiritual life of these industries.”



Dr. Stephen Cook

Cynthia Ann Parker College of Liberal Arts

His Calling:

“A desire to serve others, not only students, faculty, and staff, but also the broader society with whom our graduates will interact.”

His Role:

“Deans serve a distinctive function, bridging communication between faculty and upper administration at the university.”

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”
— Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

Campus Haven:

Logsdon Chapel

Joy Outside Work:

Hiking with his wife, Nancy.

Leadership Read:

Celebration of Discipline,
by Richard Foster

His Vision for Students:

“Seeing students at HSU become excited about learning and growing in the knowledge and wisdom they acquire in Parker College classes gives me the greatest joy.”

United in Prayer

— for HSU —

Dr. McIntyre:

That hard things and challenges produce endurance, creativity, and grit. That the Lord will bless our faculty and staff and change our students’ lives and trajectory.

Dr. Jumper:

That God would use HSU for the growth of His kingdom.

Dr. West:

That we see each day and each person as a gift from God.

Dr. Brooks:

Almighty God, we ask for provision and protection over Hardin-Simmons in the days ahead.

Dr. Jackson:

That we stay true to our calling as a Christ-centered institution and hold sacred our responsibility to prepare young people to take the gospel into their careers.

Dr. Cook:

That we continue to develop as a university known for providing high-quality, personalized education, enlightened by the Christian faith, drawing eager students to join us.

BETWEEN THE FIELD & FRAME

Nick Sarandis weaves football, filmmaking, and faith into the tapestry of his calling.

BUILT BRICK BY BRICK

Poet Gregory Corso once said, “If you have a choice of two things and can’t decide, take both.”

That philosophy defines Nick Sarandis, a Hardin-Simmons University sophomore balancing football and filmmaking. His God-given talents have flourished in a community that embraces both — one more unique thread in HSU’s vibrant tapestry.

Born in Delaware and raised in Southern California, Nick grew up playing sports, writing novels, and producing backyard films that sparked something deeper.

“The creative arts have always enamored me. I tried to figure out how to turn my passion into a career and thought, what if I started a Lego YouTube channel?” Nick recalled.

At 13, Nick turned his bedroom into a stop-motion animation studio with carefully arranged sets and the most affordable filming equipment his pocket money could buy. The YouTube channel Nick Bricks was born.

In 2020, Nick combined his editing and cinematography skills to launch the Lego Dude Perfect series — a stop-motion animated recreation of the popular YouTube group Dude Perfect.

“The first video received 80,000 views overnight, and I was blown away,” Nick said. “Every video onward gained more traction, and Nick Bricks grew tremendously, eventually being monetized by Google in 2021.”

The concept required countless hours and thousands of images to achieve perfect shots. His dedication to quality over quantity paid off. Nick reached more than 40 million impressions and 22,000 subscribers. He secured brand partnerships with major companies, including Tommy Nelson Publishing, and was featured by Dude Perfect, establishing credibility in family entertainment.

“For me, it all comes back to Christ. God is the center of my success.”



FAITH STEPPING INTO THE FRAME

At 15, Nick and his family moved to Houston. Continuing his athletic legacy, Nick immersed himself in Texas high school football, and life became an orchestra of competing demands. Mornings started with weight training, then classes, practice, and hours of editing. His days stretched from 6:00 a.m. past midnight, and weekends were filled with video shoots and edits.

Amid success and a sleep-deprived lifestyle, a greater journey was unfolding.

“Among the challenges, culture shifts and influences, God was working in my heart,” Nick said. “I came to hear the gospel message in a way I’d never heard before, and I found my identity in Christ.”

God’s plan for Nick’s life was taking shape. At 16, he was hired as a video producer for the national publishing

brand Brave Books. There, he directed media campaigns featuring Kirk Cameron, the Robertson family from “Duck Dynasty,” and Bethany Hamilton.

“It’s an amazing experience working with such incredible people,” Nick said. “Not just because they are genuine, but I’m privileged to help them share Christ-centered messages with millions of families. None of this would have happened without God stepping into the frame of my life.”

WOVEN INTO THE HSU TAPESTRY

During Nick’s senior year, his college plans focused on film and television production. While applying to universities, an exciting opportunity appeared: a college football offer from HSU.

“When I first visited campus, I felt an immediate sense of belonging,” he said. “The HSU football culture

stood out because of team unity and coaches who invested in their players on and off the field. I saw this as a testament to their history of success, sealing the deal for me.”

During his first semester at HSU, Nick learned that one of his stop-motion animated short films, “Roses,” was nominated for Best Animated Film at the All-American High School Film Festival — the world’s largest student film festival.

The festival’s timing conflicted with HSU’s push for its first 10-0 season, but head coach Jesse Burleson encouraged him to pursue the opportunity.

“Midway through our conversation, Coach stopped me and said, ‘You’re going to go to this.’ I was stunned,” Nick recalled. “He said, ‘This is a big deal, and we’re in full support. You need to take this opportunity.’”

On Oct. 21, Nick was flown to New York City, where his film was showcased on a world-class stage. “Roses” premiered at the AMC

theater in Times Square and was featured during the Teen Indie Awards at the Kings Theatre in Brooklyn.

“I never expected God to use this project to accelerate my career. None of it would have happened without the support of Coach Burleson, Coach Mitchell, and every Cowboy brother back home. Not many are given the privilege to step off a plane from New York City right onto the football field the next morning,” Nick said.

CREATING WITH A HIGHER CALLING

Currently, Nick is collaborating with HSU President Eric Bruntmyer, Dean of the College of Arts and Media Bob Brooks, Associate Professor of Theatre Victoria Spangler, and Director of Media Services Greg Hollabaugh on an ambitious project: a live-action remake of his film “Roses.” The project aims to showcase student talent while bringing national attention to the university’s emerging media program.

For Nick, true success is using film as a platform to impact audiences worldwide.

“For me, it all comes back to Christ,” he said. “God is the center of my success. Without Him, I wouldn’t have the work ethic or opportunities I’ve been given. I don’t want my name in lights — that’s temporary. What lasts are the things we dedicate to something bigger than ourselves.”

Nick has found the rare place where passion, purpose, and faith intersect — and his story, like so many others, is now beautifully woven into HSU’s tapestry.



CHECK OUT “NICK’S BRICKS” ON YOUTUBE



*What was your
most challenging
class at HSU?*

The one that stretched you the most, but you're grateful for today? Every challenge is a tightly pulled thread that ultimately strengthens the fabric of our learning journey.

Email your response to marketing@hsutx.edu



Each October, during National Chemistry Week, Dr. Jemima Ingle, associate professor of chemistry, and HSU students bring science to life at the annual Chemistry Magic Show.



GREAT ARE
THY VICTORIES



FOR

Weaving Excellence

Like threads in a masterful tapestry, Hardin-Simmons athletic achievements weave together a portrait of Cowboy and Cowgirl excellence. At the core stands HSU's partnership with the American Southwest Conference (ASC) — the foundation of our competitive framework. HSU celebrates the ASC's future following a 10-year agreement that ensures stability and growth. The conference offers student-athletes opportunities to compete at a higher level while upholding the academic rigor, faith, and character that define the HSU experience.



>>> 1 Title Claimed, History Made

The Cowboy basketball team secured its third ASC championship, then made a historic run to the NCAA Sweet 16 — just the second appearance in the program's Division III history.

>>> 2 Fall Sports Reload

Football, men's soccer, and women's soccer return veteran rosters after dominant fall seasons that saw all three programs claim ASC titles and NCAA Division III tournament bids. Cowboy football brings back at least 30 seniors and enters as the favorite for a third straight conference crown. Both soccer teams aim to build on last year's championship runs. Volleyball returns five of six starters and gains leadership from five seniors.



>>> 3 Track and Field Momentum

Track and field brings back key contributors poised for bigger things. All-conference cross-country runner Aiden Seekins looks to build on a solid freshman track season, and Gunner Helm aims for his third consecutive outdoor nationals berth. The Cowboys also return from posting the nation's best combined high jump distance. Adding to the program's success, Garret Rothans goes home as a first-team All-American, making him the fifth Cowboy track All-American in total, including the three indoor track honorees.





>>> 4 Burleson Joins the Century Club

Head Cowboy football coach Jesse Burleson notched his 100th career win, joining an elite group of just 22 Division III coaches with 100 career wins.

>>> 5 Holland Stitches Her Name Into History

Kylah Holland secured her name in conference history by breaking the ASC 6K championship record with a time of 22:50.



>>> 6 Undefeated and Unmatched

Payne Smith capped an undefeated ASC regular season at No. 1 singles by earning Conference Most Valuable Player honors. He was also recognized for his character and performance with selections to the ASC Sportsmanship Team and First Team All-ASC.



>>> 7 Basketball Rising

Basketball brings back strong rosters anchored by ASC Freshman of the Year winners Matthew Alexander (men) and Jacqueline Berry (women). Berry's National Freshman of the Year recognition underscores the program's rising profile. With this young talent returning alongside veteran players, both teams are positioned for conference title runs and NCAA Tournament berths.

>>> 8 Diamond Success

HSU's diamond sports are poised for success. The Cowgirls tied the school record with 32 wins, spending time in the national top 25, while Cowboy baseball finished strong with a solid ASC Tournament showing. Coach Mitch Wilson's young squad adds new talent next season.



>>> 10 Taking Their Game Global

Four Cowgirls earned spots on the elite 17-player USA Division III Women's Soccer Brazil Tour — an extraordinary achievement considering the players were selected from more than 10,000 athletes across 424 programs nationwide. HSU's four representatives account for nearly a quarter of the entire roster, showcasing the program's exceptional talent on the national stage.



>>> 9 A Historic Season for the Spurs

The Spurs dance team won first in the Division III open category at the ADTS Championships with a season-high 278, ranked second overall, and made program history with a fifth-place finish at their first out-of-state meet in Orlando, Fla.



Beyond the court and field

Conference Strength: The return of McMurry University and Schreiner University has solidified ASC membership, creating a stronger foundation for the conference's next chapter beginning in the fall of 2026.

Community Impact: This year, HSU's 18 athletic programs completed more than 30 service initiatives, including:

- High Five Fridays at local elementary schools
- Mentorship through Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Homebuilding with Habitat for Humanity
- Volunteering at the Abilene Food Pantry

Youth Engagement: HSU welcomed an estimated 1,300 elementary, middle, and high school students to campus over the summer for athletic competitions and camps — inspiring the next generation of athletes and leaders.



24 Conference titles in their time as players and coaches at HSU.

KENDRA WHITEHEAD '03
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

BRAD BANKHEAD '99
MEN'S SOCCER

RUSTY OGLESBY '97
WOMEN'S SOCCER

MATT BRACKETT '07
MEN'S BASKETBALL

JESSE BURLESON '98
FOOTBALL

Former Players Return Home to

LEAD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

Since joining the American Southwest Conference (ASC) for the 1996-97 season, Hardin-Simmons University has captured 93 titles — the most dominant all-around athletic program in the league.

That legacy has created a pipeline of coaches across Texas and the nation at both collegiate and high school levels. Now, that pipeline leads right back to Abilene.

Five former HSU players—Brad Bankhead (men's soccer), Matt Brackett (men's basketball), Jesse Burleson (football), Rusty Oglesby (women's soccer), and Kendra Whitehead (women's basketball)—have returned to lead HSU athletic programs and have guided their teams to ASC championships over the past two years.

All five coaches point to a common thread: life-changing investments made by others that shaped who they are today.

“I think the reason all of us have had success back here is the one thing that brought us back: We know how special this place is.”

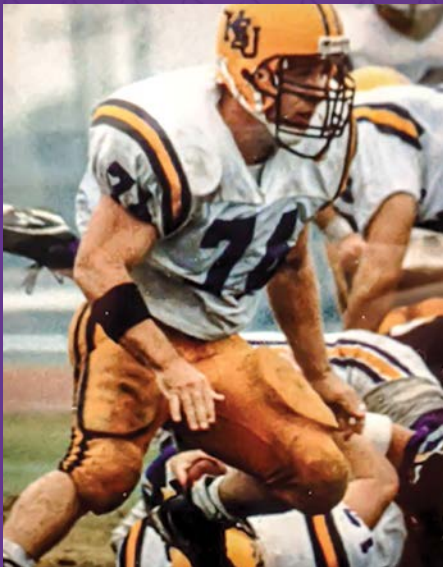
– Jesse Burleson



Brad Bankhead was a standout defender for HSU men's soccer. A four-year letterman and three-time All-ASC selection, he helped lead HSU to two ASC titles.



Rusty Oglesby logged 165 punts for 6,364 yards, 90 PATs, and set multiple records. A freshman All-American and HSU Hall of Famer, he kicked off Shelton Stadium history.



Jesse Burleson earned three all-conference, two all-region, and four academic All-ASC honors, captaining HSU to three ASC titles, and graduating magna cum laude.

“I would say Hardin-Simmons shaped my life, and I knew what I wanted to do, but I didn't know I would be able to do it,” Burleson said. “The way everyone invested in me and supported me — not just as a player — is the biggest reason I am here today. I try to do the same thing for the players in my program. Our goal is to win football games, but our bigger goal is to turn our guys into great husbands, fathers, and leaders.”

The lessons learned at Hardin-Simmons have become woven into their coaching philosophies.

Oglesby said one of the first things he brought to the team was the Jimmie Keeling four-way test, which he learned back in 1992.

“When you can build those fundamentals of trust in the relationship,” he said, “it helps you build something special.”

All five coaches said their Hardin-Simmons experience significantly impacts their recruiting approach.

“When I rolled onto this campus in 1995, I didn't have a lot of direction,” Bankhead said. “I had a great experience here — a life-changing

JIMMIE KEELING FOUR-WAY TEST

COACHES
BELIEVE IN
COACHES
BELIEVE IN
PLAYERS
PLAYERS
BELIEVE IN
COACHES
PLAYERS
BELIEVE IN
PLAYERS

“I had a great experience here — a life-changing experience. That's something I use with every recruit I bring on campus. I want to win soccer games, but I want to provide those experiences as we develop Christian leaders who can go out and change the world.”

– Brad Bankhead

experience. That's something I use with every recruit I bring on campus. I want to win soccer games, but I want to provide those experiences as we develop Christian leaders who can go out and change the world.”

Sports bring people together from diverse backgrounds, especially at a private Christian institution. Blending those backgrounds into a cohesive team presents challenges that have proven successful at HSU.

“Hardin-Simmons had a transformational impact on my life — it's what brought me back here,” Brackett said. “That's something I try to do with our program, from the All-American to the last player on the bench: develop them as people.

We have people from every type of background on our team and try to blend those personalities and life experiences into something that will have an impact after basketball.”

Coaching at your alma mater brings unique pressures.

