

Link

THE MAGAZINE OF
HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY
FALL 2023

FACING THE FUTURE

HPU celebrates the renovation of the
Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom



GREETINGS FROM DR. CORY HINES '97, HPU PRESIDENT



As the calendar year draws to a close, the season provides a time of reflection. The approaching Christmas holiday brings with it reminders of gratitude, peace and joy. As I look back on 2023, I am so humbled by all the ways God has provided for and blessed us. The stories shared in this issue of the

Link magazine testify to the goodness of our God toward HPU and the grace He continually shows us.

In the news section, you'll find Stinger Spectacular highlights, showing just a glimpse of the fun-filled weekend we shared with alumni, students, personnel and friends. I hope you'll enjoy reading about other noteworthy developments in the life of HPU - including the long-awaited grand opening of the newly renovated Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom.

A wide range of feature stories about alumni, students and personnel highlight themes of commitment, service and God's provision. I hope these articles will be as much of an encouragement to you as they are to me.

From cover to cover, this magazine helps tell the story of God's goodness to HPU. Thank you for being a part of all He is doing here at our beloved university through your presence, prayers and other support. I can't wait to see all that He has in store for us in the coming year.

Blessings to each of you,

Cory Hines, Ph.D.
President

DR. HINES PHOTO BY HEATHER NIX; GRACE CHAPEL PHOTO BY REBEKAH STERLING '18

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HPU welcomes capacity crowd for opening of renovated Academy of Freedom

On August 15, Howard Payne University celebrated the grand opening of the newly renovated Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom, hosting approximately 300

attendees for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and self-guided tours. In attendance at the event were donors, elected officials, area residents, HPU board members, personnel, students and alumni.

Participants in the ceremony were Ronnie Andrews '83, chairman of HPU's Board of Trustees; Brownwood Mayor Stephen Haynes; Dr. Cory Hines '97, HPU president; State Senator Phil King; Dr. Dale Meinecke '98, HPU's vice president for advancement; State Representative David Spiller; and Hilary Stegemoller, regional director for U.S. Congressman August Pfluger's Brownwood office.

Home of the Guy D. Newman Honors Academy, the university's multidisciplinary honors program, the historic Academy of Freedom building underwent a major renovation

Pictured at right: Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony are, from left, Gene Deason '72, chairman of HPU's Guy D. Newman Honors Academy Board of Directors; Ronnie Andrews '83, chairman of HPU's Board of Trustees; Dr. Cory Hines '97, HPU president; Melinda Hines, HPU's first lady; and Michael Goeke, executive director of the J.E. & L.E. Mabee Foundation.

to revitalize the facility for use by the university's students, personnel and visitors. Commemorating the Honors Academy's founding ideals, the facility's central gallery houses HPU's statue of General MacArthur and a special collection of artifacts related to his distinguished military career.

"The grand opening of the renovated Academy of Freedom was a great success, and we were so happy to host such a large gathering for this celebration," said Dr. Hines. "Our university is grateful for this outpouring of support for this important endeavor, and we thank everyone who had a role in making this long-awaited day so special."



Pictured above left and right: HPU welcomed guests for tours of the newly renovated Academy of Freedom.

Reflections by Dr. Matthew McNiece '03, director of the Guy D. Newman Honors Academy, professor of history and government and department chair

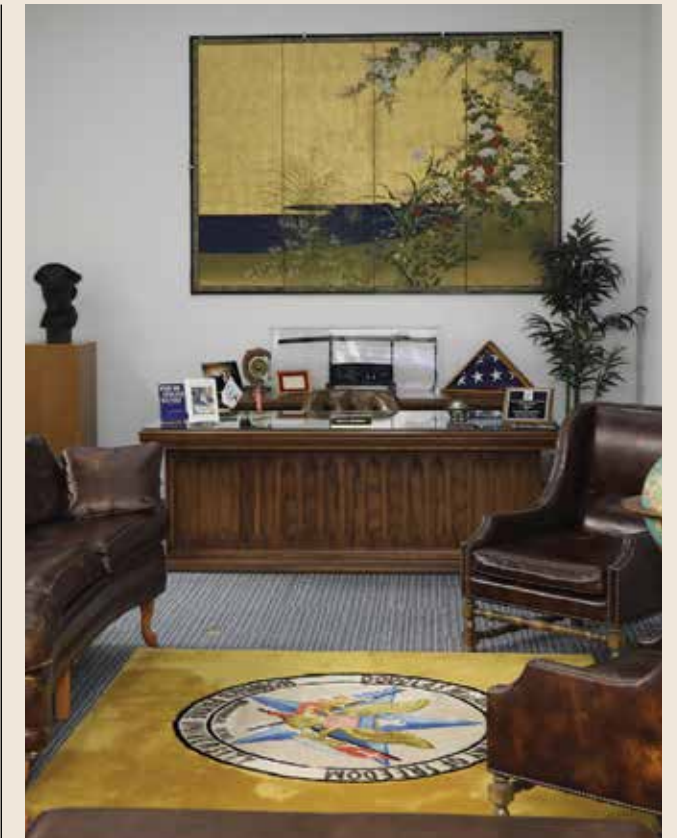
At noon on Dec. 4, 1962, a group of men and women gathered in Howard Payne College's Veda Hodge Hall at the inaugural meeting of the Board of Directors for a passion project of HPC President Guy D. Newman's. By the second meeting, one month later, they had a charter and articles of incorporation. By the third, they'd brought in prominent architect Frank C. Dill to discuss three things: the structural requirements, the functional requirements and the symbolism of the various aspects of the structure.

That structure was the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom, a grand vision of Dr. Newman's to combine the intellectual with the experiential and an academic phase with a display phase, as well as to leverage a concept he termed "environmental education" in order to achieve something great.

From that seed grew an interdisciplinary honors program, one that would combine the professional competencies of a student's traditional academic major with a systematic course of study designed to prepare students for lives of service and leadership. More than just an honors society, this program was to be housed in more than just a building - a structure that could itself play an active role in this dynamic process.

