

2025

Advancement
& Engagement

Kingdom Impact Report



HARDIN-SIMMONS

U N I V E R S I T Y

A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS



*The mission of
Hardin-Simmons University
is to be a community
dedicated to providing
excellence in education
enlightened by
Christian faith and values.*

Table of Contents

2	Engagement & Advancement
4	Initiatives & Impact
16	Stewardship
18	Community Engagement
22	speaKLIFE

Engagement & Advancement

Meet our Team



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A word from our vice president

I am excited to celebrate with you the incredible progress of Hardin-Simmons University's speakLIFE capital campaign. When we launched this campaign in 2019, it was with the vision of speaking new life into the Hardin-Simmons campus. We aimed to increase scholarships, enhance programs, and upgrade facilities to better serve our students.

The impact of this campaign continues to be truly transformational and visible in every corner of our campus. New scholarships and programs have been established, facilities have been upgraded, and our faculty have new resources to offer an even richer learning experience.

Because of your steadfast support, together we are turning vision into reality and hope into Kingdom impact. Let's continue to speakLIFE and transform lives in the years to come!

Dr. Vicki House
Vice President for Engagement and Advancement

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds"

— Psalms 9:1

speak LIFE: Initiatives & Impact

“I believe there are areas which cannot be compared or with which HSU has NO competition. To be a place of the ‘narrow road on the wide highway’ of higher education is a gift!”

— Anonymous, Pre-Campaign Feasibility Study

What happens when we speakLIFE?

When we speak life into our university, something powerful happens. Ideas come together, new possibilities open up, and people are moved to act. Doors that once seemed closed are suddenly open to students who need a place to learn, grow, and discover God’s calling on their lives.

The speakLIFE Campaign has never been only about buildings, budgets, or goals. It has been a call to make a difference. From the start, the heart of this campaign has been to impact lives — to encourage, promote, nurture, support, and bless students and faculty so that they, in turn, can go out and speak life into the world.

Every gift to speakLIFE creates a ripple effect. A renovated science center means better labs and hands-on learning that prepare future engineers and healthcare professionals. A new residence hall means a Christ-centered home where friendships are formed and faith is deepened. Expanded scholarships mean students from across Texas and around the world can come to HSU who otherwise could not.