“There's no doubt that coaching at your alma mater adds personal pressure for success,” Whitehead said. “You feel the sense of wanting to put the best product on the floor and having Cowgirl basketball be the best it can be. There's that pressure, but the rewards of success are that much more fulfilling.”

All five coaches navigated their way back from other coaching stops

to return to their alma mater, win conference titles, and compete in the NCAA Tournament.

“I think the reason all of us have had success back here is the one thing that brought us back: We know how special this place is,” Burleson said. “We want it to be the absolute best place in the country for people to come and experience — on the field, off the field, in the classroom, and in the relationships they build that last a lifetime.”

The theme resonates across all five programs. They are all successful in their respective sports, but more importantly, they want their players to have life-altering experiences at Hardin-Simmons.



Kendra (Anderson) Whitehead scored 1,759 points, set a single-season record with 217 field goals, and helped lead HSU to a 104-11 record and four ASC titles. A three-time ASC player of the year and two-time All-American, she ranks among HSU's all-time greats.



Matt Brackett recorded 249 assists and 181 steals as a four-year starter and two-year captain at HSU. A three-time academic All-Conference honoree, he earned the 2007 ASC Sportsmanship Award.



Was your time at HSU a part of your faith story?

Tell us about a moment when your faith deepened during your college years. Faith experiences are golden threads that illuminate the entire tapestry of our HSU journey.

Email your response to marketing@hsutx.edu



Held this past April, Revive25 was a three-day, student-led event hosted by HSU's Baptist Student Ministry. The campus came together for worship, 24 continuous hours of prayer, and a focus on spiritual renewal — culminating in baptisms on the final night.

BEYOND THE SPECTRUM

Supporting Neurodiversity Through the Academic Foundation

As Netflix's "Love on the Spectrum" reshapes views on neurodiversity, Hardin-Simmons University is quietly making its own groundbreaking impact.

Building on the awareness sparked by the dating show, the College and Me (CaM) program tells a different story — one of compassion, inclusion, and recognizing each student's unique potential.

A different kind of spectrum story

CaM originated from a conversation between Dr. Carol Krueger, '85/'22, director of disability services, and a former colleague. It quickly became something rare in higher education: a program that pairs clinical training for graduate students with real-world support for neurodivergent undergraduates, rooted in a faith-based mission to serve all students.

"The goal is to create a space where students feel seen, heard, and empowered to grow," Krueger said.

A graduate student in the speech-language pathology (SLP) program, Sara Stille, from Colorado, knew right away she wanted to be involved.

"I love how CaM allows students and clinicians to build skills together outside the typical therapy room," said Stille.

"Group sessions foster real social connections."

Students are invited to join based on individualized goals and meet weekly with SLP graduate clinicians. The Office of Disability Services supports the process with strategies and feedback.

"Our activities are built around real-life scenarios," Stille added. "We tailor each session to reflect what students are navigating daily."

Most CaM sessions take place in the clinic and therapy rooms, providing a structured environment for students to develop self-advocacy, self-determination, and social interaction skills. To complement

this clinical foundation, the program also hosts special events throughout the semester including sessions in dining halls, student centers, and a year-end arcade celebration, offering natural campus environments where students can practice their developing skills in real-world settings.

Krueger calls it "a model not commonly seen at smaller schools," one made possible by a close partnership between the department of disability services and the College of Health Professions.

"Participation in CaM has helped affirm my long-term goals to become a speech-language pathologist," Stille said. "I have gained a deeper understanding of the need to collaborate with other professionals to create new opportunities for students, and my faith has influenced my work by asking God to guide me to provide the best therapy for my clients."

In a world where many neurodivergent individuals struggle with feelings of isolation or difference, CaM offers something profound: the assurance that they are fearfully and wonderfully made, with gifts that the campus community values.

A national model of success

CaM's success is a powerful example of the kind of innovation made possible through HSU's Academic Foundation. Though the program's future depends on funding and student interest, its inaugural year clearly shows what can happen when faith, care, and collaboration come together.

This past summer, Stille and Krueger, along with two additional graduate students, Victoria Cyriac of Houston and Lauren Garrett of Longview, Texas, presented CaM's model at the National Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) conference, sharing how faith-based institutions can better support neurodivergent students.

"Success for us looks a little different," Krueger said. "It's about access to resources, peer connections, and advocacy. We're seeing growth in academics, confidence, and self-advocacy skills that lead to stronger outcomes after graduation."

But beyond metrics, success is measured in the weekly moments when students show up feeling like they belong — ready to grow in a place that values their strengths and supports their needs.

While "Love on the Spectrum" opens hearts to neurodiversity, CaM opens doors to belonging, purpose, and lasting impact.

About the Academic Foundation

Since 1965, the Academic Foundation has grown a more than \$800,000 endowment to support faculty excellence and student-focused innovation. In fall 2024, over \$35,000 in grants advanced projects like eye-tracking labs, VR tools, and inclusive therapy programs. Your generous donation directly supports academic programs that serve all learners with excellence, compassion, and purpose.



My faith has influenced my work by asking God to guide me to provide the best therapy for my clients. —Sara Stille

Graduate students in the speech-language pathology program, from left, Victoria Cyriac of Houston; Lauren Garrett of Longview; and lead graduate student clinician Sara Stille of Highlands Ranch, Colo., represent the College and Me (CaM) program. The group presented at the annual AHEAD conference, which promotes accessibility in higher education for students with disabilities.

Interwoven Moments

A 36-Hour Journey Through
Summer's Halls

Summer sunlight filters through campus windows, casting a warm glow over spaces filled with both reflection and activity. From bustling youth camps to online classes, Hardin-Simmons University remains alive with purpose, even in the summer months.

Amid the energy, we pause to recognize the threads of lives transformed. As we look toward the fall semester, the impact of scholarships comes into focus — a tapestry woven from dreams pursued, dedication lived, and the generosity of those who invest in tomorrow.



**Monday, 9:00 a.m. –
Newman Richardson
Science Center**

The equipment stands ready for fall, beakers catch the morning light streaming through the windows. In the quiet, the presence of Acacia Anderson, a biology and pre-physical therapy major, feels unmistakable. A missionary student from a family of eight, Acacia once wondered if college was even possible.

"Everything changed when I received my scholarship," Acacia said. "It literally opened the door to my dreams!"

Here, in this very space, she's learning the techniques that will one day bring healing to others. Her scholarship is a thread of generosity woven into the larger tapestry of her calling. Each piece of equipment bears witness to her perseverance, her gratitude turning struggle into strength.

The lab door closes softly, but the echo of purpose remains.



**Monday, 4:30 p.m. –
Richardson Library**

Late afternoon light spills through tall windows, illuminating study areas and computer stations in the final moments before summer closing time. This peaceful space hums with focus and determination — qualities embodied by Nicole Travers, a current student from Harare, Zimbabwe, majoring in computer science and mathematics.

Here, Nicole bridges her homeland and her aspirations, spending hours deep in thought and study.

"HSU has been a place of learning far beyond the classroom," Nicole said, her voice echoed in the quiet between book stacks.

A tight-knit community, professors who invest in her growth, and student life staff who feel like family all shape her experience.

In the computer lab, screens reflect the gentle afternoon light and the steady resolve of a young woman coding her future — one line at a time.



**Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. –
Student Residence Hall**

Dawn breaks over quiet residence halls, and the morning carries the warmth of Jackson Dyer's devotions. A worship leadership major from Granbury, Jackson began each day here in prayer, in a room where scholarship support lifted the weight of financial worry from his shoulders.

"This scholarship has made it possible for me to grow not only academically and musically, but spiritually," Jackson said. *"I've been able to serve, lead, and worship without constantly worrying about how to make ends meet."*

The tidy space — the guitar waiting patiently in the corner, the desk where he prepared lessons — all bear witness to a young man stepping confidently into his calling.

Without the burden of financial stress, this room became a sanctuary, where an indie music artist transformed into a worship leader, and where earthly concerns gave way to Kingdom ministry.



**Tuesday, 2:00 p.m. –
Logsdon Chapel**

The campus rests in summer stillness, its pathways ready and expectant. Sunlight streams across the grounds where Alejandro "Alex" Govea once led worship as HSU's first four-year worship leadership graduate.

Though Logsdon Chapel sits quiet during the summer months, the memory of countless morning chapels where Alex's voice lifted in praise and leadership remains vivid. The same sanctuary where he learned to guide others in worship now holds the echo of his calling — from student to minister.

"All of this has helped my wife and me prepare for our upcoming transition," Alex said.

The campus holds not just his gratitude, but his transformation, a worship leader prepared to serve at Life Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas, equipped with both skill and heart for Kingdom ministry.



**Tuesday, 9:00 p.m. –
The Heart of Campus**

As the 36 hours draw to a close, the heart of campus pulses gently in the summer night. Peaceful pathways connect every building, every story, and every life changed. Here, in the gathering warmth, the full tapestry becomes visible.

There's Charles J. Schwertner, whose 1968 economics degree and 22 years of U.S. Air Force service became the foundation for a scholarship that will touch lives for generations. His widow, Wesley Kaye Schwertner '69, is weaving his legacy into lasting impact through the endowment that bears his name.

Because of generous donors, we blessed 1,368 students with scholarships during the 2024–25 academic year — each number representing a dream preserved, a calling protected, a future secured.

The threads connect across time: from Charles's Vietnam service to Acacia's dreams of physical therapy, from Wesley's loving memorial to Jackson's worship ministry, from economic theory to computer code to healing hands to lifted voices.

About Scholarships

Endowed scholarships can honor a loved one, professor, or classmate, with many donors giving on special occasions, such as birthdays or holidays. We're grateful for the newest scholarships established in FY25, to be awarded in the 2025–26 school year:

- Mauldin Nursing Endowment
- Charles J. Schwertner Endowed Memorial Scholarship
- Ed Owens Endowed Memorial Scholarship
- Dr. H. Neal & Pollye Lowry Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Neal & Pollye Lowry Allied Health Endowed Scholarship
- Larry and Linda Carter Logsdon School of Theology Endowed Scholarship
- Larry and Linda Carter Worship Leadership Endowed Scholarship
- Diane L. Gault Thompson, R.N. Endowed Nursing Scholarship
- Pat and Gayle Sanders Endowed Scholarship for Health Professions
- Pat and Gayle Sanders Endowed Scholarship for Physical Therapy
- Georgia Henry Music Ensemble Scholarship

Scan the QR code to donate.



BEHRENS CHAPEL AUDITORIUM

For more than 130 years — since the founding of HSU in 1891 — worship has remained integral to our life and curriculum. One of our remaining speakLIFE priorities is restoring beloved Behrens Chapel Auditorium, which has served as the spiritual heart of our campus. Week after week, this sacred space has nurtured the faith journeys of countless students.

Anyone who attended Hardin-Simmons during the past six decades carries treasured memories of Behrens Chapel Auditorium — memories like those held dear by Charles Mundy '62.

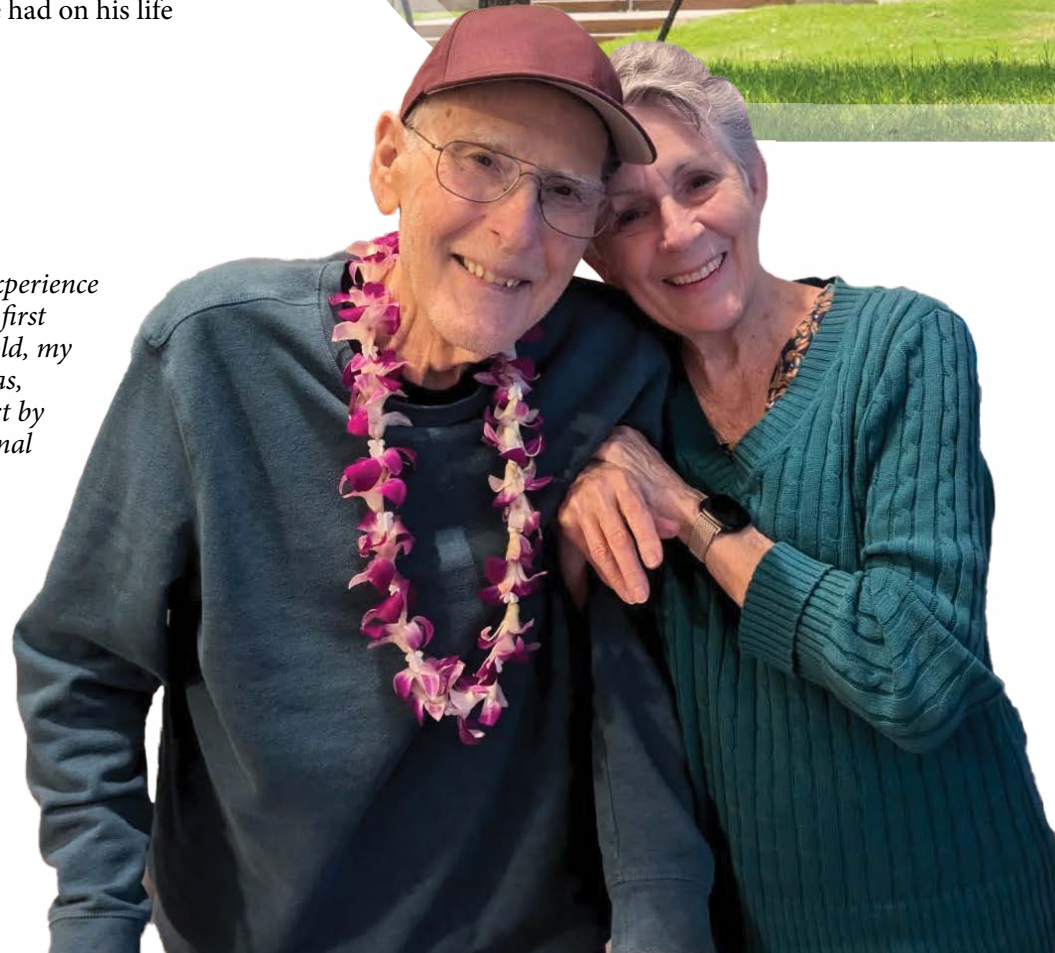
Following his passing on March 22, his wife, Charlene (Preston) Mundy '63, graciously shared Charles' reflections about the profound impact this special place had on his life and their love story.

Eight decades of chapel memories

In Charles' own words:

"I am probably one of the few people whose experience with Behrens Chapel spans eight decades. My first memory dates to 1951, when, as an 11-year-old, my parents, Ray and Lula Mundy of Merkel, Texas, made a rare trip to Abilene to attend a concert by the then-famous Rangers Quartet in the original Behrens Chapel."

"My most treasured memory, however, comes from Sadie Hawkins Week in fall 1959. I was walking from my first class in Mary Francis Hall to Rose Fieldhouse — our temporary chapel location after the original Behrens Chapel burned in 1957. As I crossed the quadrangle, I was approached by a cute girl I had noticed during the first few days of class. Her name was Charlene Preston."