Conceived by Dr. Newman, the Academy of Freedom building is structured around the solid and stoic Daniel Baker College Old Main. To the front of the DBC building, Frank Dill added a modern set of so-called "wings," with extensive use of floor-to-ceiling glass. The "wings" became the physical representation of Dr. Newman's reference to the American eagle, where classrooms and offices were - thanks to the design features - open for the world to see. When combined with the "museum rooms," this Academy of Freedom is a decidedly unique structure, suitable to the unique mission of this decidedly distinct honors program. Indeed, the very shape of the building played no small part in the development of the Academy's motto: Facing the Future with Faith and Knowledge.

What was then, is still now: Last year, our approximately 60 Honors Academy members represented almost 30 distinct academic programs from across all seven of HPU's academic schools. Almost 40% were NCAA student-athletes. All were challenged to make the most



A replica of Dr. Guy D. Newman's office is now a feature of the renovated Academy facility.

of the gifts and opportunities God has given them. And now, a new generation of Academy members will renew Dr. Newman's dream in wonderfully renovated spaces that will accommodate and accentuate the steadfast mission of excellence in scholarship and citizenship.

Dr. Newman's vision is still as important as ever. It, and the Honors Academy program and Academy of Freedom complex that sprang forth from it, remains viable because it remains both vital and vibrant. The combination of the academic and display phases, the collaboration of the intellectual alongside the experiential, and the best of our traditions alongside the boldest of our innovations make both our program and our place truly unique and a truly fitting realization of, as Dr. Newman titled his autobiography, *One Guy's Dream*.

[Note: This article was adapted from a speech given in conjunction with the 2023 grand opening.]

PHOTOS BY THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Please see pages 18-23 for more on the Academy of Freedom renovation.

HPU family celebrates another fun-filled Stinger Spectacular weekend

Howard Payne University hosted alumni, prospective students and other friends of the university at this year's Stinger Spectacular, held the weekend of October 13-14. Presented by Citizens National Bank, the event combined Homecoming, Yellow Jacket Preview and Family Weekend.

The 2023 honorees were Dale Fisher '61, Distinguished Alumnus; Dr. Micaela (Espiricueta) Camacho '59, Coming Home Queen; Natalia Lopez '06, Outstanding Young Graduate; Dr. Robert and Cheryl (Everett) '91 Mangrum, Grand Marshals; Rev. L.J. Jr. '78 and Lori (Hassel) '76 Clayton, Medal of Service; Rev. Rubén Hernández '76, Dr. José Rivas Distinguished Service Award; and Rev. Doug Holtzclaw '68, the new Jacket Alums in Ministry (JAM) Faithful Servant Award.

Highlights of the weekend included the Homecoming Parade, Cobbler on the Campus, the Alumni Banquet, the Choir Concert featuring a performance by the Heritage Singers Reunion Choir, and a pre-game skydiving demonstration by Killeen's Skydive Skylark, during which one of the divers delivered the game ball.

"We had a wonderful weekend at HPU during this year's Stinger Spectacular," said Dr. Kalie Lowrie '06, assistant vice president for alumni relations. "This was definitely a year to remember, as we enjoyed the unique opportunity to view an annular solar eclipse on Saturday morning during our outdoor activities."

1. The Heritage Singers Reunion Choir joined with current choir members and faculty at the conclusion of the concert.

2. A special skydiving demonstration was given by Skydive Skylark prior to the Homecoming football game.

3. The Jackets score on the way to a 35-11 victory over Austin College.

4. Cobbler on the Campus has become one of the weekend's favorite traditions.

5. Members of Delta Chi Rho show their Jacket spirit at the parade.

6. HPU's 2023 alumni honorees were (from left) Dale Fisher '61; Dr. Micaela (Espiricueta) Camacho '59; Rev. Doug Holtzclaw '68; Cheryl (Everett) Mangrum '91 and Dr. Robert Mangrum; Lori (Hassel) Clayton '76 and Rev. L.J. Clayton Jr. '78; Natalia Lopez '06; and Rev. Rubén Hernández '76.

7. HPU's Homecoming King and Queen were Ethan Cortez, a biomedical science and Honors Academy major from Bangs, and Mitsue Rodriguez, a kinesiology major from San Antonio.

8. HPU's Department of Theatre entertained audiences with its production of "Virtue Is Its Own Reward."

9. Stinger Spectacular guests enjoyed watching the solar eclipse from the HPU campus.



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PHOTOS BY THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

HPU receives \$1 million from Mabee Foundation to establish scholarship fund

Howard Payne University was awarded a \$1 million gift by the J.E. & L.E. Mabee Foundation to establish the J.E. & L.E. Mabee Endowed Scholarship Fund. The fund will provide scholarships for students who demonstrate the character associated with the foundation's founders, John and Lottie Mabee, such as a strong work ethic, volunteerism, generosity, integrity, honesty, humility and charity.

"This \$1 million gift is an expression not only of the Mabee Foundation's extraordinary generosity but also the founders' vision for helping those in need," said Dr. Cory Hines '97, HPU president. "Howard Payne University students will benefit from the impact of this gift for generations to come."

Scholarship awards of \$10,000 each will be made annually to at least four students who are enrolled full time, reside in Texas or one of several surrounding states, and maintain a 3.0 GPA. A scholarship committee at HPU will make the selections each year. Students can apply through the Office of Financial Aid.

Dr. Dale Meinecke '98, vice president for advancement, said the gift will serve as an ongoing extension of the Mabees' commitment to serving others.

"It is amazing to me that John and Lottie Mabee's vision from years ago to bless others will, in perpetuity, result in HPU students receiving an outstanding Christian education and developing into servant-leaders who we hope, like the Mabees, give back to their communities," he said.

HPU and the Mabee Foundation have partnered



HPU students "sting 'em" on the steps of the Mabee University Center.

together through the decades on projects such as HPU's Mabee University Center, several campus improvement projects through the years and, most recently, the renovation of the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom building. The gift for scholarships celebrates 75 years of philanthropic work by the Mabee Foundation in Texas and surrounding areas. Since 1948, the Mabee Foundation has given over \$1.5 billion for philanthropic work toward bettering communities in areas such as education, health and religion.