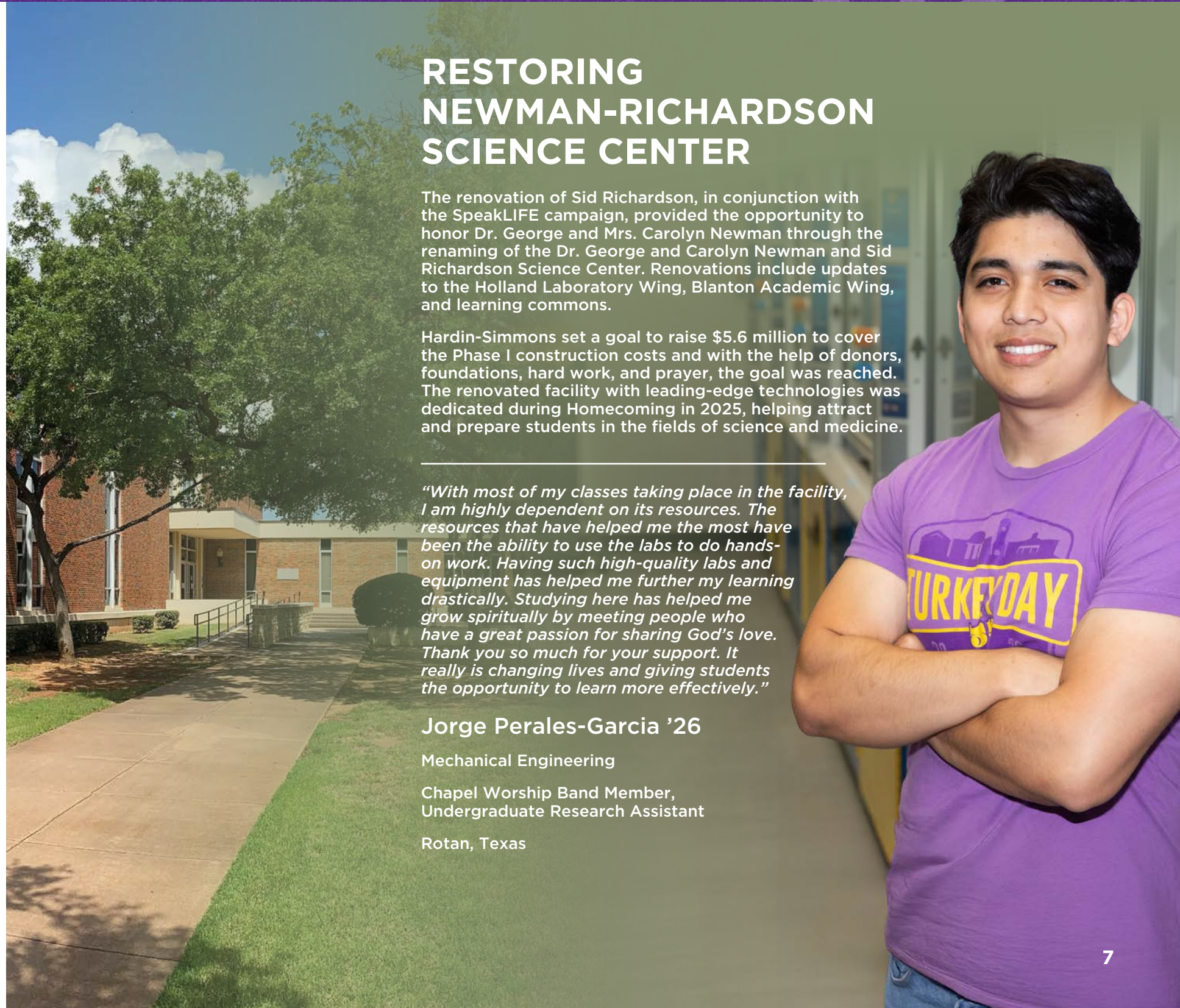
As you read the following pages, you will see how speaking life is transforming our campus — through new facilities, strengthened programs, and the stories of students and faculty whose lives are being touched by this campaign. These are not just project updates; they are glimpses of the future God is shaping through the faithfulness of the HSU community.



Initiatives & Impact

Honor. Strengthen. Uplift.

That's what HSU's speakLIFE Campaign does. When vision inspires action, outcomes are transformational. The speakLIFE Campaign turns ambitious goals into reality and moves HSU to the next level by creating new programs and enhancing our already beautiful campus. The success of a fundraising campaign isn't measured by numbers alone. What makes it successful is the impact it makes.



RESTORING NEWMAN-RICHARDSON SCIENCE CENTER

The renovation of Sid Richardson, in conjunction with the SpeakLIFE campaign, provided the opportunity to honor Dr. George and Mrs. Carolyn Newman through the renaming of the Dr. George and Carolyn Newman and Sid Richardson Science Center. Renovations include updates to the Holland Laboratory Wing, Blanton Academic Wing, and learning commons.

Hardin-Simmons set a goal to raise \$5.6 million to cover the Phase I construction costs and with the help of donors, foundations, hard work, and prayer, the goal was reached. The renovated facility with leading-edge technologies was dedicated during Homecoming in 2025, helping attract and prepare students in the fields of science and medicine.

"With most of my classes taking place in the facility, I am highly dependent on its resources. The resources that have helped me the most have been the ability to use the labs to do hands-on work. Having such high-quality labs and equipment has helped me further my learning drastically. Studying here has helped me grow spiritually by meeting people who have a great passion for sharing God's love. Thank you so much for your support. It really is changing lives and giving students the opportunity to learn more effectively."