"She walked alongside me toward chapel and asked me on a date. While my six-nights-a-week job at KRBC Radio/TV and a previously scheduled date prevented me from accepting immediately, I made plans to ask Miss Preston out as soon as possible. In less than a year, we were married."

"The construction of the new Behrens Chapel was completed in 1961, the year before my graduation in 1962 and Charlene's in 1963. Not only did we attend chapel services in the new building as Mr. and Mrs. Mundy, but I also took a Texas history class under Dr. Zane Mason in a classroom on the east side of the new building."

Charles and Charlene's love story — beginning with that walk to the chapel — beautifully illustrates how Behrens Chapel serves as the place where individual threads of faith, friendship, and love are woven together into the rich tapestry of the Hardin-Simmons experience.

SpeakLIFE Update

The HSU community's generosity has propelled our speakLIFE campaign beyond its original \$45 million goal, raising more than \$50 million by fiscal year-end 2025. To fully fund remaining campaign priorities, we are now targeting \$93 million total.

Share Your HSU Memories

Use this QR code to share special memories of your time campus.



Support the speakLIFE Campaign

Use this QR code to give to the speakLIFE campaign and help restore Behrens Chapel Auditorium for future generations.



GIVING SOCIETIES

Celebrating generosity that fuels the mission of Hardin-Simmons University

The generosity of our donors is foundational to HSU's mission: preparing tomorrow's Christian leaders today.

Through annual, recurring, and legacy gifts, supporters at every level help make this mission possible.

We are proud to recognize these donors through giving societies:

HERITAGE SOCIETY – NEW

Celebrating 20 years of faithful giving

The Heritage Society honors donors who have given consistently for 20 years or more, beginning with their first gift. These longtime supporters form the foundation of HSU's continued impact in Christian higher education.

Anonymous Donor
Mr. Nathan & Mrs. Beth Abernethy
Mr. Bryan & Mrs. Elizabeth Adams
Mr. Gene Adams
Mr. Jeff & Mrs. Sheri Adams
Ms. Ginna Adian
Mr. David & Mrs. Fran Adkins
Rev. James & Mrs. Janis Alling
Ms. Georgiana Arakaki
Ms. Nancy Arista
Dr. Randy Armstrong
Ms. Ann Arnhart
Hon. Bud & Mrs. Emily Arnot
Mrs. Betty Arrell
Mr. Phil & Dr. Cathy Ashby
Mr. Don & Mrs. Deborah Ashmore
Mrs. Lillie Aston
Dr. Fred & Mrs. Leslie Aurbach
Dr. Donnie & Mrs. Sandra Auvenshine
Mr. Bruce Ayres
Ms. Marylan Bacon
Mr. Walter & Mrs. Mary Bailey
Mr. Buddy & Mrs. Bonnie Baldrige
Dr. Todd Baumann
Mr. Brian & Mrs. Sonja Bessent
Mr. Gary & Mrs. Kathy Bevers
Dr. Steve & Mrs. Joy Bezner
Mr. Bobby Bingham
Mr. Jim & Mrs. Betty Birdwell
Dr. Joe & Mrs. Susan Black
Dr. Wesley & Mrs. Sandi Black
Dr. Stan & Mrs. Betty Blevins
Mrs. Shirley Boggus
Mr. Leroy & Mrs. Rhonda Bolt
Mrs. Janice Bowen
Mrs. LaVonne Boyer
Col. Glenn Bratcher
Dr. Carolyn Bray
Mrs. Karan Breeden
Mrs. Leona Bridges
Mrs. Charlotte Bridges
Mrs. Jennette Briggs

Mr. Richard Briscoe
Mr. Dick & Mrs. Martha Brooks
Mr. Rocky & Mrs. Judy Brooks
Mr. Gary & Mrs. Kathleen Brotherton
Mr. Fred & Mrs. Mary Browning
Mr. Tommy & Mrs. Donna Broyles
Dr. Brad & Mrs. Audra Butler
Mrs. Dorothy Caldwell
Mr. Ed & Mrs. Pat Callender
Mr. James & Mrs. Rose Capin
Mrs. Lois Carden
Mrs. Linda Cargile
Dr. John & Mrs. Tracy Carl
Mr. Rob & Mrs. Linda Carleton
Ms. Gracie Carroll
Mr. Jerry & Mrs. Nell Carter
Rev. David & Mrs. Jeanne Cason
Mrs. Opal Cathey
Mr. Jon & Mrs. Denise Caudle
Mr. Pleas & Mrs. Sandra Childress
Dr. Phil & Dr. Mary Christopher
Mr. Blair Church
Mrs. Sheila Clark
Mrs. Anna Cline
Mr. Bob & Mrs. Marilyn Cluck
Mrs. Diane Cole
Mr. Bob & Mrs. Tiffany Comstock
Mr. Dave Cone
Mr. Mike Cone
Mr. Steve & Mrs. Joanna Cone
Mr. Vance & Mrs. Mary Cooksey
Mr. James Cox
Mr. Bobby & Mrs. Lisa Cox
Mrs. Gay Cross
Mr. Bud & Mrs. Wanda Crow
Ms. Pamela Culbertson
Mrs. El Wanda Culvahouse
Dr. Tommy & Mrs. Laquita Culwell
Mrs. Maryetta Cunningham
Mrs. Barbara Currie

Ms. Lissa Davis
Dr. Vernon Davis
Mr. Bill Dawson
Ms. Terrie De La Garza
Mr. Gary & Mrs. Elaine Diehl
Mrs. Lou Ann Draper
Mr. Dick Dudley
Mr. Gary & Mrs. Erna Lee Dunkerley
Mr. Tim & Mrs. Jennifer Dunn
Mr. Phil & Mrs. Lynelle Eddins
Mrs. Sue Edwards
Ms. Julie Edwards
Ms. Susan Egmont
Mr. Bethel Eiland
Mr. Harold & Mrs. Ann Elledge
Dr. Robert & Mrs. Teresa Ellis
Mrs. Nancy Ellis
Mr. Terry & Mrs. Zelda Ellison
Mrs. Diane English
Mr. Cecil & Mrs. Charlotte Evans
Mrs. Phyllis Ewing
Mr. Dan & Mrs. Linda Farell
Dr. Bob & Mrs. Trina Fink
Mr. Danny & Mrs. Linda Fisher
Mr. Clendon Fitzgerald
Mr. Corby & Dr. Diana Flanagan
Mrs. Shirley Foley
Ms. Sandra Ford
Ms. Brenda Ford
Mrs. Patricia Foster
Mr. Mark & Mrs. Kayla Fowler
Ms. Celia French
Mrs. Maridell Fryar
Mr. Brian Gage
Dr. Richard & Mrs. Judy Garner
Mr. Tony & Mrs. Teresa Garrett
Dr. Brent & Mrs. Julie Gentzel
Mrs. Donivee George
Mr. Tim & Mrs. Jennifer Germany
Mr. Bill & Mrs. Gail Gibson
Mr. Billy & Mrs. Annalon Gilbreath
Mrs. Carol Golden
Mrs. Sara Goldsmith

Mr. Paul & Mrs. Teresa Gomez
Mr. Jeff Goodin
Ms. Joan Gotcher
Mr. Roy & Mrs. Sharon Graham
Mrs. Gayle Gray
Mrs. Neva Green
Mr. Bill Griffith
Mr. Keith & Mrs. Cherry Griffiths
Lt. Col. Norm & Mrs. Shirley Grimmett
Mrs. Doris Haby
Mrs. Jane Hager
Dr. Lanny & Mrs. Carol Hall
Mr. Mike & Mrs. Marsha Hammack
Dr. Omer Hancock
Ms. Shirley Hanna
Mr. Bob & Mrs. Linda Hanna
Mrs. Judy Haralson
Mr. Bill Harden
Mr. Leland & Mrs. Elise Harden
Col. Ken Harvell
Dr. Loyd & Mrs. Brenda Hawthorne
Mr. Carlyle Hayes
Mrs. Mary Lou Haygood
Mr. Joe & Dr. Kay Henard
Dr. Gene & Mrs. Loraine Hendrix
Dr. Ed & Mrs. Ann Hewett
Mr. Frank Hibler
Mrs. Nancy Hickok Young
Mr. Ronald & Mrs. Carmen Hicks
Mr. Jerry Hicks
Mr. Mark & Mrs. Darcie Hill
Mr. Pete & Dr. Marty Hinman
Mrs. Marty Hinson
Mr. Joe & Mrs. Patty Hlavinka
Ms. Sherry Howell
Mrs. Gayle Huffman
Mrs. Tina Hunter
Dr. Bob Hunter
Mr. Lynn & Mrs. Dottie Ingalsbe
Mrs. Cathy Ingram
Mr. Jerry & Mrs. Helen Inman
Dr. Nathan Ivey
Mr. Don Jackson
Lt. Col. Dave & Mrs. Judy Jackson

Mr. Will & Mrs. Mary Jacob
Mrs. Marilyn Jacobs
Dr. Wendy James
Mrs. Cindy Jones
Mr. David & Mrs. Britt Jones
Mr. Ewart Jones
Mr. Gary Jones
Mr. Jim & Mrs. Nancy Jones
Mr. Jimmie & Mrs. Susan Keeling
Mrs. Jo Anne Keeter
Mrs. Inez Kelley
Mr. Don Kendall
Mr. Brian & Mrs. Laura Kickhoefer
Mr. Ronnie & Mrs. Sheila Kidd
Mr. Don & Mrs. Karen Kimball
Mrs. Dorothy Kiser
Mr. Dale & Dr. Nancy Kucinski
Mrs. Evangeline Newman
Ms. LuAnn Lane
Dr. Truett & Mrs. Harriet Latimer
Rev. Brad & Dr. Carol Ann Layton
Mr. Larry & Mrs. Billie Lee
Mr. Jay & Mrs. Lisa Lester
Mrs. Joan Lewis
Mr. Duane & Mrs. Ann Lindsey
Mrs. Louise Lockhart
Dr. Neal & Mrs. Pollye Lowry
Mrs. Darlene Loza
Dr. Robert & Mrs. Cheryl Mangrum
Mr. Lee & Dr. Tracy Manly
Mr. Royce & Mrs. Peggy Manning
Ms. Tammy Mantooth
Dr. Shawn & Dr. Emily Marsh
Mr. Truman & Mrs. Bitsy Martin
Mr. Cody & Dr. Stacey Martin
Mrs. Mary Mathieson
Dr. Rocky & Mrs. Amy McAdams
Mr. John & Mrs. Evelyn McAnelly
Mr. Tim McCarry
Mrs. Patsy McCown
Mr. Gene McCurdy
Mr. Donald & Mrs. Rebecca McDonald
Mr. Forrest & Mrs. Leianne McMillan
Mrs. Bobbye McMillon
Dr. Chris & Mrs. Sandra McNair
Mr. Allan & Mrs. Emily Meador
Mr. Bobby & Mrs. Doris Melson
Mr. Joe Melson
Mr. Lynn & Mrs. Pat Mendenhall
Mrs. Patt Merchant
Mrs. Ernestine Meyer
Mr. Foy Meyer
Ms. Susan Meyer
Mrs. Peggy Michel
Dr. Jayne Middleton
Mr. Jay & Mrs. Kim Miers

Dr. David & Mrs. Elaine Miller
Mr. Matt & Mrs. DeLys Mitchell
Dr. Keith & Mrs. Betty Lou Mitchell
Mr. Michael & Mrs. Rachel Monhollon
Dr. Jay & Mrs. Laura Moore
Mr. Watson & Mrs. Shirley Moore
Mr. David & Mrs. Karla Morris
Mr. Ty & Mrs. Linda Morris
Mrs. Barbara Morrow
Mr. Mark Murdock
Mr. Ken Murphy
Mrs. Dixie Murray
Dr. Jim Myers
Mr. Billy Bob & Mrs. Pat Neff
Mrs. Kim Neighbors
Mr. Stephen Netsch
Mrs. Evangeline Newman
Dr. George & Mrs. Carolyn Newman
Mrs. Tammy Newsom-Depauw
Mrs. Gaye Newton
Mr. Robert & Hon. Candy Noble
Ms. Elizabeth Norman
Mr. Marcus & Mrs. Judy Norris
Mr. Bob & Mrs. Tricia Northcut
Dr. Rex Nutt
Mr. Ken & Mrs. Rhonda O'Brien
Mrs. Charmaine O'Brien
Dr. Dennis & Dr. Janelle O'Connell
Dr. Del & Mrs. Mary Olsen
Mr. Jim & Mrs. Cindy Parker
Dr. Keith Parks
Mr. Randy & Mrs. Annette Patterson
Dr. Tom & Dr. Jan Patterson
Ms. Cynthia Pearson
Mr. William Penhallegon
Mr. David & Mrs. Linda Perkins
Mr. William & Mrs. Beverly Pherigo
Mr. Jerry & Mrs. Lyn Phillips
Mrs. Betsy Pierce
Mrs. Judy Porter
Mr. Don Posey
Mr. Delnor Poss
Mr. Steve & Mrs. Anne Post
Lt. Col. Gary & Mrs. Linda Potts
Mr. Drue & Mrs. Chris Pounds
Dr. John & Mrs. Judy Powell
Dr. Jud & Mrs. Martha Powell
Mrs. Dorothy Presswood
Dr. Harold & Mrs. Susan Preston
Mr. Jack Preston
Mr. Matt & Mrs. Shona Preston
Dr. Ronnie & Mrs. Peggy Prevost
Dr. Jim Price
Dr. Rosa Lee Prichard
Mr. Allen & Mrs. Cheryl Purcell
Dr. Linda Putnam
Mr. Brady & Mrs. Jennifer Pyle