"John and Lottie Mabee cared about giving people a 'leg up' to help them improve their situation and better their lives," said Michael Goeke, executive director of the Mabee Foundation. "They also were principled people. HPU represents the values of John and Lottie Mabee and we believe this scholarship fund will help many HPU students gain valuable experiences and knowledge that will lead them to live full, successful and purposeful lives."

HPU becomes Baptist World Alliance member partner

In July, Howard Payne University became one of the first two educational institution member partners of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). The BWA General Council approved HPU as a member partner through a unanimous vote during the BWA Annual Gathering in Stavanger, Norway.

The BWA is an international network of Baptists with five key ministry areas: strengthening (worship, fellowship and unity); leading (mission and evangelism); responding (aid, relief and community development);

defending (religious freedom, human rights and justice); and advancing (theological reflection and transformational leadership). These ministry areas are described in detail on the BWA website, www.baptistworld.org.

"Howard Payne University is proud to enter into this partnership with the BWA in pursuit of our common desire to build the Kingdom of God around the world," said Dr. Cory Hines '97, HPU president. "Being a member partner will benefit our student experience and increase opportunities for spiritual growth and mission work."

PHOTOS BY REBEKAH STERLING '18

HPU's Center for Student Success created to strengthen academic achievement

In July, Howard Payne University announced the creation of the Center for Student Success, a program focused on improving academic outcomes for undergraduate students enrolled at the university. The resources offered by the center will complement existing student-success initiatives to prepare students comprehensively for success upon graduation and entry into the workforce.

The center is strategically positioned to direct the university's efforts in areas such as academic advising, tutoring, dual enrollment and accommodations to students with disabilities while, through the newly created University Writing Center, helping students develop their writing skills across all courses.

The Center for Student Success, housed in HPU's Walker Memorial Library, is led by Dr. Wendy McNeeley, assistant vice president for student success. Her 29 years of leadership at HPU include experience as a faculty member and in roles such as director of developmental studies, dean of advising and general education and, since 2017, assistant vice president for university records and dean of general education.

"The Center for Student Success, under Dr. McNeeley's leadership, will play an essential part in providing necessary support to and improved academic outcomes for our students," said Dr. Cory Hines '97, HPU president. "The center is yet another example of HPU's continued commitment to providing quality, Christ-centered higher education in the Heart of Texas, and I look forward to the vital role the Center for Student Success will play in enhancing the student



experience at Howard Payne in the years ahead."

Dr. McNeeley eagerly anticipates seeing the impact the center will have on students' learning.

"I am excited about the opportunities that this new center will afford to students and look forward to focusing on student academic success," said Dr. McNeeley. "We have wonderful students at HPU, and this will be another resource that can assist them to be all God has called them to be."



Dr. Wendy McNeeley leads HPU's new Center for Student Success.

HPU offers Health Science Enrichment Workshop to high school juniors and seniors

HPU hosted the first annual Health Science Enrichment Workshop (HSEW) this past summer. The two-day program was sponsored by the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP) and provided participating high school juniors and seniors hands-on learning opportunities at HPU and Hendrick Medical Center Brownwood.

Through health care simulations, the participants received instruction in suture/staple removal, basic EKG interpretation and emergency resuscitation. Through science labs, they performed DNA extraction and anatomy dissections. Students also earned their Stop the Bleed® certification, which was presented to them by Dr. Laci Sutton '09, dean of HPU's School of Nursing, professor of nursing and co-director of HSEW.

HPU's School of Nursing and School of Science and Mathematics organized the event. HSEW was co-led by Dr. Kristen Hutchins, dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, professor of biology and JAMP faculty director.

"Dr. Sutton and I are excited to work together in supporting high school students interested in a healthcare profession," said Dr. Hutchins. "This workshop provided excellent opportunities for them to expand their knowledge and skills on the HPU campus and spend time in a healthcare field of their interest."

An important aspect of HSEW was the opportunity for students to shadow and network with healthcare professionals at Hendrick Medical Center Brownwood, which gave them exposure to a variety of career paths.

HPU alumna Judith Ozuna '99 receives Texas Baptists' 2023 B.E.S.T. Award

Howard Payne University alumna Judith Ozuna '99 was recently named by Texas Baptists as one of nine recipients of the Baptist Educators Serving Texans (B.E.S.T.) Award for 2023.

The B.E.S.T. Award is coordinated by the Office of Cooperative Program Ministry and annually recognizes Christian educators who live out their faith among their students and their alma maters. The award recipients are alumni representing one of the nine Texas Baptist universities, serve in faculty or administrative roles in the Texas public school system and are members of a church supportive of Texas Baptists.

Ozuna was valedictorian of Early High School in 1996 (where she now serves as principal). She graduated from HPU in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and education. At HPU, she received the Outstanding Math Education Student award and was a first-generation college graduate. After graduation, she became a teacher and taught math and Spanish.

In 2007, Ozuna's colleagues voted her Teacher of the Year for Early Independent School District, an award she received again in 2014. In 2010, she was honored as a Girl Scout Woman of Distinction. She went on to receive a master's degree by taking online courses through Angelo



Judith Ozuna '99 (center) was named a recipient of Texas Baptists' Baptist Educators Serving Texans (B.E.S.T.) Award for 2023, presented to her at her church, Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida in Brownwood. Pictured with Ozuna is Dr. Cory Hines '97, HPU president, and Dr. Kalie Lowrie '06, assistant vice president for alumni relations at HPU.

State University. In 2022, Ozuna was named the Region 15 ESC Principal of the Year.

Both Judith and her husband, Juan, who is also a 1999 graduate of HPU, have served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors at their alma mater. Juan is a vice president at the Mills County State Bank. They have two sons – Kaleb and Elijah. The Ozunas are active members of Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida in Brownwood.

Dr. Kalie Lowrie '06, HPU's assistant vice president for alumni relations, expressed her support of the selection of Ozuna for this award.