Jorge Perales-Garcia '26

Mechanical Engineering

Chapel Worship Band Member,
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Rotan, Texas



Initiatives & Impact

BUILDING PRICHARD HALL

On May 19, 2022, Hardin-Simmons University broke ground on its newest residence hall in honor of Dr. Rosa Lee (Hemphill) Prichard '58. The project was completed and dedicated on July 30, 2024, marking the opening of Prichard Hall, a new 61,000-square-foot, four-story addition to the campus.

Studies show that students who live on campus perform better academically and are happier with their college experience than students who commute. This new home away from home has made it possible for 165 more Cowgirls to live on campus and ensure they have the best on-campus housing experience.

“My favorite part about staying in Prichard Hall has been making new friendships as a resident and helping residents as an RA. Prichard has been such a warm and friendly environment. HSU has allowed me to take what I’ve learned and incorporate my faith into it. In my career, I know I can lean on more than just my knowledge but also my faith. With your help and contributions, I have been able to be part of this amazing, friendly, and Christ-like community. Prichard has had such a great and positive impact on my life. May God continue to bless you.”

Shamiso Chirume '27

Finance Major

Resident Assistant in Prichard Hall

South Africa



RETROFITTING ABILENE HALL FOR ENGINEERING & NURSING

Built in 1948 and closed in 2021, due to flooding from busted pipes, Abilene Hall was retrofitted to house HSU’s new Mechanical Engineering and Nursing programs. The building reopened with a dedication ceremony on August 29, 2023 and the third floor was dedicated during Homecoming 2024.

An additional 7,000 square feet were added to the building’s southern elevation, resulting in approximately 2,200 square feet per floor. The first floor houses lab space for hands-on research and experimentation, including a materials testing lab, fabrication lab, fluid dynamics lab, special lab, and a data center. The second floor contains lecture halls, a computer lab, a student lounge, and data center. The third floor is a modern environment, complete with hands-on learning labs and innovative teaching spaces, that houses the nursing program.

“Our brand-new, state-of-the-art sim labs and the supplies in the sim labs have been vital in our education as first-year nursing students. The tools and ability to mimic real-life situations have helped us adapt to real clinical situations. Learning and growing with my cohort has been very valuable to me because we are all going through the same struggles. We have really grown to know one another, and I am so grateful because we are all together all the time and push each other to be the best.”

Alexis Templin '27

Nursing Major

Vice President of the Student Nurses Association

San Angelo, Texas



Initiatives & Impact



SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Ninety-eight percent of HSU's full-time undergraduate students receive some type of financial aid. Scholarships do more than help pay for an education, they recognize and reward hard work and dedication, allowing students the opportunity to learn, grow and pursue their calling. One speakLIFE goal was to increase our scholarship endowment by \$10 million and because of the generosity of friends like you, we surpassed that milestone in Spring 2024. While most speakLIFE donors contribute to an existing scholarship, many create their own endowed scholarship.

"The abundance of scholarships I have received as a student at Hardin-Simmons has been life changing. The willingness of HSU donors to give generously is incredibly impactful, and it is a significant reason I chose HSU as my college home. These scholarships have allowed me to pursue an education rooted in Christian faith and led by educators and staff who care deeply about their students.

I have gained so much more than an education because of the gifts I've received. Being a student and student worker at HSU has prepared me for a career with my heart set on Christ. I have seen how it is possible to do everything for the glory of God.

Thank you for investing not only in my experience at Hardin-Simmons, but in my future. Your donations are an ever-giving investment into the lives of HSU students."

Esther Flowers '25

Strategic Communication Major
Student Worker for Visual Media
Garland, Texas

PROVIDING FOR THE CHRISTLIEB PROGRAM & SCHOLARSHIP

When James B. Simmons helped found what would later be called Hardin-Simmons University, he asked for the school to be called Christlieb College — the college of Christ's love. While the name did not endure, his vision for the school did. Today, HSU is living out Christ's love through the Christlieb Program.