Mr. John Quisenberry
Ms. Arlyne Ragan
Mrs. Libby Rankin
Ms. Susie Ratliff
Mr. Troyce Raynes
Dr. David Reddell
Mr. Robert Reese
Ms. Frances Renfroe
Mrs. Sherry Reynolds
Mr. Smiley Rhodes
Mr. Kyle & Mrs. Robin Harder
Mrs. Karin Richardson
Mrs. Dorrie Richey
Ms. Margaret Gonzalez
Mrs. Estela Ruiz
Mrs. Mary Lou Rutledge
Mr. Robert & Mrs. J'Lyn Ryan
Mrs. Gayle Sanders
Mr. Larry Sandman
Mr. Don & Mrs. Ann Scargall
Mrs. Sondra Seamster
Mr. Gayland Seaton
Mr. Travis & Mrs. Jennifer Seekins
Mrs. Mary Senaha
Mr. Bill & Mrs. Lila Senter
Mr. Stanley Sexton
Mr. Larry & Mrs. Joanna Shampine
Ms. Betty Sharp
Mr. Joe & Mrs. Lynn Sharp
Col. Bryan & Mrs. Sareta Shelburne
Mr. Charlie & Mrs. Terry Shira
Mr. Larry & Mrs. Donna Showalter
Dr. John & Dr. Vivian Tyan
Mrs. Martha Sibley
Mrs. Liz Sieren
Mrs. Sue Siltman
Mr. Robert & Dr. Collene Simmons
Ms. Martha Smith
Mrs. Carol Smith
Dr. David & Mrs. Jackie Smith
Mr. Ivan & Mrs. Gloria Smith
Mr. Guinn & Mrs. Janice Smith
Dr. Ron & Mrs. Patricia Smith
Lt. Col. John & Mrs. Karen Snapp
Dr. Paul & Mrs. Cherry Sorrels
Mr. Joe & Mrs. Alice Specht
Mr. Tilden & Mrs. Nancy Spencer
Mrs. Carlene Spicer
Dr. Gary Stanlake
Mrs. Wanda Stauffacher
Dr. Shane & Mrs. Lisa Story
Mrs. Mary Stout
Mr. Rick & Mrs. Carole Strange
Mr. Dirk & Mrs. Melinda Stricklin
Dr. Deann Styles
Rev. Bill & Mrs. Barbara Swank
Mr. Jerry & Mrs. Peggy Syrus

Lt. Col. Dean & Mrs. Charlotte Taggart
Mr. Donald & Mrs. Judy Taggart
Mrs. Roena Tandy
Mr. Don Tatum
Mr. Carl & Mrs. Betty Thompson
Mr. Bill Thweatt
Mr. Philip & Mrs. Pam Tippen
Mr. Chad & Mrs. Bethany Tomerlin
Mrs. Vicki Trimble
Dr. Robert & Mrs. Clairissa Tucker
Mrs. Margaret Turlo
Mr. Barry & Mrs. Bea Tyler
Mr. Ed & Mrs. Jean Updike
Mrs. Janyth Ussery
Mrs. Sally Uyeshiro
Mrs. Karen Vavricka
Mr. James & Mrs. Gretta Warren
Mrs. Joyce Wartes
Mr. Paul & Dr. Delores Washburn
Mr. Joe & Mrs. Amy Weir
Mr. Kim & Mrs. Laura Weisbrod
Mrs. Betty Weissinger
Mr. James & Mrs. Cammie Welch
Mrs. Patsy West
Mr. Lynn Wheatley
Mr. Jon & Mrs. Linda Wheeler
Ms. Rachel Whelan
Dr. Charlotte Whitaker
Dr. Mike & Mrs. Marcia Whitehorn
Mr. Wayne & Mrs. Glenda Wicker
Mr. Darren & Mrs. Melissa Wickham
Dr. Rob & Mrs. Angie Wiley
Mr. Dick & Mrs. Sara Williams
Mr. George & Mrs. Barbara Williams
Mr. Jack & Mrs. Kathy Williams
Dr. Lee Williams
Ms. Nelda Williams
Mr. Rodney Williams
Mrs. Sue Williford
Dr. Don & Dr. Pam Williford
Mr. Don & Mrs. Irene Wills
Dr. John & Mrs. Renee Wilson
Dr. Larry Wolz
Mr. Tom & Mrs. Mary Jane Womble
Dr. Britton & Dr. Bobbye Wood
Dr. Scott & Mrs. Jennifer Woodard
Dr. Bill Wright
Mr. David & Mrs. Gina Yarbrough
Mr. Bobby & Mrs. Mary Jane Young
Mr. Calvin & Mrs. Bonnie Zuber
Dr. Martha Zumbro

PACE SETTERS – NEW

Monthly giving that makes a difference

*Pace Setters are donors who commit to automatic monthly giving.
These steady contributions provide essential and ongoing support for the university.*

35 Year Pace Setters

Mr. Pleas & Mrs. Sandra
Childress

Mr. Bob & Mrs. Linda Hanna
Mrs. Mary Lou Haygood

Mr. Duane & Mrs. Ann Lindsey

30 Year Pace Setters

Mr. Rick & Mrs. Carole Strange

25 Year Pace Setters

Mr. Brian & Mrs. Sonja Bessent
Mr. Steve & Mrs. Joanna Cone
Mrs. Cathy Ingram

Mrs. Cindy Jones
Mr. Gary Jones
Mrs. Liz Sieren

Mr. Joe & Mrs. Amy Weir
Mr. Lynn Wheatley

Mr. Darren & Mrs. Melissa
Wickham

20 Year Pace Setters

Dr. Steve & Mrs. Joy Bezner
Mr. Bobby Bingham
Dr. Brad & Mrs. Audra Butler
Mr. Blair Church
Mr. Dave Cone
Mr. Bobby & Mrs. Lisa Cox
Mr. Tim & Mrs. Jennifer Dunn

Mr. Corby & Dr. Diana
Flanagan
Mr. Brian Gage
Mr. Tim & Mrs. Jennifer Germany
Mrs. Jane Hager
Lt. Col. Dave & Mrs. Judy Jackson
Mr. Jim & Mrs. Nancy Jones

Mr. Brian & Mrs. Laura
Kickhoefer
Mr. Jay & Mrs. Lisa Lester
Mr. Joe Melson
Mrs. Ernestine Meyer
Mr. Stephen Netsch
Mr. Brady & Mrs. Jennifer Pyle

Mr. Smiley Rhodes
Mrs. Dorrie Richey
Mr. Travis & Mrs. Jennifer
Seekins
Mr. Jack & Mrs. Kathy Williams
Dr. Scott & Mrs. Jennifer
Woodard

15 Year Pace Setters

Mr. Ken & Mrs. Brenda Barnes
Mr. Jon & Mrs. Denise Caudle
Dr. Richard & Mrs. Judy Garner
Mr. Tony & Mrs. Teresa Garrett
Mr. Ryan & Mrs. Libby Gibson

Col. Jack & Mrs. Sue Grogan
Mr. Bob Hale
Mr. Mark & Mrs. Darcie Hill
Mrs. Stephanie Hughes
Mr. Brad & Mrs. Kendall Jones

Mr. Cody & Dr. Stacey Martin
Mr. Allan & Mrs. Emily Meador
Mr. Tyler & Mrs. Shea Moses
Ms. Cynthia Pearson
Mr. Steve & Mrs. Anne Post

Mr. Louis & Mrs. Monica Revor
Mr. Chad & Mrs. Bethany
Tomerlin
Mr. Freddy Verastegui

10 Year Pace Setters

Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Dr. Amanda Andrews
Mr. Phil & Dr. Cathy Ashby
Dr. Donnie & Mrs. Sandra
Auvenshine
Mrs. Kaitlin Belcher
Mr. David & Mrs. Starla Cason
Mr. John & Mrs. Melissa
Contrucci
Ms. Kimberly Garcia

Mr. Chris Gilbreth
Ms. Emily Greer
Lt. Col. Norm & Mrs. Shirley
Grimmett
Mr. Tim & Mrs. Ashley Harry
Mr. Gary & Dr. Vicki House
Mr. Bill & Mrs. Ruth Jones
Mrs. Dorothy Kiser
Mr. Jordan & Mrs. Meg Maxwell

Col. Phil McFadden
Mrs. Sarah Medin
Mrs. Lori Redfearn
Mr. Troy & Mrs. Elizabeth Roberts
Mr. Don & Mrs. Ann Scargall
Mr. Keith & Mrs. Reagan Skates
Dr. Shanna Smith
Dr. Jacob & Mrs. Emily West

Mr. Ronald & Mrs. Ginger
Whitehead
Mr. Jim & Mrs. Jessie Whitlock
Mr. Jason & Mrs. Lis Wier
Mr. Chad & Mrs. Lesley Wood
Mr. David & Mrs. Jaymie Wu
Mrs. Elizabeth Zongker

5 Year Pace Setters

Mr. Bryan & Mrs. Elizabeth
Adams
Mr. Ryan Conner
Dr. Tommy & Mrs. Laquita
Culwell
Dr. Craig & Mrs. Fallon Curry
Ms. Terrie De La Garza
Mr. Brandon & Mrs. Kayla
Dillman
Mr. Keith Dodgen
Mr. Wade & Mrs. Melissa Floyd

Mr. Bill Fox
Mrs. Kitty Gallman
Mr. Paul & Mrs. Teresa Gomez
Mr. Brandon & Mrs. Chelsea
Heard
Dr. Leroy Humphries
Mr. Ewart Jones
Mr. Dudley Kidwell
Mr. Jerry & Mrs. Misti Kingston
Ms. Mary Beth Kouba
Mr. David Krake

Mr. Nathan & Mrs. Misty Lowry
Ms. Tammy Mantooth
Mr. Bruce Morgan
Mrs. Kylie Murray
Mr. Nick & Mrs. Grace Neppach
Mr. Adam Nunn
Mrs. Lyndsey Patterson
Mr. Eric Peets
Mr. Jimmy & Dr. Laura Pogue
Mr. Allen & Mrs. Cheryl Purcell
Mr. Glenn Revell

Mr. Javier & Mrs. Daisy Sanchez
Mr. Justin & Mrs. Katie
Sizemore
Mr. Mike & Mrs. Catherine Taylor
Mrs. Sylvia Villareal
Dr. John & Mrs. Elya Whitten
Dr. Rob & Mrs. Angie Wiley
Mrs. Rhonda Wilson



ARROW FORD & HSU

Growing together since 1964.

At Arrow Ford, we're proud to grow alongside institutions that shape our community—like Hardin-Simmons University. Just as HSU opened its newest residence community, Prichard Hall, to meet the needs of a thriving student body, Arrow is expanding to better serve the drivers of Abilene and beyond.

Our newly renovated service department now includes a 29,000 square foot addition, featuring

65 climate-controlled bays and a team of over 50 certified technicians. With this investment in people and infrastructure, we're able to provide a faster turnaround on maintenance and diagnostic services—keeping your vehicle and your life moving with minimal disruption.

Because whether it's a student's first semester or a family's trusted vehicle, Abilene deserves the very best in care, support, and service.



ARROW
The Right Choice



www.arrowford.com

4001 S. 1ST
ABILENE, TX
325.692.9500

What's your favorite memory from dorm life at HSU?

Whether it was late-night study sessions, impromptu hallway gatherings, or the friendships forged in those shared spaces, dorm life creates the bonds that make HSU feel like home.

Email your response to marketing@hsutx.edu



Students gather for a friendly game of Jenga in the lobby at Anderson Hall.

What will you miss after leaving Hardin-Simmons?

As HSU's newest alumni navigate their first semester away from the Forty Acres, we rewind to those bittersweet final weeks of spring, when farewell events like the Grad Celebration interrupted routines, and every shared meal in the Caf felt more significant.

During those last precious days, we caught up with soon-to-be graduates as they navigated the space between who they had been and who they were becoming. With graduation caps still weeks away, they shared what they thought would tug at their hearts when their first post-grad Range Rider arrived in the mailbox. Their answers remind us that it's often the smallest moments that leave the deepest impressions.

CHARIS OCHU

B.S. Biology

"I will miss the HSU tree-lighting ceremony. It has been my favorite HSU event, and I've never missed it. I'll also miss the people HSU has brought into my life and the deep connections I've built."



LACEY BILYEU

B.A. Music

"I will miss the community the most. It is rare that you can find a place where just about everyone you encounter truly wants the best for you and wants you to succeed. Luckily, I have made connections here that will last a lifetime. But I will miss walking around campus and feeling like home."



KHALIL SPIVEY

B.B.S. Criminal Justice

"The Christ-centered community is something that I love about Hardin-Simmons. Being surrounded by people who truly care and want to make a difference in the world is a great feeling. I'm going to miss playing football with my brothers and all the fans and students who come to support Cowboy football."



ATAYSIA ALLON

B.S.H.S. Interdisciplinary Generalist

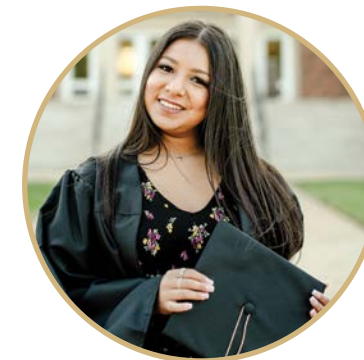
"I think I'm going to miss the Six White Horses the most after graduation. I was a rider for three years before I began student teaching and had to pause so I could finish my degree. My favorite moments were when we would ride to campus just for fun or for Western Heritage."



ALEX CARTE

B.S.H.S. Human Computer Interaction

"The thing I will miss most about HSU will be the close friends I made and playing baseball. Some of my best friendships were built in the dugout and on road trips, and there's nothing quite like having teammates who become your brothers, both on and off the field."



JULIE DELAGARZA

B.B.S. Business Administration

"Something I will miss about HSU is the close-knit community that it is, and all the relationships I have here! There's something amazing about being somewhere you can find support, encouragement, or just a friendly face within minutes of needing it."



MICAH HEADLEY

B.B.A. Accounting & Economics

"I will miss living in the same small world as my closest friends, where every path to class was a chance to catch up and every meal was a potential reunion."



ALEX GOVEA

B.S. Music

"What I'll miss most is helping lead worship during chapel and seeing how music brought our campus community together. As much as I'm excited for what's next, Daughter of the West, I'll always love you."



PEYTON EANES

B.S.H.S. Exercise Science

"What I will miss most about HSU is the family aspect. The small classes and close-knit campus were a huge deciding factor for me when choosing Hardin-Simmons. I am going to miss all my friends, teammates, and especially my work family at the Fletcher Fitness Center!"



MARY JO PARKER

B.S.H.S. Exercise Science

"I will miss the people at HSU from the professors and coaches to my teammates and friends. This campus has had a big impact on my life, and I'm grateful for every person who played a part in my journey here. These are memories I'll cherish forever!"



HSU is Calling — Are You Coming Home?

Alumni across the decades explain why they love attending Homecoming

There's something magical about returning to the place where dreams first took shape and lifelong friendships were forged. We invite you to reconnect with the person you became during those transformative years on campus. Whether you graduated five or 50 years ago, the red-brick buildings and West Texas hospitality still feel like home. We spoke with alumni from across the decades who are eager to share what keeps them coming back.

2010s

Sadie (Zamora) Smith '14

"My family and I choose to make HSU Homecoming a priority for a number of reasons. It is important for us to bring our children back to campus as often as possible, to share memories and stories with them, and to instill a love for Hardin-Simmons University in them from an early age. HSU was such a meaningful place for both Dennis and me, and we are happy to make the drive to watch football, see friends, and eat at our favorite Abilene restaurants. My personal favorite thing is to cheer with the current cheerleaders and fellow alumni during the second half of the Homecoming game — it transports me back in time to such a special season of life."



2000s

Corbett Boone '00

"Homecoming has been a meaningful way for me to stay connected to HSU and my classmates. Each year, returning to campus brings back memories and strengthens the bond I share with fellow alumni. It's more than just a reunion — it's a reminder of where we started and how far we've come.