"Judith is a deserving recipient of this award that represents commitment to public education and faithful service to the Lord," said Dr. Lowrie. "She sees her work as her calling and students are blessed by her investment in their lives. We are proud to have Judith selected to represent the caliber of HPU alumni among other leaders recognized around the state."

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- Dr. Kalie Lowrie '06, HPU's assistant vice president for alumni relations

DR. GIL PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. ADRIAN GIL; DR. FERGUSON PHOTO BY BEN SARTAIN '23 PHOTO BY KYLE MIZE

HPU El Paso Center Highlights



By Dr. Adrian Gil, assistant vice president for the El Paso Center

Congratulations to our **2022-2023 graduates:** Adrian Garcia (MBA), Luis Jimenez (MBA), Armando Monroy (MATM), Oscar Hernandez Armendariz (BAAS), Samuel Lopez (BAAS), Beatriz Munoz (AM, BAAS), Joseph Garcia (BAAS), Michael Guzman (BAAS), Adalberto Soto (BAAS), Daniel Fish (MATM), Omar Rivera (MATM) and Patrick Shing (MATM). Congratulations are also extended to **summer '23 graduates:** Jesus Zaragoza (MBA) and Arturo Senclair (BAAS).

The **HPU Alumni Association El Paso Chapter** had a great year with activities that served the El Paso Center and the community. The officers consisted of President Eva Gutierrez '11, Vice President Nicole Wilson '20, Secretary Victoria Maldonado '20 and Treasurer Annie Adams '13. The alumni served HPU students by providing food and drinks the week of spring finals, volunteering to assist with the May Graduate Recognition Ceremony and assisting with the management of selected scholarships, El Paso Giving Day and the End-of-Semester Christmas Celebration. They also led a service project (Project

Grace Place) benefiting a neighborhood outreach ministry. Also, the HPU El Paso Center is proud to introduce the 2023 Alumni Chapter officers: President Eva Gutierrez '11, Vice President Alyssa Jones '12, Treasurer Omar Rivera '23 and Secretary Irma Garcia '21.

The GECU Foundation awarded a **matching \$10,000 grant** to be used for scholarships open to all majors. This donation is part of matching funds to our sixth-year \$10,000 grant award from the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation for business major scholarships. These funds are applied toward '23-'24 scholarships, available exclusively for our HPU El Paso Center students.

This past June, the HPU El Paso Center hosted the **monthly meeting for one of our community partners, the Downtown Church Connection (DCC)**, a network of more than 60 churches and community organizations within our immediate area. The DCC's purpose is to share information, advocate for one another and collaborate when/where possible. God bless these ministries!

Lastly, we welcome **Angela Barrera de Hopewell, our new El Paso Center admission counselor**, who started in September. We look forward to her contributions to the HPU team and to the growth of our center. Sting 'em!

HPU New Braunfels Center Highlights



By Dr. Cynthia Ferguson, assistant vice president for the New Braunfels Center

I am delighted to have been serving as the **assistant vice president for HPU's New Braunfels Center since July**. HPU was the educational home for my father and a first cousin. I made the transition to New Braunfels from Abilene, where I dedicated 22 years as a faculty member at McMurry University and served the past six years as the associate vice president for curriculum and academic innovation. Previously, I taught for 8½ years at Texas State University, in San Marcos.

In late August, **Helena MacCrossan joined as our admissions counselor**. She is the daughter of Dr. Elizabeth MacCrossan, HPU NB's dedicated English instructor.

In October, the HPU NB Center **relocated into the Veramendi community** northwest of town. Our new address is 2164 Oak Run Parkway, Suite 103, New Braunfels, TX 78132.

In the spirit of HPU NB's commitment to service, on October 24, Becky Hair, HPU's senior financial aid specialist, led our **fall community service seminar** on navigating the new FAFSA form. More than 100 attended.

One of the highlights of this past year was when NB Center's own Sarina Saunders, a criminal justice major, was named a **Sumner Scholar**. Sarina is a remarkable individual and student.

The center is busy each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday offering **10 on-site classes, in addition to online classes**. The on-site classes create a sense of community and fulfill students' desire for social interaction while the online courses provide working professionals with the necessary flexibility to balance their education and full-time work commitments.

Just as we strive to serve our post-secondary students, we also visit area Christian schools to understand their **dual-credit** needs. At this time, the NB Center partners with area homeschool groups and the New Braunfels Christian Academy. Finding ways to cultivate dual-credit options has the potential to equally benefit the high school and HPU, with dual-credit students receiving outstanding educational experiences and HPU organically recruiting within these faith-based schools.

The 2023-2024 academic year is well underway. We feel honored to celebrate **our 10th anniversary in New Braunfels** and look forward to many more years of faithful educational service!

Treating others like family

Immigration attorney Natalia Lopez '06 works to help families like her own achieve citizenship

By Dr. Kalie Lowrie '06

As a child of immigrant parents, Natalia Lopez '06 had a front-row seat to the immigration process in the United States from a young age. Natalia's parents are both from Mexico and immigrated to the U.S. before she was born. Now as an immigration attorney, her goal is to help her clients through the immigration process by answering questions and working hard to help them achieve the results they desire, while treating them like family through the process.

"I want to provide a comfortable environment for everybody and show kindness and respect," she said. "I always treat them as if they were my own family sitting across the desk from me."

Natalia has many moving stories about reuniting families, some after almost a decade, and helping individuals achieve citizenship. The process is not always easy and sometimes takes several

years to work through the procedures to achieve citizenship or reunite those who may have been separated.

"I'm honest with them about the time frames, my recommendations and what we can do for them," Natalia said. "I would have wanted someone to do the same for my family."

Natalia grew up in Brownwood and did not have plans to attend Howard Payne University, but her parents helped set up a campus visit and encouraged her to consider the school. When she came to visit, she was interested in the Academy program because she wanted to study law. She received



several scholarships, and the staff who guided her family through the process were very kind and answered many questions. Ultimately, Natalia made an agreement with her parents to attend HPU for one semester and then potentially transfer.

To her surprise, "in the first couple of weeks on campus, I loved it," Natalia shared. "The moment I stepped on campus, they treated me like I was already part of the family."