Some HSU students do not have families and those who classify as independent come without emotional and financial support. HSU has committed to assisting these independent and self-supporting students with tuition and living expenses through the Christlieb sponsorship program and award. Thanks to our generous donors, we have been able to establish new Christlieb endowments through the speakLIFE Campaign.

"I love the international engagement here. They involve every culture and treat everyone the same. Being a Christian school helps with that. If someone isn't a believer when they come, they are still influenced by it.

The most meaningful part has been taking a chance on finances and being given the opportunity to pursue my dreams — to come to college and study what I want to be in the future. Being here has helped my faith and prayer life. I can go to faculty or staff, and they help guide me.

I want to say thank you so much, because you're not just helping me but others in need as well. I am very grateful for the opportunity. I hope to give back in the future and help other kids have the same dream and opportunity."

Ricardo Decius '27

Business Administration Major
HSU Track Team
The Bahamas

Initiatives & Impact

FACULTY ENRICHMENT

HSU faculty are devoted to teaching and preparing students for their chosen careers, helping transform their lives for the better. The faculty enrichment endowment provides faculty with resources to continue to grow and develop. Enrichment opportunities, in turn, result in even more effective and engaging professors teaching students with excellence.

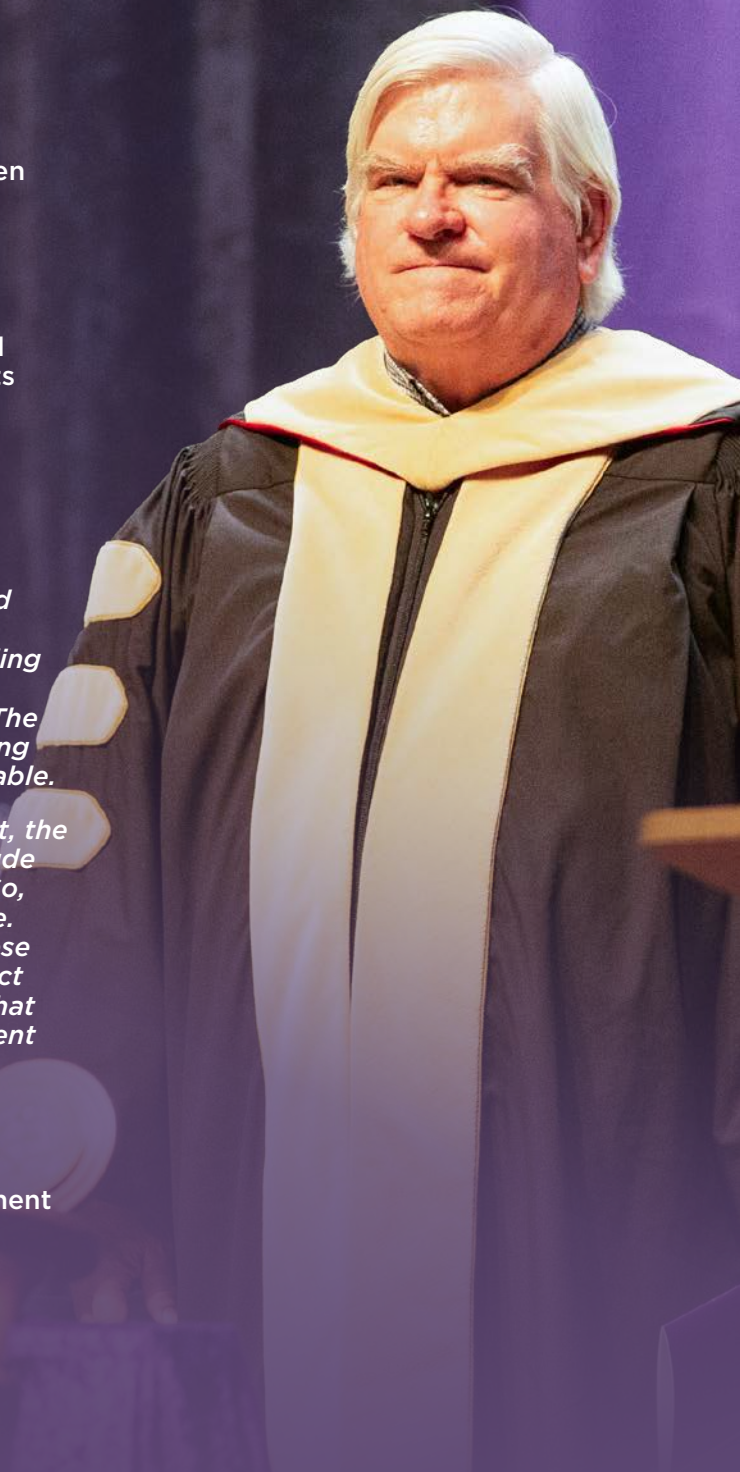
“Cullen Funds provided for travel to academic conferences and twice for sabbaticals. Those experiences have directly strengthened my teaching and scholarship. HSU students will go into their careers with a better understanding of how their faith can play out in the workplace than I had fifty years ago. The ability to continue learning and bringing that back to students has been invaluable.”