Catching up with friends, seeing former professors, and meeting current students makes me feel part of something lasting. The energy, pride, and shared stories create a strong sense of community. Homecoming keeps HSU present in my life, and it reminds me that no matter where we go, we're always Cowboys at heart."



1980s

Tammy (Mapston) Brown '80 and Rick Brown '81

"We always look forward to returning to Hardin-Simmons University for Homecoming. It's inspiring to see the ongoing improvements on campus and the continued commitment to providing exceptional educational opportunities for today's students. Living close to Abilene makes it easy for us to come back — not only for the special Homecoming festivities, but also to enjoy the familiar energy of a Cowboy football game. It's a wonderful chance to reconnect with old friends and see who else has made their way home."

1970s

D. Sylvia (Gonzalez) Villareal, '74

"For the past 25 years, I have looked forward to attending Homecoming at my beloved alma mater, Hardin-Simmons University. HSU is our family school. My father, David S. González, '52 B.S./'54 M.Ed; uncles José Martínez, '57 B.S.; and Fernando Martínez, '64 B.S., each left a legacy of their own, for which I am very proud. Every year, I make it a point to visit the alumni wall to see our names engraved for posterity.

Watching the Cowboy Band's lively performances is also something I enjoy, especially since our daughter was a member of the band while she was a student. I never miss our Hispanic Alumni Chismeando Brunch, where we not only reminisce about our past days but also offer financial aid to students by presenting them with scholarships.

The worship service at Logsdon Chapel on Sunday morning is a highlight and a reminder that HSU is an institution that provided me with an education "enlightened by faith."



WATCH FOR IT!

2025 Ornaments will be available at Homecoming.

A portion of each purchase goes toward the Lucile Sandefer Memorial Round Table Scholarship.

Purchase your HSU Round Table Ornaments at:
connectnow.hsutx.edu/register/hsuornament



THURSDAY-FRIDAY
OCT. 2-5

THURSDAY NIGHT, OCT. 2

Alumni Awards Banquet

FRIDAY NIGHT, OCT. 3

Athletics Hall of Fame
Homecoming Festival
Live music, food trucks, inflatables,
Homecoming pep rally, fireworks, and more.
Late Night Breakfast

SATURDAY, OCT. 4

Join us for the dedication ceremony celebrating Dr. George and Carolyn Newman and the Newman-Richardson Science Center.

SATURDAY, OCT. 4

Parents-Only Breakfast
Academic Showcase
Student Organization Reunions
Alumni Choir Concert
HSU Kids Corral
Tailgate and Football Game
HSU Cowboys vs. HPU Yellow Jackets

SATURDAY NIGHT ONLY! OCT. 4

All-School SING!

SUNDAY, OCT. 5

HSU Family Worship Service

EXCLUSIVE T-SHIRT

Get yours at
www.hsutx.edu/homecoming
Deadline Sept. 9





Woven Together

The 2025 Golden Reunion celebrated friendship, faith, and the lasting impact of a Hardin-Simmons education. Nancy (McNair) Jones '75 shared a moving chapel message that captured the heart of the reunion.

Quoting Carole King's Tapestry, Nancy recalled how music from artists like Neil Diamond, James Taylor, and The Carpenters shaped her college years, but it was King's metaphor that best described HSU's role in her life.

"A tapestry uses a thick, canvas-like foundation for woven threads that form pictures and tell a story," Nancy said. "That's what Hardin-Simmons has done — and continues to do — in our lives."

Nancy's words inspired this issue's theme.

Since 1891, HSU has been weaving a legacy of Kingdom impact, where academic excellence and Christian faith are interlaced. Each graduate is a unique thread, adding depth, color, and purpose to a story that reaches far beyond campus.

Thank you for being part of the HSU tapestry.

Dr. Vicki House '01/'10/'22

Vice President for Engagement and Advancement

Use the QR code to watch Nancy's full chapel message. It begins at 29:00.



The Class of 1975 returned April 1–2 for their Golden Reunion. Alumni toured campus, visited the Six White Horses, enjoyed a private Cowboy Band concert, and received Golden Lariat Society pins and commemorative medallions.

1 Nancy (McNair) Jones shared a message during Chapel that inspired this issue of the Range Rider. Scan the QR code in the lower left corner to watch her full message.

2 The class toured The Guy Caldwell Memorial Western Heritage Exhibit during their bus tour. Jan Meares rode one of the horses.

3 Jon Beasley found his name on the Alumni Wall and made a souvenir rubbing.

4 Students and alumni shared HSU stories after Founder's Day Chapel.

5 Sarah (Brown) Stafford received her Commemorative Medallion from President Bruntmyer.

6 Front Row: Sarah (Brown) Stafford, Susan (Kimble) Egmont, Jackie (Rainwater) Smith, Betty (Seale) Joiner, Marita (Mangrum) Richards, Jim Jones
Middle Row: Jon Beasley, Carol Ann (Knight) Layton, Brad Layton, Pat (Power) Parrish, Nancy (McNair) Jones
Back Row: Glen Moritz, Stephen Joiner, James Mitchell, Melvin Richards, Nancy (Maxwell) Jackson, Jan Meares
Not pictured: Chris Carnohan, Doneva (Wilson) Garcia, Dale Jackson, Barry Owens, Francene (Posey) Owens



Saddle Up for Cowboys Raise Gold

You're invited to join a movement transforming the lives of every HSU Cowboy and Cowgirl. Since 2023, this special day — timed around HSU's founding — has brought our community together to celebrate who we are and what we can accomplish when we're connected for life.

Last year, 115 donors across nine states united for one day, raising more than \$52,900 for scholarships, athletics, missions, and more — ensuring that future Cowboys and Cowgirls carry forward our mission to grow, lead, and serve.

Mark your calendar:
February 17, 2026



2025 IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

Healing Through Horses

Among the causes your generosity supported, one mission embodies our heritage: expanding equine-assisted therapy to our region. In 2025, through Cowboys Raise Gold, \$2,000 was raised to kick-start our future Equine Assisted Services Center.

Rooted in the legacy of HSU's iconic Six White Horses, this center will offer life-changing therapy, serving individuals of all ages through proven equine-assisted techniques, helping people with physical disabilities gain strength and confidence while offering emotional healing through the powerful human-horse bond.

While Abilene serves as our region's health care hub, demand for specialized therapeutic services continues to grow. Hardin-Simmons stands at the perfect intersection of excellence and compassion. With a strong foundation in our nationally respected graduate programs in physical therapy, speech-language pathology, and clinical mental health counseling, we not only provide services but also continue to train the next generation of professionals to serve our most vulnerable populations.

Each contribution, big or small, creates new pathways for healing, strengthening the bonds that keep us connected for life, as Cowboys, as a community, and as agents of hope and healing.

Join us in making a difference.

FROM BEANIE TO PENTAGON

A Small School's Big Impact

When Stephen Simmons walked across the HSU campus wearing his freshman beanie in 2002, he had no idea he was taking the first steps toward the Pentagon. Today, as deputy assistant secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy, the 2006 graduate sits in meetings where decisions affecting millions of military families are made every day. His journey began in a political science classroom with just six students on the Forty Acres — proof that sometimes the smallest schools produce the biggest leaders.

"I was attracted by the investment Hardin-Simmons was making in its Leadership Program and its Political Science Department, but more importantly, by the small size of the school and the ability to get a 'one-on-one' education from professors who had my long-term success in mind," he recalled. "I never wanted to be just another number."

Two decades later, he's anything but. Simmons now oversees quality-of-life policies for every active-duty service member, National Guard soldier, and Reserve warrior, along with their families and survivors around the globe.

The Thread That Binds: Faith, Family, and Service

Simmons brings nearly 20 years of leadership experience across military service, corporate operations, and veteran advocacy. He began his career in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in 2005, rising to major while serving in roles that included deployments to Iraq, disaster relief efforts, and personnel strategies at Headquarters Marine Corps.

After completing his military service, Simmons transitioned to Amazon, where he led large-scale logistics initiatives with billion-dollar impacts. In 2025, he left Amazon to advocate full-time for service members through the Walk the Talk Foundation before receiving his Pentagon appointment.

Through every deployment and career pivot, one constant remained: his family. He met his wife, Berkeley, at HSU during student government speeches at chapel.

"There was instant connection, but more importantly, Berkeley was equally driven as I was," Simmons said. "To this day, I do not know what she saw in me, but I can say with certainty she has been the iron in my life, which has sharpened me. For the past 17 years of marriage, she has faithfully been there through the trials, triumphs, and daily grind."

That partnership has been essential as their family — now with two sons — navigated the demands of military life.

"My oldest son, who is now 10, has experienced a permanent change of station (a move) five separate times in his life," Simmons shared. "My wife, who had a brilliant career, also had to put things on hold because of military moves."

The sacrifices weren't lost on him.

"When told, 'thank you for your service,' I usually find myself replying, 'don't thank me — thank my wife!' While this often comes off in jest, it reveals a sharp reality that the spouses (and families) are often the ones who make the sacrifices to enable service," he said.



From Campus to Global Impact

This deep understanding of military family life now informs his work at the Pentagon.

“The resilience and strength that embody the military family are something that should never be taken for granted,” Simmons said. “Readiness starts at home, and we will do everything we can to make sure that the home is supported.”

He credits HSU with laying the foundation for his 17-year career in the Marine Corps and his roles in corporate leadership and veteran advocacy. The values of service and leadership instilled at HSU continue to guide his mission.

“The servant leadership model is alive and well,” he said, reflecting on his journey from the Marines to Amazon to the Pentagon. “Leadership is no different whether in a small group setting or setting policy for over a million people, it is simply a matter of organization.”

What makes HSU’s model effective at scale? According to Simmons, it’s the simple principle of placing people first.

“The practitioners of servant leadership excel for one simple reason, they place their people before themselves, and as a result, build teams that accomplish the impossible every day,” he said.

That people-first mindset has shaped his approach across vastly different organizations. In the Marines, he led by example with empathy. At Amazon, he applied servant leadership in a culture where “too many managers only chase the next metric, and not enough leaders will take personal ownership of the mission.” At the Pentagon, he helps shape policy for families he may never meet, while keeping each one in mind.

The Lasting Legacy

But perhaps HSU’s most profound impact wasn’t academic, it was relational. Within the political science department, Simmons was part of a “small but mighty” group of just six declared majors across the junior and senior classes. The rigor was intense, but the bonds were lasting.

“Looking back, every one of those graduates has excelled in their respective fields and had significant impacts on local, state, and national politics,” he said.

One favorite memory captured that tight-knit spirit: when the group decided to skip class to go bowling.



“While bowling, we probably debated every topic more than ever. We were applying what we learned on our own and did not even realize it. Our professor was not happy — he never said a word about it. But the unanticipated lengthy paper assignment the next day sent the message,” Simmons said.

He emphasized that the relationships he built at HSU have lasted a lifetime.

“HSU is an extended family that is committed to each other, our education, and ultimately producing the next generation of servant leaders,” he said.

Now setting policy that affects military families worldwide, Simmons carries forward more than personal achievement — he carries HSU’s legacy.

“HSU is an extended family that is committed to each other, our education, and ultimately producing the next generation of servant leaders.”

During his recent visit to Fort Belvoir, Va., Stephen got a hands-on look at the military exchange’s online fulfillment center, preparing orders, and witnessing the mission in action.



Stephen, joined by his wife, Berkley (Stone) Simmons '05x, and their two sons, at his swearing-in ceremony this past June—a meaningful milestone for the whole family.

“I am very proud to see the work HSU continues to do and how the campus continues to produce leaders in every field,” he said. “As a native of West Texas, I can only hope to carry forward that legacy to Washington.”

From that small classroom in Abilene to the corridors of the Pentagon, the thread remains constant: servant leadership, rooted in faith, focused on people, and committed to something lasting. It’s a testament to what happens when a small school thinks big, and produces graduates who do the same.

“We should not shy away from expanding the reach of the HSU legacy,” Simmons said. “We should not sell ourselves short and be content within our cylinders of excellence on campus, but think big about what we can do and what positive change we can effect on the national stage.”

He closed with this: “My story is not done yet, and there are thousands more waiting to be written by future generations. I hope students at HSU read this story and will be emboldened to take on the world.”

The views expressed in this interview are in a personal capacity and are not the official views of the DoD or U.S. government.

Family News

1960s

Sherry (Hull) Reynolds '66 B.S., received word that her late husband, **Chaplain (Col.) Jerry D. Reynolds '63 B.A.** — an HSU Distinguished Alumni Award recipient in 1996 — was named one of two inaugural inductees into the Hall of Legacy at the Marsh Institute for Chaplains. These individuals are honored for their significant impact on the world of chaplaincy. Read more at marshinstitute.org/hall-of-legacy/

James Ray Cox '64 B.S., and **Glenda (Walls) Cox 'x**, celebrated 70 years of marriage on June 4, 2025. Their daughters remember spending many of their early years in student housing while James attended HSU. He later served on the Board of Young Associates after earning his degree in religious education and general business. The couple, who are happy and healthy, currently reside in Joshua.

1980s

Deborah (Caffey) Heath '81 B.B.A., and her husband, **Kenny Heath**, retired in September 2024 after 27 years as associational missionaries for the Western Baptist Association, Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. Deborah also retired from the finance department of the City of Frostburg, Maryland, in March 2025. They plan to remain in Western Maryland, serving in their home church and community as God leads.

Rodney Watson '81 B.A., retired on June 30, 2024, after 40 years as pastor of Lytle South Baptist Church in Abilene. He now serves as director of missions for the Double Mountain Baptist Association. He and his wife, **Jana (Davis) Watson '81 B.S.**, are enjoying more time with their seven grandchildren.

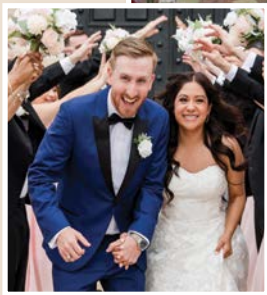
2000s

HSU trustee **Dr. Shanna A. Smith '08 B.A.**, graduated from Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.



2010s

Aaron Barnard '19 B.H.S. married the love of his life, Crystal Avila, on April 18, 2025.



2020s

Samantha (Tatum) Rosseau '23 B.B.A./'24 M.B.A., married **Colton Rosseau '21 M.S.**, on April 13, 2025, in Abilene.

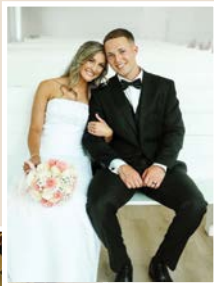


Antojuan Spoons '22 B.B.S., and **Zainab "Zana" (Abdalla) Spoons '23 B.B.A.**, met at HSU and began dating in 2021. They were married on April 11, 2025, and currently live in Dallas with their beloved cat, Biscuit.