She felt at home at HPU, ultimately staying and completing her degree in 2006. During her time as a student, Natalia was involved in Moot Court and Chi Alpha Omega, as well as being a founding member of the Stingers dance team. She

also enjoyed her pre-law classes in the Academy, where she was taught through the Socratic method, which prepared her well for her future at Texas Wesleyan School of Law.

While in law school, Natalia interned with nonprofit agencies such as Catholic Charities and Justice for our Neighbors. Those organizations were warm, Christian environments where immigrants were cared for with compassion and love. Her family members were going through the immigration process at the time and she saw how difficult it was and how they often had questions and could not always find answers.

After passing the bar and working for a private immigration firm for a few years, Natalia felt compelled to start her own firm.

"I wanted to get back to that compassion and empathy I saw displayed at the nonprofit organizations I worked for," she said. "I was limited in what I could do at another firm, so I decided I wanted to start a law office where I could serve whomever I chose."

In 2014, Natalia opened law offices in both Brownwood and Fort Worth and continues to run both today. She wanted to have a presence in Brownwood and serve the community where she grew up, but also maintain connections in the Metroplex where she represents clients at immigration court.

Three years ago, Natalia was contacted about serving on the HPU Alumni Association Board of Directors and she was thrilled with the opportunity to give back and reconnect with her alma mater. She now serves as the Scholarship Committee chair and oversees the awarding of \$15,000 or more each year in scholarships through the Alumni Association. Natalia feels very blessed by the scholarships she received when she was in school that made it possible to earn her degree. She has also personally started two scholarships for students at HPU.

"It's just my way of showing my gratitude to Howard Payne," she said. "I wanted to make sure someone else in my shoes would not think that it was impossible to come here. I want to make sure future generations love their time at HPU as much as I did."

Natalia also loves being involved in events and initiatives as an alumna and encourages others to get involved.

"All it takes is going back for one event, like Homecoming or the Veda Slumber Party, to reconnect with old friends and make new connections," she said.

Taking that first step to reconnect, no matter how long it has been since you have been back to campus, makes all the difference, according to Natalia. She encourages other alumni to check out upcoming events and follow the official alumni accounts on social media to stay connected with what is happening.

Natalia takes the lessons she learned from her days at HPU and the feeling of family that she experienced on the campus as she serves her clients each week. She truly embodies the values of Christ-centered service she learned at HPU through her work as she helps make a brighter future for her clients. ■

PHOTO COURTESY OF NATALIA LOPEZ '06

To find out more about the Howard Payne University Alumni Association and related activities, please visit www.hputx.edu/alumni.



KEEP HER COLORS EVER FLOATING

Join the Gold and Blue Alumni Alliance for \$50 and band together with other HPU graduates in continuing to offer life-transforming education at HPU.

From your gift, \$25 will support the Alumni Association and \$25 will be given to the fund of your choice.

Members who join now will receive a Gold and Blue Alumni Alliance tumbler, while supplies last.

To join today, scan the QR code or visit www.hputx.edu/goldandblue.



HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY ARTIFACTS

DATE : Freshman beanies
TYPE : 1920s to present

by Dr. Robert Mangrum, professor of history and government and university historian



The earliest information available concerning freshmen at HPU is found in an article entitled “Class Spirit” on page 168 of the 1923 *Lasso*. Seemingly, before that date, very little distinction was actually made concerning incoming new students and the upper-class students at HP. The use of some type of identifier to distinguish the freshman class from the upperclassmen officially began in the fall of 1923 when HP began using freshman beanies. “It is the plan,” states the article, “that every freshman will have the august privilege thrust upon him of being allowed to wear a bright green scull [sic] cap that will distinguish him from the rest of the student body.”

In the earliest years, Initiation at Howard Payne was conducted for the entire freshman year with the freshmen required to wear a beanie throughout the entire time. By 1924, the *Yellow Jacket* reported that yellow, blue and green caps were given to all the freshman class. These caps were to be worn, not carried. The caps were “green in color, with a green shade protector, and in front have two colored strips of yellow and blue,” where a numeral appeared to denote the year of graduation of the person wearing the cap. Throughout the academic year, freshmen were continually being thrown in the H Pond while the tug-of-war became an annual event.

As time passed, more changes were made to freshmen activities and so were the beanies. Gradually the green color was replaced with gold or yellow and accented with blue. The Freshman Orientation, or Initiation as it was referred to by students of the 1940s through the 1970s, was in 1988 relabeled Boot Camp and then, later, Tradition Week. On September 23, 2004, a new era began with the introduction of Daze of Payne, with events designed to foster the spirit of HPU.

Pictured at right are various beanies of HPU freshmen through the years, including Charles Lockwood, Dr. Kalie Lowrie '06 and Charles Lewis '21. The other beanies shown are from unidentified wearers.

Dr. Robert Mangrum published an account of HPU’s history titled *For Howard Payne My All: 125 Years of Christian Higher Education and Service, 1889-2015*. The book, which took 17 years to write, celebrates the university’s history since its founding in 1889. It is available for \$30 on DVD or USB flash drive at www.hputx.edu/stingerstore or at HPU’s Stinger Store in the Mabee University Center. All proceeds from the book’s sales support an academic scholarship at HPU.





The Paul and Jane Meyer Faith and Life Leadership Center (FLLC) was constructed in 1982. The structure, which spans over 26,000 square feet, includes classroom and office space for the School of Christian Studies as well as Grace Chapel and the Richard and Wanda Jackson Conference Room. The building provides a valuable space to continue HPU's historical emphasis on training ministers of the gospel.



Paul and Jane Meyer Faith and Life Leadership Center



PHOTOS BY REBEKAH STERLING '18



The Paul and Jane Meyer Faith and Life Leadership Center was the result of a major renovation of HPU's Phelps Bible Building and the university chapel in 2010.

The FLLC renovation was made possible through the generosity of numerous HPU supporters. It was named in recognition of the Paul and Jane Meyer Family Foundation of Waco. Grace Chapel is named for Dr. E. Grace Pilot of Mobile, Alabama.