I would say ‘thank you.’ The older I get, the more important expressions of gratitude are to me. This time is no exception. So, thank you. It means a great deal to me. I am grateful for the opportunities these funds have provided and for the impact they have on our students. Knowing that others have invested in my development so I can invest in them is deeply meaningful.”

Dr. John Davis

Professor of Leadership and Management in the Kelley College of Business and Professional Studies

Recipient of Cullen Fund for Faculty Enrichment



RESTORING BEHRENS CHAPEL AUDITORIUM

Completed in 1961, Behrens Chapel Auditorium has been an integral part of HSU’s mission of education enlightened by Christian faith. As the primary venue for chapel, convocation, SING, concerts, and more, if you attended Hardin-Simmons any time in the past 60 years, you undoubtedly spent countless hours there and have many fond memories of the space.

Our goal for a phase one remodel was \$1.3M, and thanks to donors like you, that goal was met. Phase one of the restoration allowed us to reopen Behrens Chapel Auditorium for Fall 2025, helping us better serve students and our community. Future restoration will continue to improve accessibility to individuals with physical challenges and make it safer and more attractive.

“I have loved getting to attend chapel in Behrens Chapel Auditorium this year. Seeing hundreds of people gathered together, all worshipping Jesus with one voice, is such a powerful experience.”

Coming to HSU has shaped me into a more independent and confident person. I’ve grown academically, socially, and spiritually — finding my own church, joining the worship team, and building community. I’m not the same person I was before coming here, and I wouldn’t change that.

To the donors who have made this campus what it is today, I want to say thank you. Your gifts have shaped my experience and the experiences of so many others.”

Charlotte Benkert '28

English Major

Member of the HSU Worship Team

Poulsbo, Washington



Initiatives & Impact

UPDATING BEHRENS RESIDENCE HALL

A key part of the college experience is living in a residence hall and Behrens Residence Hall has provided a home for students since 1952. In its 70 years, Behrens has provided the space where formative experiences take place — where lasting memories are created, callings are heard, and strangers turn into family.

Behrens Hall is home to 176 HSU students and funds from speakLIFE have supported the hall's much needed infrastructure updates, including: windows and blinds, plumbing, HVAC, flooring, furnishings, lighting, fire alarm system, entrance and room security. These updates are providing students with an ideal environment for living and learning.

"I chose Hardin-Simmons because of its welcoming community and faith-based environment. Since coming here, I've discovered how much I've grown in confidence, independence, and my ability to connect with others. Through the speakLIFE improvements, I've benefited from upgraded facilities like Behrens Residence Hall, Newman-Richardson Science Center, and stronger academic support programs. I've grown especially through the improved learning spaces and support systems.

HSU has helped me grow closer to God while developing discipline and purpose in my studies. It will shape my career by helping me apply faith-driven values in my work and relationships.

Thank you for believing in us and making a real difference through your kindness and support. I plan to give back by helping others grow, serving in my church, and supporting HSU when I'm able."