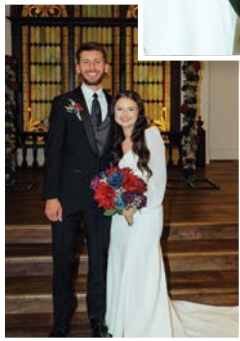


Alize "Ali" (Dragoo) Wylie '22 B.B.S. married **Kelton Wylie** on March 29, 2025, at the Grace Museum in Abilene. Ali said, "God is so gracious, and the life we are building together is so sweet."

Thomas Couch '22 B.B.S. and **Baylee (Kindrick) Couch '24 M.S.** were married on May 5, 2025, at Sabrina Ceders in Abilene.



Keaton Hartman '25 B.S. and **Emma Kait (Kirkland) Hartman '24 B.B.S.** were married on May 18, 2025, in Valley View. Shortly after they moved to Omaha, Neb., where Keaton will attend Creighton University School of Dentistry while also serving in the U.S. Air Force.



On Dec. 31, 2024, in Lubbock, **Kaylen (Peraza) Verdin '24 B.H.S.** married her high school sweetheart, O'Brien Verdin, a graduate of Abilene Christian University. They now live in Omaha, Neb.



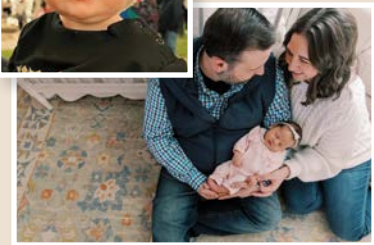
Raylee (Bevill) Poe '25 B.H.S. and **Jak Poe '25 B.S.** were married on May 18, 2025, in McKinney at The Cinnamon Barn.

Torii Pullen '25 B.B.S., is headed to coach football at Alcorn State University.

Welcome to the Family



Cara (Cagle) Naizer '92 B.M./'94 M.M. and **James "Ronnie" Naizer 'x** welcomed their first grandchild, Rylie Blake, on March 13, 2024. Her parents are Kellen and Kadie Naizer.



Dr. Sarah (Morris) Hambricht '12 B.S. and husband **Brad** welcomed daughter **Charlotte Ann** on Jan. 2, 2025. Grandfather is **David Morris '76 B.S.**

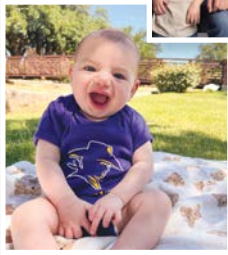
Stephen Salas '12 B.B.S./'23 M.S. and **Mary Beth Salas** were blessed with the birth of their daughter, **Elizabeth May Salas**, on Oct. 29, 2024, in Abilene.

Bandi (Harris) McCaughan '15 B.B.S. and husband **Shane** welcomed son **Palmer Lee McCaughan** on May 22, 2025.

Alizabeth Kate Williamson was born on April 15, 2025, to **Kara (Doege) Williamson '16 B.B.S.** and **Austin Williamson '17 B.S.**



Kacie (Berutti) Eurek '17 B.B.A./'19 M.B.A. and **Andrew Eurek '17 B.B.A./'19 M.B.A.** welcomed baby boy **Shepherd Thomas Eurek** on March 12, 2025. He already has a favorite spot on campus, right next to Gilbert.



Christopher Rylan Herrera was born on May 1, 2025, to **Bethany (Renfro) Herrera '17 B.S.N./'21 M.S.N.**



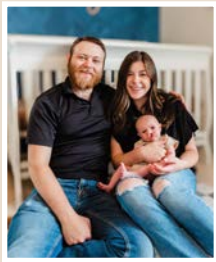
Dr. Claire (Kunkel) Smith '17 B.S. and **Andrew Smith '19 B.B.S.** welcomed baby boy **Bennett Wayne Smith** on Jan. 27, 2025. Grandparents are **Kelly Kunkel '85 B.B.S.** and **Melinda (Finley) Kunkel '86x.**

Kristina (Stasser) Warrix '18 B.B.A./'20 M.B.A. and **Joseph Warrix '18 B.B.A.** welcomed their first child, **Adaline Marie Warrix**, on Feb. 25, 2025. Joe and Kristina both graduated with honors, and Joe serves on the Board of Young Associates. All to say, we love HSU.

Skyla Cavitt '20 B.B.S./'24 M.A. and **Austin Ledesma** are so excited to announce the newest addition to their family. **Nora LeeAnn Cavitt** joined the world on May 5, 2025. She's a beautiful baby girl, and they are so happy to welcome her into the HSU family!



Owen Downing was born on Dec. 13, 2024, to **Kaitlin (Wood) Downing '21 B.H.S.**



Noah Hollabaugh '22 B.B.A. and **Kirsten (Tapia) Hollabaugh '22 B.H.S.** welcomed **Packer Doyle Hollabaugh** on March 26, 2025.



Jonathan Lumpkin '22 B.B.S. and **Gretchen (Cobble) Lumpkin '22 B.B.S.** welcomed their first child, **Josephine Moriah Lumpkin**, on Feb. 19, 2025.

Asa James Mock was born on March 15, 2025, to **Jordan (Fowler) Mock '22 B.M.** Following graduation, Jordan moved to New Zealand with her husband, **David**, where she's a music educator and now a new mother.



Dr. Allison Deeds '23 D.P.T. and **Mikele Deeds 'x** welcomed baby girl **Emery Blaire Deeds** on Jan. 26, 2025.



Kit Drew Kiser was born on Feb. 4, 2025, to **Paris (Brinkley) Kiser '23 B.B.S.** and **Drew Kiser**. Grandparents are **Roy Kiser '91 B.Ed.** and **Gina (Jeffries) Kiser '91 B.Ed.** Future Cowgirl basketball player!

YOUR
CLASSMATES
WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU!
EMAIL
RANGERIDER@
HSUTX.EDU

Family We'll Miss

Submissions received from Jan. 14 - June 18, 2025	Graduates 1940s	Mrs. Betty “Joyce” (Sides) Ball ’52 B.A. 1/19/25 Mrs. Barbara (Davis) Miles ’52 B.B.A. 1/15/25 Mrs. Alice “Joy” (Scott) Pool ’52 B.A. 1/26/25 Rev. Ronald Chandler ’53 B.A. 1/11/25. Survived by wife Joyce (Overstreet) Chandler ’68 B.S. Mrs. Ollibeth “Buff” (Miller) Flegal ’53 B.A. 12/28/24. Survived by son Dr. Joe Flegal ’80 B.B.A. Mr. Joe Simpson ’53 B.S. 5/26/25 Rev. Oren Teel ’53 B.S. 3/14/25. Survived by wife Louise (Mrotzek) Teel ’53x. Dr. Ebbie Smith ’54 B.A. 6/2/25. Survived by wife Donna (Rodman) Smith ’54 B.S. and granddaughter Rebecca “Becky” (Smith) Evans ’05 B.A. Mr. Norman Ward ’54 B.A. 4/18/25. Survived by wife June (Hardy) Ward ’54 B.B.A.
	1950s	Mrs. Greta (De Shazo) Tidwell ’55 B.S. 2/18/25. Survived by husband Nolan Tidwell ’54 B.B.A. Mrs. Shirley (Thompson) Mohler ’56 B.S. 5/1/25 Mr. Neil Smith ’56 B.M. 12/8/24 Mrs. Geralene (Pollard) Harris ’57 B.M. 3/21/25. Survived by sister Shirlene (Pollard) Kennon ’57 B.M. Mr. James “Jim” Curtis ’58 B.B.A. 2/8/25. Survived by wife Gail (Webb) Curtis ’63 B.S. Mrs. Lynda (Parsons) Bridges ’59 B.S. 2/8/25 Mrs. Bettye (Beall) Szefflin ’59 B.B.A. 4/5/25
	1960s	



REV. CHARLES LOVE ’57

Feb. 1, 2025

In 1953, after six years in the U.S. Air Force, Charles “Charlie” Love traded his uniform for textbooks and moved to Abilene to answer God’s call at Hardin-Simmons University. While earning his Bachelor of Arts in Bible, he served as associate pastor and music director at North Park Baptist Church, balancing Greek quizzes with late-night hospital visits and spirited choir rehearsals.

Following his graduation in 1957, Charlie entered Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, pastoring a small church in Gatesville by day and working nights at the post office to support his beloved wife, Mary, and their growing family.

In 1964, Charles and Mary were appointed missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board, now the International Mission Board, to Guyana. For 28 years, “Brother Love” planted churches, taught at the Guyana Baptist Theological Training Center, led summer camps, mentored pastors and hosted mission teams. His warmth, humor, and signature wheezing laugh left a lasting mark on those he served.

Even after retirement, the Loves continued their ministry — serving in St. Lucia, then in China teaching English and sharing their faith. Back in Abilene, Charlie remained active at First Baptist Church, City Lights and in the senior choir, faithfully rising early to exercise and spend time with the Lord.

The Loves were also devoted supporters of HSU — giving generously to the Baptist Student Ministry mission fund, the annual scholarship fund and HSU athletics.

From a Hardin-Simmons classroom to pulpits and mission fields across the globe, Charles Love lived out the gospel with humility, discipline and joy. His legacy continues in the lives of those he served and loved.

Charles is survived by daughters **Debi (Love) Mulkey**, ’77, B.B.A., and **Kathy (Love) Edwards**, ’80, B.A.; son **David Love**, ’85, B.B.S.; son-in-law **Richard “Rich” Mulkey**, ’76, B.S.; and grandsons **Dr. Caleb Tiemeyer**, ’16, B.B.S./ ’18, D.P.T., and **Seth Tiemeyer**, ’22, B.S./ ’24, M.S., and wife **Alexandra “Lexi” (Montalvo) Tiemeyer**, ’25, B.A.



BARBARA JEANNE BELEW ’51,

Feb. 13, 2025

Barbara left a beautiful gift to Hardin-Simmons — a 1929 Steinway piano that will inspire generations of students. A beloved music professor and performer, she taught for more than 60 years, served as principal harpist with the Lake Charles Symphony, and founded the Louisiana chapter of the American Harp Society. Her legacy of music and mentorship continues to enrich the HSU community.

Mr. Ronald “Ronnie” Cloude ’62 B.B.A. 12/27/24. Survived by wife Irene (Penn) Cloude ’62 B.B.A.

Mr. Charles Mundy ’62 B.A. 3/22/25. Survived by wife Charlene (Preston) Mundy ’63 B.S.

Mr. James “Tom” Aishman ’63 B.A. 3/18/25

Mrs. Sharron (Ferguson) Aishman ’63 B.S. 3/18/25

Mr. Harold Cornelison Jr. ’63 B.B.A. 4/6/25. Survived by wife Mary (Chism) Cornelison ’62x and son Mark Cornelison ’x.

Mrs. Alva (Burdick) Franks ’63 B.S. 1/29/25. Survived by sister Barbara (Burdick) Black ’59 B.S.

Mr. Russell Nalley ’63 B.S. 10/3/24

Mr. Don Seamster ’64 B.A. 5/3/25. Survived by wife Sondra (Jenkins) Seamster ’62x.

Mrs. Suzanne (McCarty) Stowe ’64 B.S. 12/30/24. Survived by husband John Stowe ’x.

Mrs. Barbara (Mayes) Baker ’65 B.M. 5/27/25. Survived by husband Dr. John Baker ’63x and daughter Dr. Shawn Baker ’96 B.S./ ’01 D.P.T.



Mrs. Pamela “Pam” (Beazley) Benson ’65 B.A. 3/17/25. Survived by brother William “Bill” Beazley Jr. ’89 B.S. and sister Martha (Beazley) Pinkerton ’x.

Mrs. Jo “Jo Ann” (Griffith) Poyer ’65 B.S. 12/21/24

Mr. Norman Stiffler ’65 B.B.A. 5/12/25

Mrs. Peggye (Newman) Baldwin ’66 B.S. 4/18/25

Rev. David Churchill ’66 B.A. 7/25/24

Mrs. Betty “Jo Ann” (French) Pritchard ’66 B.A. 2/15/25

Mr. Billy Faircloth ’68 B.B.A. 2/20/25 survived by daughters Charlotte (Faircloth) Cartwright ’92 B.B.S. and Alisa Faircloth ’97 B.B.S.

Mr. John Henvey ’68 B.A. 5/2/25

Mrs. Molly (Bacon) Eisenberg ’69 B.S. 11/6/24

Mr. Paul Galloway Jr. ’69 B.A. 6/3/25. Survived by wife Melinda (Hinds) Galloway ’72 B.S.

Mr. Jerry Storey ’69 B.A. 6/14/25

1970s

Mr. Ronald Etter ’70 B.B.A. 11/26/24

Lt. Col. Fredric Hinds ’70 B.A. 8/24/24

Mr. Melvin Clinton Jr. ’71 B.S. 4/11/25

Mr. Nelson Donahoo Jr. ’72 B.B.A. 1/20/25

Mr. Charles “Clyde” Hall ’72 B.B.A. 3/21/25

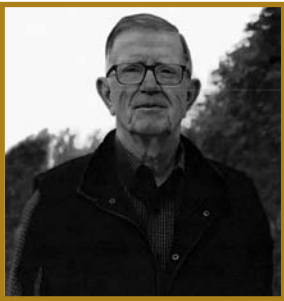
Mr. Robert “Bob” Straus ’72 B.S. 6/13/25



Dr. Tommy Culwell ’73 B.A. 6/15/25 survived survived by daughters Laura Culwell ’x, and Amanda (Culwell) Wyatt ’05 B.B.S., and son-in-law Jerry Wyatt ’05 B.B.S.

Rev. Fredrick “Glen” Emert ’73 B.A. 5/25/25

Mr. Gary Morrison ’74 B.S. 3/17/25



MR. JAMES “DUB” PIERCE ’58 B.A./’62 M.E.,

Jan. 16, 2025

James Wesley “Dub” Pierce arrived at Hardin-Simmons University in the early 1950s with a strong work ethic, a heart for service, and a love for sports. Born in Hobbs, New Mexico, in 1935, Dub learned the value of faith and perseverance early in life. At HSU, he earned three varsity letters as a left-handed pitcher on the university’s newly formed baseball team and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1958. He later completed a master’s degree from HSU in 1962.

While at HSU, Dub met Betsy Ann Polk, and the two built a 66-year marriage while raising four children. He began a lifelong career in education in 1958, teaching and coaching in Abilene schools for nearly four decades. After retiring from Abilene ISD, Dub was an adjunct faculty member for the Irvin School of Education, supervising student teachers.

A proud alumnus, Dub served on the HSU Alumni Association Board of Directors and remained deeply connected to the university. In 2006, his children established the Dub and Betsy Pierce Endowed Scholarship for Teaching, which he and Betsy supported faithfully.