In 2023, significant upgrades to classroom technology were made thanks to the James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation of Midland.

All HPU students take Old and New Testament courses in this building. The Christian studies undergraduate and graduate programs are also housed in the FLLC.

To contribute toward ongoing improvements of HPU facilities, visit hputx.edu/give.



SHARING WHAT WE HAVE

Dr. James '69 and Mrs. Pat '70 McGlothlin help strengthen HPU's legacy through planned giving

By Coby Sauce, MBA '14

“If our story could be an encouragement for just regular folks like us to do what they can for the future of the school, then we would be pleased.”

Howard Payne University is the kind of place where you can walk across campus and people call you by name, says Dr. James McGlothlin '69. It was that way when he and his wife, Pat (DeHart) '70, attended and, as he likes to tell prospective students, it still is today.

“It’s a very friendly place and was a wonderful experience for me,” he says. “It was so nurturing, and I had all kinds of opportunities to get behind the pulpit as a young preacher.”

James surrendered to ministry as a senior at Pasadena High School. His father, Ira '54, had been a pastor but was a career elementary teacher who had two degrees from HPU.

“I’d been around Howard Payne quite a bit and it was really a natural step for me,” James says. “I came in as a sophomore and graduated in three years.”

During his senior year at HPU, he began pastoring his first church, Hopewell Baptist Church in the small community of Crews in Runnels County. He was ordained to the ministry in 1969, and he and Pat married in 1970 following her graduation. He went on to earn both a Master of Divinity degree and Doctor of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The couple was in full-time ministry until retiring in 2005. James continues to preach, having served in nine interim positions in just the last few years.

Pat completed an education degree at HPU and served as a public schoolteacher for 25 years. She is thankful to several HPU alumni and personnel for their influence in her life.

“I grew up in a very unstable home,” she says. “I began attending church regularly in high school. Leon Aduddell, an HPU graduate, was my pastor and his wife, Dot, was my piano teacher.”

Pat recalls her high school counselor telling her that she was not “college material.”

“I went to my piano lesson and Dot could tell I had been crying,” she says. “She told me that she knew where I should go to school.”

The Aduddells, who served on HPU’s Board of Trustees and in the Alumni Association, took six students from their church to tour the HPU campus. All six later enrolled as Howard Payne Yellow Jackets.

“As hard as my situation was, I hope the Lord used it in some way,” Pat says. “Everybody has a story. There are

hardships for all of us. It took me a while to understand that.”

The McGlothlins name several others from their HPU days who encouraged and inspired them in their own careers, including Dr. A.J. and Mrs. Berta Quinn, Dr. Bob and Mrs. Judy Campbell, Dr. James and Mrs. Corinne Shields, and Dr. George and Mrs. Sara Baker.

The McGlothlins have both continued to serve their alma mater throughout the years, James through the university’s Board of Trustees and Pat through the Alumni Association.

“Early on, when I was on the board, we started giving back financially to Howard Payne,” says James. “The Lord took care of us and blessed us. We became very convinced that we wanted to leave something of significance to Howard Payne.”

In addition to their regular giving, the McGlothlins are investing in HPU through the Robnett Legacy Society by including the university in their estate planning. Planned giving allows HPU to enlarge its endowment, address campus needs and support students through scholarships.

The couple has a son, Samuel '01, and a daughter, Anna. Samuel and his wife, Suzanne (Gilstrap) '02, are HPU graduates and parents to 10-year-old Aaron Samuel. Aaron says he’d like to attend HPU one day as well, and his grandparents are encouraging that with a steady supply of t-shirts from the university.

The McGlothlins know what HPU did for them and what it can do for many more students in the future.

“If our story could be an encouragement for just regular folks like us to do what they can for the future of the school, then we would be pleased,” says James.

Says Pat, “It does help a lot of students and a lot of programs when we share what we have.” ■

For information about leaving your own legacy at HPU through a planned gift, as the McGlothlins have done, please scan the QR code or visit www.hputx.edu/plannedgiving.



PHOTO BY KYLE MIZE

HPU CELEBRATES THE RENOVATION OF THE DOUGLAS MACARTHUR ACADEMY OF FREEDOM

FACING THE FUTURE



... BUT FIRST, A BACKWARD GLANCE



LEGENDARY BROADCASTER PAUL HARVEY SPEAKS AT ONE OF THE EVENTS HELD TO CELEBRATE THE ACADEMY OF FREEDOM'S OPENING IN 1969.

BY GENE DEASON '72, CHAIRMAN OF THE GUY D. NEWMAN HONORS ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the Academy Board of Directors, I can say we are proud about what's been accomplished with the renovation of the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom building. Well, perhaps being proud isn't sinful if you give God the glory, which we do, but still — if you've not yet been inside, you'll see, thanks to the photos that follow this article.

For a while, it seemed a transformation of this scope would be too much to pull off. But having attended Howard Payne during the final years of Dr. Guy Newman's presidency, I heard him describe something that still applies today — if God be your partner, make your plans accordingly. In other words, discern God's will, have faith and aim high.

The aim was high on this renovation, just as it was when Dr. Newman's dream became reality. The Academy's academic program has always been stellar; now the building that houses it matches that level of excellence and will serve us for years to come.

This is a big deal. To me, it ranks right up there with the day in October 1969 when the Academy of Freedom was dedicated. Mrs. MacArthur attended that ceremony, and I'm sure if she could visit again, she would be even more pleased with what's been done. A gallery that's front and center houses the statue of General MacArthur plus a special collection of artifacts related



ABOVE LEFT: MRS. JEAN MACARTHUR IS ESCORTED THROUGH THE ACADEMY BY DR. GUY D. NEWMAN.

ABOVE MIDDLE AND RIGHT: THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR IS A HIGHLIGHT OF THE ACADEMY'S FIRST GRAND OPENING.

to his distinguished military career. The connection among the Academy, Dr. Newman and the general is showcased more than ever before.

Radio commentator Paul Harvey was also here for that event. Paul Harvey was known for several catch phrases, including "Stand by for news" and "now you know ... the rest of the story!" If he could be here today, I can only imagine how he would report on these renovations — the modular classrooms, updated technology and the improved reception area and office space. The attention to detail extends even to the restrooms. Come visit, and you'll understand.