Simion Ntetuka '25

Finance Major

Behrens Resident Assistant

Kenya

PROVIDING FOR EQUINE-ASSISTED SERVICES

Abilene is the healthcare center for a 22-county area known as the Texas Midwest. To meet the needs of our students and community, HSU plans to build an equine assisted services center to provide services to people with emotional, learning, and physical disabilities. Equine-assisted services benefits people with ADHD, learning disabilities, and emotional trauma, injuries, or physical disabilities. While HSU has a barn and coral, we aspire to create a new home to include equine-assisted services; a place where individuals can heal, students can learn, and horses can be cared for.

During the Spring 2025, Hardin-Simmons University launched phase one of its Equine-Assisted Services, incorporating hippotherapy, to expand therapeutic services for adults and children in the Big Country while providing experiential learning through community service. Hippotherapy is the use of the horse in physical, occupational, and speech therapy.

"My experience at Hardin-Simmons has been shaped by hands-on learning, service, and a growing sense of calling. Through the Equine-Assisted Services program, I have had the opportunity to work closely with faculty, staff, patients, and clients while gaining practical skills and serving others. This program has been a true blessing to me — it is welcoming, engaging, and centered on learning through experience. Seeing the smiles, laughter, and community built through this work has been especially meaningful, even on long and challenging days.

Being part of this program has helped me recognize my heart for serving others and the ways God has revealed new skills and talents in my life. I have grown in confidence, resilience, and dependence on God as I prepare for a future in healthcare. My education, enlightened by Christian faith, has shaped not only my academic path but my identity and purpose."

Jeremiah Camacho '28

Exercise Science (Pre-PT) Major

Student worker in the Equine-Assisted Services Center

Philippines

speak LIFE: Stewardship

“People whom I never knew, who came before me, gave so that I could have the experience that I did. I must repay that by giving for future generations.”

— Anonymous, Pre-Campaign Feasibility Study

As a Christian university, HSU belongs first and foremost to God. As such, HSU is called to faithfully care for what God has entrusted to us, financial and otherwise, so the university community can have confidence that funds will be stewarded to honor God and with Kingdom impact in mind.



speakLIFE funds raised through 2025...

Abilene Hall: Engineering & Nursing Programs	\$9,180,007
Behrens Chapel Auditorium	\$1,458,814
Behrens Residence Hall	\$7,100
Christlieb Program & Scholarship	\$1,537,442
Equine-Assisted Services Center	\$1,842,310
Faculty Enrichment	\$57,906
Newman-Richardson Science Center	\$6,339,076
Prichard Residence Hall	\$1,036,263
Scholarship Endowment	\$13,472,428
Softball Lights	\$46,296
White Horse Truck & Trailer	\$50,838
Other	\$19,772,016

TOTAL: \$54,800,496

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”

— 1 Peter 4:10



speake LIFE:

Community Engagement

“The HSU community believed in me after a very difficult time when I didn’t know if I could believe in myself and they did it through prayer, walking beside me, challenging me, praying for me, supporting and encouraging me...I will never forget it.”

— Anonymous, Pre-Campaign Feasibility Study

Collective Commitment

As representatives of the Board of Trustees and Board of Development, it has been our honor to serve during HSU’s speakLIFE Campaign and support the university’s leadership on this important journey. We are so pleased that our collective efforts, along with the Alumni Association Board and the Board of Young Associates, are permanently altering the trajectory of the university for the better. We are thrilled by the success we’ve reached together — not only in meeting the campaign’s goal, but by surpassing our high expectations of the generosity of the university’s alumni and donors. As important as your philanthropic support to the university is to our present and future, the strengthening of relationships and the deep engagement we are seeing firsthand between the university, our alumni, and our community is even more gratifying. An incredible \$50M+ has been raised, reflecting the passion and commitment of our donors to our students. The success of the campaign could not be happening without the collective support of so many fellow alumni and friends that so passionately care about the future of the university. We thank you once again for your gifts and support for the university!