Even in retirement, Dub could often be found attending HSU athletic practices, volunteering at a local elementary school, or serving as a deacon and hospital visitor through First Baptist Church Abilene. He was a leader by example—humble, consistent, and devoted to his family, faith, and alma mater.

Dub is survived by his wife, **Elizabeth “Betsy” (Polk) Pierce**, ’59, B.S.; brother-in-law **Jerry Polk** ’x; sons **D. Mark Pierce**, ’82, B.B.A., and **James “Kyle” Pierce**, ’89, B.Ed., and wife **Didi (Doss) Pierce** ’x; daughters **S. Paige (Pierce) Robinson**, ’86, B.Ed., and husband **Matthew Robinson** ’82x; and Kim (Pierce) Miers and husband Jay Miers; grandson **Samuel Miers** ’x and wife **Chelsea (April) Miers**, ’21, B.B.S.; and granddaughter **Ashley (Pierce) Cox**, ’20, B.B.S., and husband **Jackson Cox**, ’21, B.B.S.

Mrs. Joyce (Jensen) Whitbread ’75 B.S. 2/24/25. Survived by sister Janis (Jensen) Altom ’69 B.S., husband William “Bill” Altom ’71 B.A., and daughter Jaimie Whitbread ’11 B.F.A.

Mrs. Melody (Jackson) Squires ’78 B.M. 2/13/25

1980s

Mr. George Black ’80 B.B.S. 3/31/25. Survived by wife Sylvia (Patton) Black ’80 B.B.S. and daughter Regina (Black) Rains ’85 B.Ed.

Graduates Continued

Mr. Charles “Chuck” Gafford Jr. ’80 B.M. 1/31/25

Dr. Jeffrey “Jeff” Jordan ’81 B.A. 2/14/25. Survived by wife **Julia (Tegarden) Jordan** ’x.



MR. CHARLES RICHARDSON ’51 M.A.

March 31 2025

Charles Richardson’s long and accomplished career in journalism and public relations began during his college years at Howard Payne College (now university), where he graduated in 1958. Charles furthered his education with master’s degrees from Hardin-Simmons University in 1971 and East Texas State University (now Texas A&M–Commerce) in 1977, along with completing distance studies at the seminary level.

His career in journalism and public relations included roles at the Abilene Reporter-News, The Baptist Standard, Biblical Recorder and the Baptist General Convention of Texas (Texas Baptists), as well as the military publication The Bayonet.

Charles faithfully served Hardin-Simmons University for more than 30 years as director of media relations, retiring in 2005. A gifted communicator, he brought excellence and integrity to every story he told, and every life he touched.

He received numerous honors for his contributions to journalism and Christian ministry, including multiple news and PR awards, induction into the Texas Baptist Public Relations Hall of Fame and the Medal of Service from Howard Payne University. Hardin-Simmons honored Charles as Staff Member of the Year (1994), Former Staff Member of the Year (2007) and recipient of the Bill and Janice Altom Service Award (2016).

Family, friends and colleagues described Charles as positive, loyal, and kind. His beloved wife, Karin, shared that she never heard him utter a negative word about anyone or anything during their decades-long marriage.

Charles is survived by his wife, **Karin (Dean) Richardson**, ’65, B.S.; brother-in-law **David Dean**, ’74, B.S.; son **Timothy “Tim” Richardson**, ’87, B.M., ’00, M.A., and wife **Carla Pitts-Richardson**, ’88, B.A.; and granddaughter **Chanae Pitts-Richardson**, ’21, B.S.



Mrs. Jeanene (Stellrecht) Lester ’85 B.B.A. 4/8/25. Survived by husband **Clifford “Cliff” Lester** ’83 B.B.A., mother-in-law **Era Jo (Upshaw) Lester** ’76 M.M., brother-in-law **Thomas Lester** ’x, sister **Jill (Stellrecht) Kalbfleisch** ’86 B.Ed., son **Stephen Lester** ’13 B.B.A. and wife **Tessa (McGinnis) Lester** ’13 B.B.A., and niece **Rebecca (Roberts) Riley** ’13 B.B.S.

1990s

Mrs. Tina (Fowler Miller) Kollbaum ’91 ASN. 4/26/25

Ms. Janice “Jan” (Clements) Lindley ’95 M.A. 1/12/25

Mr. Tommy Dodson ’98 B.B.A. 10/4/24

2000s

Mr. Donald “Don” McFadden ’00 B.B.S. 11/14/24. Survived by **Christina “Chrissy” (McFadden) Cross** ’05 B.A.

Mrs. Brandy (Perez) Cockrell ’04 B.B.A. 6/13/25

2010s

Mr. Craig Thiry ’10 B.S.N. 1/24/25

Mrs. Linda (Smith) Howell ’11 M.Div. 4/2/25

2020s



Dr. Gerald Davis ’20 D.Min. 1/12/25

Ms. Nicole Moncrief ’21 B.B.S. 4/29/25

Former Students

Mr. Emery Black 12/27/24

Pastor Howard Brown 5/10/25

Mrs. Brenda (Primrose Vaughn) Call 4/4/25

Mr. Thomas Capps 5/28/25

Mrs. Sara (Hollingshead) Deffenbaugh 1/16/25

Mr. Robert Gooch 9/10/24



Ms. Sandra “Sandy” Graham, former staff, 2/12/25

Mr. Doug Grimes 4/28/25

Mrs. Martha “Marty” (Gates) Hansen 4/10/25

Ms. Kelli Hass 6/5/25

Mr. Rickey “Rick” Hayes 5/25/25

Mr. Michael Holcomb 4/5/25

Mrs. Sharon “Dianne” (Mays) Jasek 3/19/25. Survived by daughter **Kristy (Jasek) Hayes** ’79 B.M./ ’85 M.M.

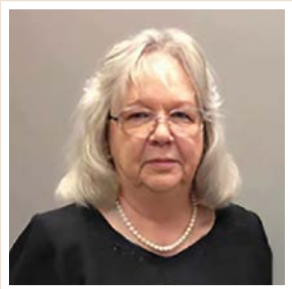
Mr. Richard Jones 8/9/24

Mrs. Clara “Jane” (Harrell) Magee 12/29/24

Mrs. Barbara (Snyder) Moore 2/25/25

Mrs. Jean (Ratjen) Partlow 5/12/25

Mr. Bryan Sconce 5/2/25



Mrs. Jean Self, former staff, 1/28/25

Mrs. Pansy (Mills) Webb 2/24/25. Survived by daughters **Pansette (Webb) Sitz** ’67x and **Troylene (Webb-Tarrant) Stewart** ’79 B.B.A., and son **Bruce Webb** ’x.

Mr. Herman Wilson 6/14/25. Survived by daughter **Christy (Wilson) Beam** ’95 B.B.S., son-in-law **Dr. Kevin Beam** ’94 B.S., and granddaughter **Annabel Beam** ’25 B.B.S.

Friends

Mr. Olan Beard 4/25/25. Survived by wife **Debra “Debbie” (O’Neal) Beard** ’94 B.S.N., son **Jason Beard** ’99x, and daughter-in-law **Angela “Joy” (Millican) Beard** ’01 B.B.S.

Mr. Marvin Belch 2/26/25. Survived by wife **Jo Ann “Jo” (Brown) Belch** ’62 B.S., daughter **Farah (Belch) Edge** ’91 B.Ed, and son-in-law **Phillip Edge**.

Ms. Eileen (Steffen) Crowell 8/27/24. Survived by son **Edward “Eddie” Crowell III** ’01 B.M.

Mr. Charles “Bob” Daehnert 1/15/25. Survived by wife **Martha “Ann” (Hildebrand) Daehnert** ’59 B.S.

Mrs. Barbara Darnall 2/15/25. Survived by son **Samuel Darnall** ’93 B.B.S., daughter **Amy “Katherine” (Darnall) Ayla** ’18 B.A./’21 M.A., and granddaughter **Ashley Darnall** ’16 B.B.S.

Mrs. Connie Davis 5/8/25. Survived by husband **Dr. John Davis** (faculty).



Mrs. Charlotte (Adkins) Earp 1/19/25. Survived by daughter **Ruth (Adkins) Schackmann** ’92 B.A.

Mr. James Everett 2/21/25. Survived by wife **Jean (Weaver) Everett** ’x.

Mr. Macel Ezell 9/10/24. Survived by wife **Carol (Ridgway) Ezell** ’55 B.B.A.

Mr. Charles Greenway 1/26/25. Survived by wife **Frances (Key) Greenway** ’50x.

Mrs. Ewalda “Wally” (Sender) Hampton 3/3/25. Survived by husband **William “Billy” Hampton** ’60 B.B.A.

Mrs. Edna “Edie” Kehr 9/29/24. Survived by husband **Dr. Huron Polnac Jr.** ’56 B.A.

Dr. Robert “Bob” Lockhart 10/27/24

Mrs. Louise Lockhart 6/9/25

Mr. David Lundgren 12/31/24. Survived by wife **Eunice “Diane” (Morrow) Lundgren** ’83 M.Ed.

Mr. Ernest Martin 10/22/24. Survived by wife **Mrs. Janice (Smith) Martin** ’65 B.A.



Dr. Michael McClellan, former faculty, 5/30/25

Mr. James “Jim” McNew 1/31/25, Survived by wife **Mrs. Terry (Self) McNew** ’70 B.S.

Mr. Walter Newcomb 10/19/24, Survived by wife **Mrs. Peggy (Thompson) Newcomb** ’53 B.S.

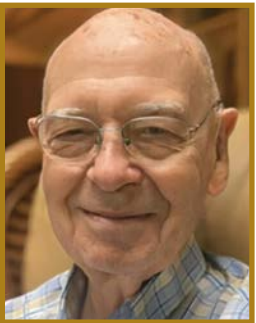
Mrs. Mary “Mary Lou” Palmer, former staff, 2/2/25. Survived by daughter **Mrs. Christy (Palmer) Silvia** ’94 B.B.S.



Mr. William Pope 5/8/25. Survived by wife **Selma “Darlene” Pope** ’70 B.S./’76 M.Ed.

Mr. Kelly Rosenbaum 1/4/25. Survived by **Mrs. Freda (Bedford) Rosenbaum** ’92 B.B.S.

Mr. David Scott 11/30/24. Survived by wife **Audrey (Morrison) Scott** ’92 M.Ed.



DR. ROBERT “BOB” LOCKHART

Oct. 27, 2024

MRS. LOUISE LOCKHART

June 9, 2025

We are deeply grateful to Dr. Robert “Bob” and Louise Lockhart, whose generous hearts touched countless HSU students through the Robert and Louise Lockhart Scholarship they established and endowed in 2012. The Lockharts’ commitment to education extended far beyond their financial support — they cherished the opportunity to meet scholarship recipients at the annual Endowed Scholarship Luncheon, forming meaningful connections with the students whose dreams they helped make possible. Their legacy of compassion and dedication to student success will continue to inspire and support future generations of HSU students.



Mr. Jerry Sawyer, former trustee, 5/5/25. Survived by wife **Gayle Sawyer** and daughter **Amy (Sawyer) Locke** ’99 B.B.S.

Mr. Richard Senaha 10/26/24. Survived by wife **Mary (Lim) Senaha** ’56 B.S.

Mrs. Dorothy Thomas 7/22/24. Survived by husband **Dr. David Thomas** ’61 B.A./’62 M.A.

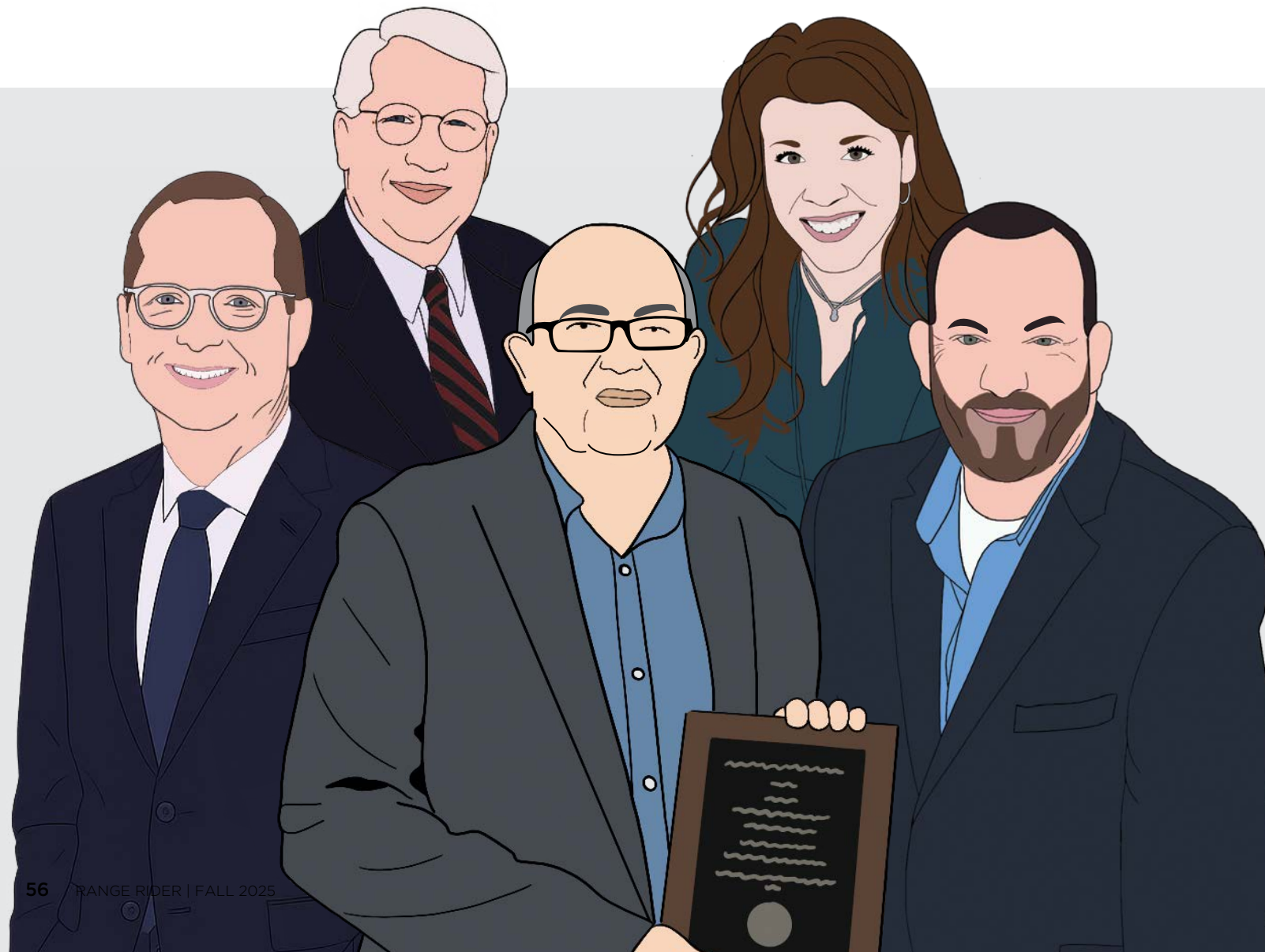
Editor’s Note: All cities are in Texas unless otherwise noted. Email addresses are included when possible. Information reflects submissions received from Jan. 14 - June 18, 2025.
[Acronyms: AHOF Athletics Hall of Fame/DAA Distiqueshed Alumni Award/HOL Hall of Leaders/HD Honorary Doctorate Degree/KASA Keeter Alumni Service Award/LDA Logston Distinquished Alumni Award/OYA Outstanding Young Alumni Award](#)

GREAT

are thy victories...