Decades after that first grand opening, the Academy's core values remain intact. Its students continue to collect honors in competitions against much larger universities. Graduates continue to distinguish themselves in their careers. And the facility's "wow" factor is back after this major renovation. The biggest change since 1969, however, may be with the students themselves. They perceive things differently.

When choosing a university, today's young people put a higher priority on how things look than we did back when I was that age. Will Rogers said, "You never get a second chance to make a first impression." With its beautiful campus, Howard Payne is positioned to make superb first impressions, and how great is it that the Academy

of Freedom is included in that — inside as well as out?

You can have amazing state-of-the-art facilities, and after this Academy renovation we certainly do.

You can have dedicated educators who consider their life's work to be a calling, and we do.

You can have inspired leadership from the trustees and administration, and we do.

You can have faithful supporters who share the mission, and we do.

But if you don't have enthusiastic students to occupy those facilities, students who are here to learn valuable life lessons through the Christ-centered Yellow Jacket experience, it's all for naught.

Thankfully, this renovation will make a huge difference. We are deeply grateful to God, first and foremost, but also to all who supported the project, to Dr. Hines and the university's trustees and administration for their leadership, and to everyone else who had a part in making it happen. What a blessing this is. Just as it has since the facility was dedicated, the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom, home of the Guy D. Newman Honors Academy, continues to live into its motto, "Facing the future with faith and knowledge."

[Note: This article was adapted from a speech given in conjunction with the 2023 grand opening.]

PHOTOS FROM HPU ARCHIVES



1. The centerpiece of the new Gallery of Service and Leadership is Waldine Tauch's larger-than-life statue of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. 2. Museum displays line both walls of the gallery, featuring historical artifacts relating to Gen. MacArthur's life and service to his country. 3. Lofty windows line the wings of the Academy, providing a sunny spot to sit and study or reflect.



1



2



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4. The Founders Library pays homage to Dr. Guy D. Newman, former HPU president, responsible for establishing the Honors Academy program in 1962. 5. Through a variety of historic artifacts and displays, the Artists Corner celebrates the Academy mural by Charles Sweitzer alongside the other significant original art installations of the Academy of Freedom – the towering bas-reliefs of Mediterranean Hall by Buck Winn; the vibrant mural of Runnymede in Magna Carta Hall by T. Osborne Robinson, O.B.E.; and Waldine Tauch's statue of Gen. MacArthur. 6. Classrooms have been updated to be modular with flexible furnishings, new technology and movable walls helping to accommodate traditional lectures as well as more intimate discussions. ■

PHOTOS BY THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



MORE THAN HE EXPECTED

HOW DIONDRAY PARKER FOUND COMMUNITY AND HIS CALLING AT HPU

W

When Diondray Parker was looking for colleges to attend after graduating high school, he was looking for a place where he could play football. He imagined his search would lead him to a larger state school where he could pursue his dream. However, a phone call from assistant football coach Nick Forde at Howard Payne University introduced Diondray to what would become his home for the next four years.

“One of my coaches at my high school had connections here, but I didn’t know about Howard Payne until that phone call,” recalled the HPU sophomore.

Diondray wasn’t immediately interested in Howard Payne. It was smaller than all the other schools he had been considering and farther away from his home in Portland, Texas. Even so, he felt like he should research the school and see what it had to offer.

“The first thing that caught my eye was that it was a Christian university,” he said.

It wasn’t long after he first set foot on campus that he realized HPU was a special place.

“As soon as I visited,” remembered Diondray, “I thought, ‘I want to come here.’”

Coming to Howard Payne, he knew he wanted to play football. Diondray had played the sport most of his life, and he wanted to continue playing throughout college. He had his mind set on football but, on his first visit to HPU, he met with Dr. Gary Gramling ’81, dean of the School of Christian Studies, and realized that he also felt called to ministry.

“When I came here, I just had this very overwhelming feeling, this call,” he said. “I don’t know what it looks like exactly, but I feel called to ministry in some way.”

Diondray isn’t sure where his call to ministry will lead him, but he does know that Howard Payne is a great place for him to learn. Right now, he enjoys volunteering with

First Methodist Church’s youth ministry, in which he helps lead a small group for junior high boys.

“My heart goes out toward younger people,” he said. “I want to show them that even though their lives might not look the best, God is still there and He’s walking with them.”

On campus, Diondray serves as a resident assistant in Jennings Hall. This has given him a unique opportunity to interact with students who might otherwise have been outside his sphere of regular interaction.

“It’s a great way for me to connect with residents firsthand and gives me an opportunity to share Jesus’ love,” he said.