A Special Thank You!

On behalf of the Advancement Committee, we extend our sincere gratitude to the alumni and friends whose generosity is making the speakLIFE Campaign an overwhelming success. Your contributions are having a profound impact, directly supporting the educational opportunities available to our students and helping to lay the foundation for their future success.

This campaign is not only fostering a spirit of excitement and collaboration but also reaffirming our shared commitment to the mission and values of Hardin-Simmons University. It reminds us of the deep sense of purpose and pride we feel for our institution. Your financial support is playing a vital role in advancing the vision of HSU — providing an education that is enlightened by Christian faith and values.

As supporters of the speakLIFE Campaign, my husband and I were inspired to give because we believed in the long-term impact this initiative would have on the university and its students. It’s a privilege to stand alongside others in support of this successful campaign and to witness firsthand the lasting difference our contributions are making.

Supporting Hardin-Simmons is more than a financial contribution — it is a statement of belief in the transformative power of Christian higher education. Even as specific projects of the speakLIFE Campaign reach completion, our mission carries forward. There will always be new opportunities, evolving needs, and emerging initiatives where your support can continue to make a lasting and meaningful difference.

As we approach the end of this chapter at Hardin-Simmons University, I encourage you to remain engaged and involved. Your continued support—whether through giving, advocacy, or prayer — strengthens our community and helps ensure that future generations of students will benefit from the same values, opportunities, and Christ-centered education that have defined HSU for generations.

Kayla Dillman '14/'16
HSU Board of Trustees
Advancement Committee Chair



Speak LIFE: Community Engagement

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

— 1 Peter 4:10

A letter from Melissa Wickham

I hope this letter finds you well. As President of the Board of Development, I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for your incredible generosity over the past several years in support of the SpeakLife Capital Campaign. Your commitment to our shared vision is making a profound impact on our institution and its ability to continue fostering excellence in education.

The success of the SpeakLife Campaign is a testament to the strength and dedication of our alumni community. It is inspiring to see how so many of you are stepping forward, not just with financial contributions, but also with your time, passion, and belief in the future of our beloved institution. Your willingness to invest in the next generation of leaders reflects a spirit of camaraderie and commitment that is truly commendable.