Strong, Determined, Equipped to Lead

Great victories come from strength to serve, determination to lead, and faith to equip others. Meet the Cowboys and Cowgirls who embody our spirit and forge the path for future Christian leaders.



2025 ALTOM CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARD

Established in 2001, the Altom Christian Service Award honors students, alumni, and personnel who exemplify selfless Christian service. Named for Bill '71 and Janis '69 Altom, the award continues their legacy of faithful ministry to the HSU community.

Strength in Service

Gene Hendrix '67

With four decades of ministry and a multigenerational legacy of faith, Gene Hendrix leads with purpose. "My passion," he says, "is helping people find their way to Christ and walking alongside them as the Spirit of God transforms us into the image of Christ." As pastor of Berry Lane Baptist Church, his life reflects the resilience that shapes Christian leaders.



JOHN J. KEETER JR. ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

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

Determination in Leadership

Drue Pounds '92

HSU Board of Trustee, CFO of a global firm, Athletic Hall of Fame, two-time NAIA Academic and Athletic All-American. Drue's greatest victory? Watching his children, Abby '22 and Jack '24, become Cowboys themselves — leadership that equips the next generation through faith and example.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

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

Equipped to Innovate

John Wilson '68

From acappella Choir to NASA partnerships, piano keys to rocket ships. John's journey from HSU's music halls to creating nationally recognized STEM programs proves that determined Christian leaders can bridge any gap. His legacy: the doctoral program he built at Baylor that continues equipping leaders today.



Equipped to Restore

Jennifer Smothermon '98/'00

Psychology and Bible — the perfect foundation for mending what's broken. Two decades of counseling, two gubernatorial appointments, and the 2025 Outstanding Supervisor award demonstrate how Christian leaders use knowledge and faith to strengthen marriages and families.



Equipped to Heal

Todd Baumann '96

From quarterback to prosthodontist — both require precision under pressure. Todd's hands, which once led the Cowboys to victory, now restore smiles in Dallas and on mission fields in Mexico, Jamaica, and Zambia. Faith-driven expertise serving globally.



HSU ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

The Athletics Hall of Fame recognizes individuals for their extraordinary contributions on behalf of the Hardin-Simmons University Athletics Department or their professional record of achievement in their field.



Mardochee Jean

Men's Basketball, 2005-2008

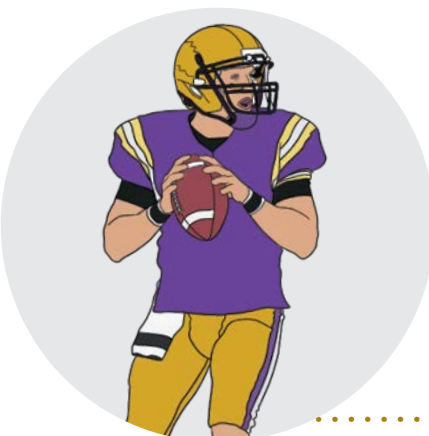
300 blocked shots, 1,000 rebounds, three-time All-American, ASC MVP. Defensive leadership that created opportunities for others and led HSU to its first three ASC tournament appearances.



Katie Kuykendall

Women's Soccer, 2009-2012

National champion, three-time All-American, 84 assists (third all-time in NCAA Division III), 82 wins in four years. Team-first leadership that brings home championships.



Justin Feaster

Football, 2006-2010

Every major passing record at HSU: 696 completions, 9,339 yards, 96 touchdowns. Two-time Gagliardi Trophy finalist who led two NCAA playoff runs with pocket presence and unwavering determination.



Brian Nelson

Men's Soccer, 1995-1999

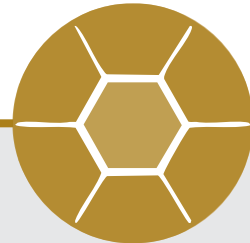
63 career goals, HSU's all-time leading scorer. Four goals in the comeback victory that brought the first ASC title—strength and determination when everything was on the line.



David Stuckey

Athletic Training, 1986-2006

With 39 years of service, David Stuckey founded HSU's athletic training program and was named NCAA Division III Head Athletic Trainer of the Year. Today, as associate professor of athletic training education, he continues to build resilience—not just in athletes, but in the students he prepares to care for them.



Alumni Awards

Each year, Hardin-Simmons honors standout alumni who are making a difference in their careers, communities, and on campus. Read more about this year's honorees and nominate a deserving Cowboy or Cowgirl by scanning the QR code.

Awards: John J. Keeter Jr. Alumni Service | Distinguished Alumni | Outstanding Young Alumni | Athletics Hall of Fame | Hall of Leaders



BRAIN BREAK

THIS OR THAT

Tell us about your time at Hardin-Simmons — without telling us. Circle your picks!

Behrens Hall or Ferguson Hall

Morning classes or Evening classes

Purple or Gold

Cash or Venmo

Handwritten letter or FaceTime call

Gilbert or Dam-It (the dog)

Cowboy Band or Six White Horses

Sandefer Library or Richardson Library

Homecoming or Stampede

Shelton Stadium or Mabee Complex

**Did we miss an obvious
THIS OR THAT?**

Snap a pic of your answers and tag @hsutx to show your HSU roots!

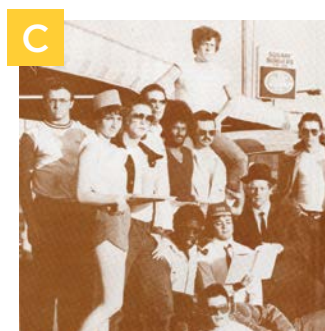
Think you nailed the Bronco Photo Challenge?

Let's see how you did!
Here are the correct decades for each throwback:

s00, - **Q**
s08, - **C**
s07, - **B**
s06, - **V**

GUESS THE YEAR

We pulled a few gems from The Bronco, HSU's vintage yearbook series. Can you guess the decade of each photo — '70s, '80s, '90s, or '00s? Flip through the flashbacks and put your HSU history skills to the test!



Thanks for playing along and celebrating the legacy of the Forty Acres with us!



**Traveling
Range Riders**



**HARDIN-SIMMONS
UNIVERSITY**
ALUMNI & FRIENDS TRAVEL

YOUR TICKET TO UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURES

Whether you're craving breathtaking landscapes or meaningful moments, Traveling Range Riders tours are designed for ease, camaraderie, and inspiration.

FIVE GREAT REASONS TO TRAVEL WITH HSU ALUMNI & FRIENDS

1 EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO HIDDEN GEMS

Step into curated encounters—guided tours of historic museums, intimate conversations with local artisans, or up-close views of Alaska's glaciers. Your HSU connection unlocks extraordinary experiences, from Iceland's Northern Lights to Paris, the City of Light; from vibrant Venice to the tranquil English countryside.

"Traveling with the Traveling Range Riders exceeded our expectations... our group had shared goals of seeing the sites and enjoying the experience along the way." — Shelly (Watts) '82 & Mike Morey

2 EFFORTLESS ADVENTURES, FULLY PLANNED FOR YOU

Forget the stress of planning. Our expert partners handle every detail — luxury accommodations, seamless transfers, and thoughtful itineraries — so you can relax and savor the journey. We've perfected the art of worry-free travel so you can focus on what matters.

"It was wonderful to seamlessly move from destination to destination without any confusion or difficulty. We will definitely be taking another trip." — Kevin McClean '86

3 RECONNECT AND BUILD NEW LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

Turn moments into lifelong memories, forging fellowship that echoes your shared values. Bond with fellow travelers on a Serengeti balloon ride, join a lively group of HSU friends exploring Venice's canals, or share stimulating discoveries over a delicious meal.

"Going with the group and getting so much time to be together was absolutely the most enjoyable part!!" — Alex (Sanchez) '17 & Thomas Dyer

4 RENEW YOUR SPIRIT

Find peace in majestic Swiss mountains, feel awe walking where Biblical heroes trod, or worship in ancient European cathedrals. Our journeys offer opportunities for spiritual reflection, surrounded by a warm faith-based community.

"Traveling with this group of Christian brothers and sisters has been delightful. Many thanks...for a wonderful trip!" — Curt Van de Walle

5 EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS, YOUR WAY

Pick your travel mode—board a Nile riverboat, traverse the Canadian Rockies by train, or visit a spectacular national park on a comfortable coach. As an HSU Traveling Range Rider, you'll weave new stories and satisfy your curiosity about the world.

"We enjoyed watching beautiful towns and countryside go by as we floated down the Rhine. I can't wait for the next trip!" — Denise (Mayhall) Brunner '84

**DISCOVER
YOUR NEXT
ADVENTURE!**

www.hsutx.edu/travel

Program Director:
Britt (Yates) Jones '84
325-670-1377
travel@hsutx.edu



Alumni, Friends, Family — all welcome!

SAME PRICE IN STORE AND ONLINE

STREETside
ONLINE GROCERY SHOPPING



VISIT [UnitedSupermarkets.com](https://www.unitedsupermarkets.com)
OR DOWNLOAD THE APP!

United
supermarkets

WE'LL SING
OF ALL YOUR
PRAISES TRUE



DEVOTIONAL

“One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.” —Psalm 145:4

by Shelli Presley, Director of Spiritual Formation

Our God is generational — the same yesterday, today and forever. He is trustworthy, faithful and steadfast. One generation's experience may differ completely from another's, yet God reveals himself as loving and faithful amid different circumstances.

Consider the Israelites in captivity for hundreds of years. What incredible faith passed down from previous generations for them to still believe — despite experiencing only hardship — that God's promises would prevail.

What was it like to plunder enemies and walk across on dry land? To

fight battles claiming the promised land? To live in promises their forefathers believed by faith?

What great works of God do you commend to the next generation? His goodness? His healing power? That the almighty God listens to your prayers? That your obedience moves God's heart? That his power carries you through pain, tragedy, or loss? That his truth prevails? That his love conquers fear? That he provides? That sin patterns can be broken? His grace to serve your family, church, and gospel opportunities?

Whatever ways you've known God, whatever encounters you've experienced of his goodness, power,

love, or faithfulness — tell your stories. Testify. Share the miracles you've witnessed and listen to theirs as well.

As we share, there is power for the next generation to learn, grow, and be encouraged. They will have their own faith journey. Let's ensure they know many have gone before them and many will follow. Let them experience through us the importance of sharing our faith and testimony.

In your family, with spiritual sons and daughters, within the church, or with the lost — testify! Commend the great God you know, his goodness and great power for believers.

Let us know how we can pray for you:
www.hsutx.edu/pray





LiveSent:

A GRASSROOTS VISION BECOMES HSU'S NEWEST CALLING

“If you had no barriers, what would you want for Hardin-Simmons?”

Picture this: a moment of visionary dreaming — leaders gathered with one question in mind: If there were no barriers, what would we want for Hardin-Simmons?

No budget constraints. No logistical barriers. Just pure vision.

Among the many hopes shared, one rose with clarity and conviction: to send students, faculty, and staff on life-changing mission trips.

Not because it looked good on paper. But because it reflects the very heart of who we are — a Christ-centered community called to serve first.

BEYOND THE FORTY ACRES

“And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”
— Matthew 22:39

HSU students are already answering this call. Each year, Serve Like Simmons mobilizes our campus to meet real needs in Abilene. Beyond our local outreach, physical therapy and physician assistant students take their training into global mission fields, where they serve others and see God at work firsthand. They return transformed — professionally equipped and spiritually awakened.

Now, that opportunity is growing.

LiveSent opens the door to every member of our Cowboy community — every student, faculty, or staff with a heart to serve. Whether it’s rebuilding homes, mentoring kids, offering disaster relief, or simply showing up with compassion and faith, there’s a place for every willing heart.

Just imagine the ripple effect:

- Serving meals and offering prayer in disaster-struck neighborhoods
- Leading kids’ camps, after-school programs, or Vacation Bible School

- Supporting clean water efforts or building homes
- Worship teams lifting hearts through music and testimony
- Faculty and staff encouraging and resourcing local leaders
- Teams arriving with nothing but open hands and servant hearts

The goal is ambitious but achievable: Spring Break 2026 will mark the launch of our first expanded mission teams. Local, national, and international opportunities will ensure that every member of our HSU family can find their place in this movement.

But to build something lasting, we need the wisdom of those who’ve gone before us. If you served on an HSU mission trip in the ’70s, ’80s, ’90s or beyond, we want to hear your story. Your insight will help shape how we prepare the next generation of servant-leaders.

THE CALL TO ACTION

As Cowboys, we’ve always been known for going where others haven’t, doing what others won’t, and blazing new trails. Now we’re called to take that pioneering spirit global.

Three ways to get involved:

1. Give – Support the LiveSent initiative and help eliminate financial barriers that might prevent students from joining these transformational experiences.
2. Connect – Did you go on an HSU mission trip in the ’70s, ’80s, or ’90s? We want to hear your story! Your insight will help shape how we prepare the next generation of servant-leaders.
3. Partner – Know of an organization that could benefit from a servant-hearted team? Help us connect with communities where HSU can make a lasting difference.

THE TIME IS NOW

The vision has been cast. The planning has begun. What remains is the shared commitment of our Cowboy community to make this dream a reality.

Next spring, if all goes according to plan, the first LiveSent teams will board planes, load vans, and go — serving communities near and far with what HSU has to offer: skilled, compassionate, Christ-centered people ready to love their neighbors.

The question that started it all was simple: “If you had no barriers, what would you want for Hardin-Simmons?”

Now we have the opportunity to answer with something real, something lasting, something beautiful. Scan the QR code below to donate to LiveSent.





HARDIN-SIMMONS
UNIVERSITY

A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

HSU Box 16100 | Abilene TX 79698-6100

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Burl. VT 05401
Permit No. 779

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

WE ARE COWBOYS

HSU is one of only five universities in Texas to earn the
2025-26 Affordable College of Distinction.

ROOTED IN PURPOSE. RECOGNIZED FOR IMPACT.



HARDIN-SIMMONS
UNIVERSITY