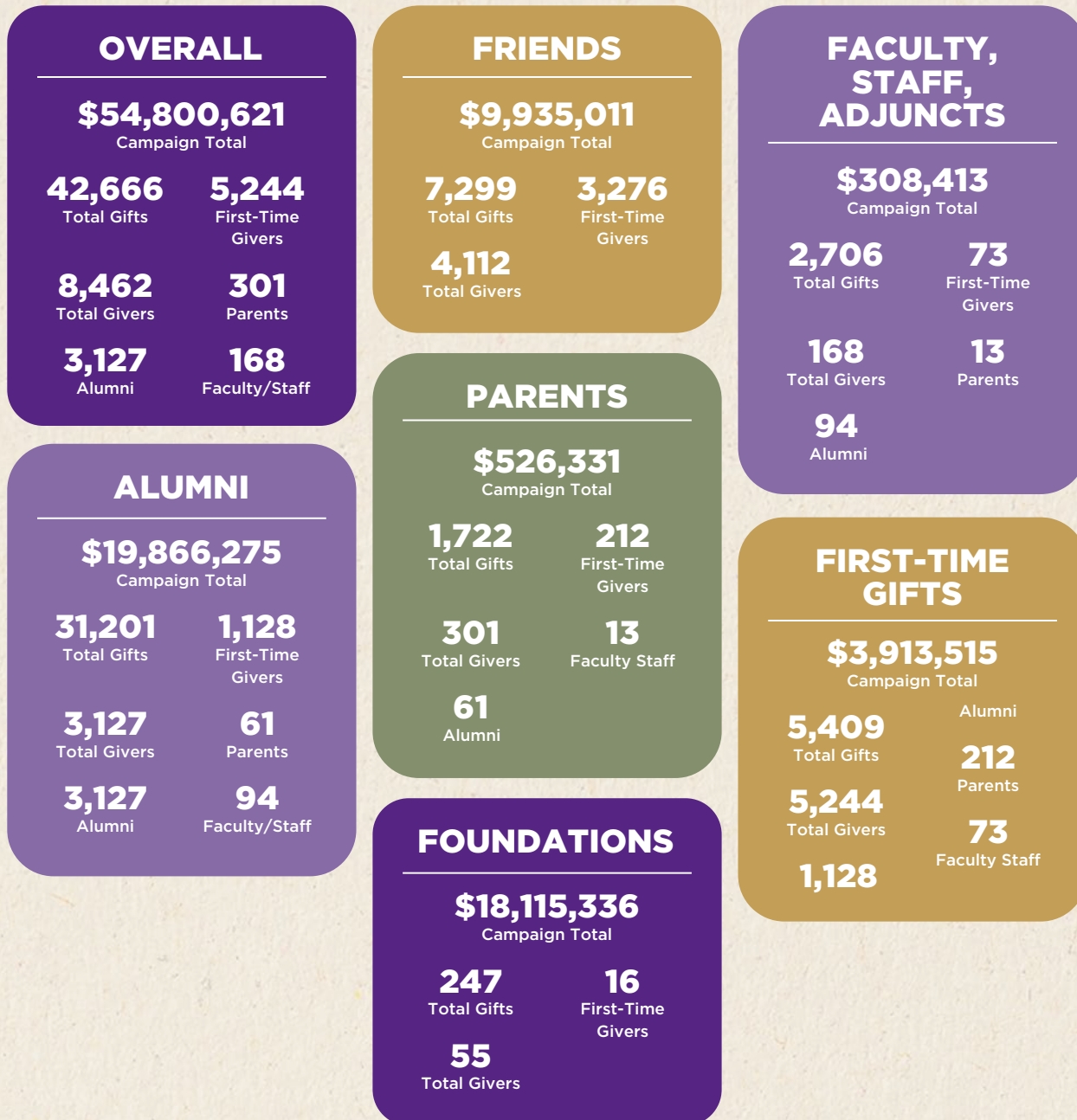
Each and every contribution is helping us achieve significant milestones, including the addition of Prichard Hall, state-of-the-art renovations to Newman-Richardson and Abilene Hall, and the restoration of Behrens Chapel. These advancements will not only enhance the experience of our current students but will also create a lasting legacy for future generations. In addition, increased support of the Christlieb Scholarship program will enable Hardin-Simmons to transform lives of young people in a tangible way.

I am continually reminded of the power of community and how each gift, no matter the size, plays a vital role in shaping the future of our institution. The generosity you are showing is a beacon of hope that encourages our faculty and inspires our students to reach their fullest potential.

As we move forward, I encourage everyone to remain engaged and committed to supporting our Forty Acres. If you have not been on campus in a while, make a trip – you won’t be disappointed when you see all of the wonderful developments and feel the energy on campus. There are numerous ways to contribute beyond financial support, including volunteering your time or sharing your experiences with current and future students. Your ongoing involvement strengthens the fabric of our institution and demonstrates the impact of a united alumni network.

Thank you once again for your extraordinary support and belief in our mission. Together, we are speaking life into this generation and beyond, and I am excited to see what we can achieve in the years to come.

Melissa Wickham '98
President of the Board of Development



speake  LIFE:

Entering the Final Phase...

Thank you!

We are grateful to you for making the speakLIFE Campaign a tremendous success! Every day as faculty and staff walk the campus, we are reminded of the profound impact our work has on the lives of our students. Support from HSU's friends and family is what makes it all possible. By supporting Hardin-Simmons University, our donors are not only helping students turn their dreams into reality but also shaping the future of our university.

As we move into the final phase of the campaign, our team feels incredibly blessed to have such generous supporters who stand with us on this journey. The words "thank you" do not come close to expressing how deeply grateful we are for your continued dedication and belief in the HSU mission.