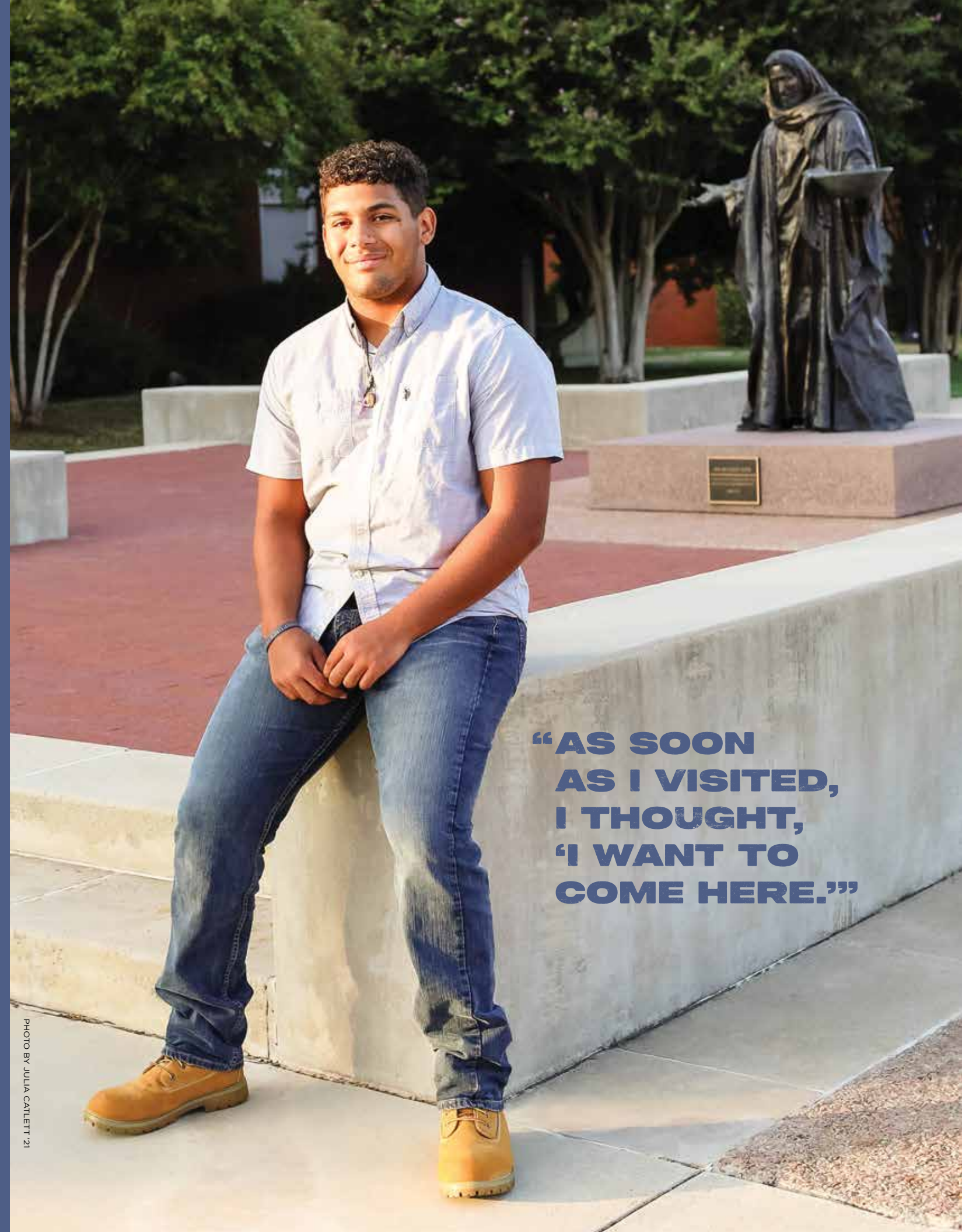
Diondray believes that one important way to share Jesus’ love is by example. He strives to love and serve those around him in the same way Jesus does. Kevin Bachtel, head football coach, has been an influential model of leading by example on the football field.

“Everyone on the team has a lot of respect for him,” said Diondray. “He cares about his players both on and off the field. With a great coach, we have a lot of potential to do great things on and off the field for the glory of God.”

As a double major in kinesiology and youth ministry, Diondray is able to pursue his love of sports and explore the call God has placed on his life. He is able to grow and learn academically as well as spiritually. He found a place where he has many opportunities to serve – on the football field, as an RA, as a small group leader for his church and in the classroom. At HPU, he is encouraged in his walk with the Lord and has the space to discover what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

“Here,” said Diondray, “we can learn, talk about God and give Him the glory at the same time.” ■

BY JULIA CATLETT '21



“AS SOON AS I VISITED, I THOUGHT, ‘I WANT TO COME HERE.’”

PHOTO BY JULIA CATLETT '21

STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: RILEY BRITTAIN

**By Abram Choate '98 and M.Ed. '17,
assistant director of athletics for athletic
communications**

Finishing her senior season as a Lady Jacket volleyball player, Riley Brittain's perseverance has paid off, both on and off the court.

The HPU volleyball team got off to its best start in more than 30 years, matching the best start in HPU's non-scholarship era at 5-0. With just three wins in the 2022 season, the Lady Jackets improved to 12 wins in 2023 and made an appearance in the American Southwest Conference championship tournament, winning a conference tournament match for the first time in school history.

Success has come to her individually as well. Early in the season, Riley passed 1,000 career assists in a match versus Schreiner University.

The senior from New Braunfels has taken on opportunities to serve on campus and make deep friendships along the way.

Apart from volleyball, what other sports did you play growing up? **RB:** Growing up I played a bunch of different sports, but I primarily played basketball. Once I started playing volleyball, I wanted to give it my full attention and it became the only sport I played.

How did you get to HPU? **RB:** I knew about HPU through family who actually graduated from McMurry University. But once I knew I wanted to play volleyball after high school, I decided to take a tour of HPU and play in an open gym with a couple of the girls to see how I liked it.

What does it mean to you to see the success the volleyball team is having this year? **RB:** It means everything. I - as well as others - have worked so hard for years to see the results we're seeing now. All I have ever wanted since joining HPU volleyball is for us to gain respect as college volleyball players and for how hard we work.

What factor has spurred the success? **RB:** I think we have girls who want to play and have unrelenting fight. Across the board, we have people now who want to work hard and fight for every point.

What is your favorite memory on the volleyball court?

RB: My favorite memory has probably been the opening tournament of the season at Centenary College in Louisiana. Leaving opening weekend 4-0 was such an exciting experience and something I'm so grateful we were able to work hard to accomplish. I also just feel like that was the point in which we realized as a team that we can really surprise some people this year, and that weekend we did.

How are you involved on campus? **RB:** Besides volleyball, for the past year and a half, I have worked for HPU's University Services, upstairs in the Mabee University Center. Through that experience, I have gotten to help out around campus and work with some really great people.

What is your favorite memory of HPU off the court?

RB: My favorite memory off the court is when I'm in the classroom. I'm lucky enough to have a major - elementary education - that I love so much and get to share with some of my really good friends. So anytime we're in class, we're always having a good time.

What is your favorite memory so far at HPU? **RB:** My favorite memory was all the history we made in the program this year. We had the best start to a season since 2013, we are the only six-seed team to advance past the first round in the ASC conference tournament and we earned HPU volleyball's first-ever postseason win.

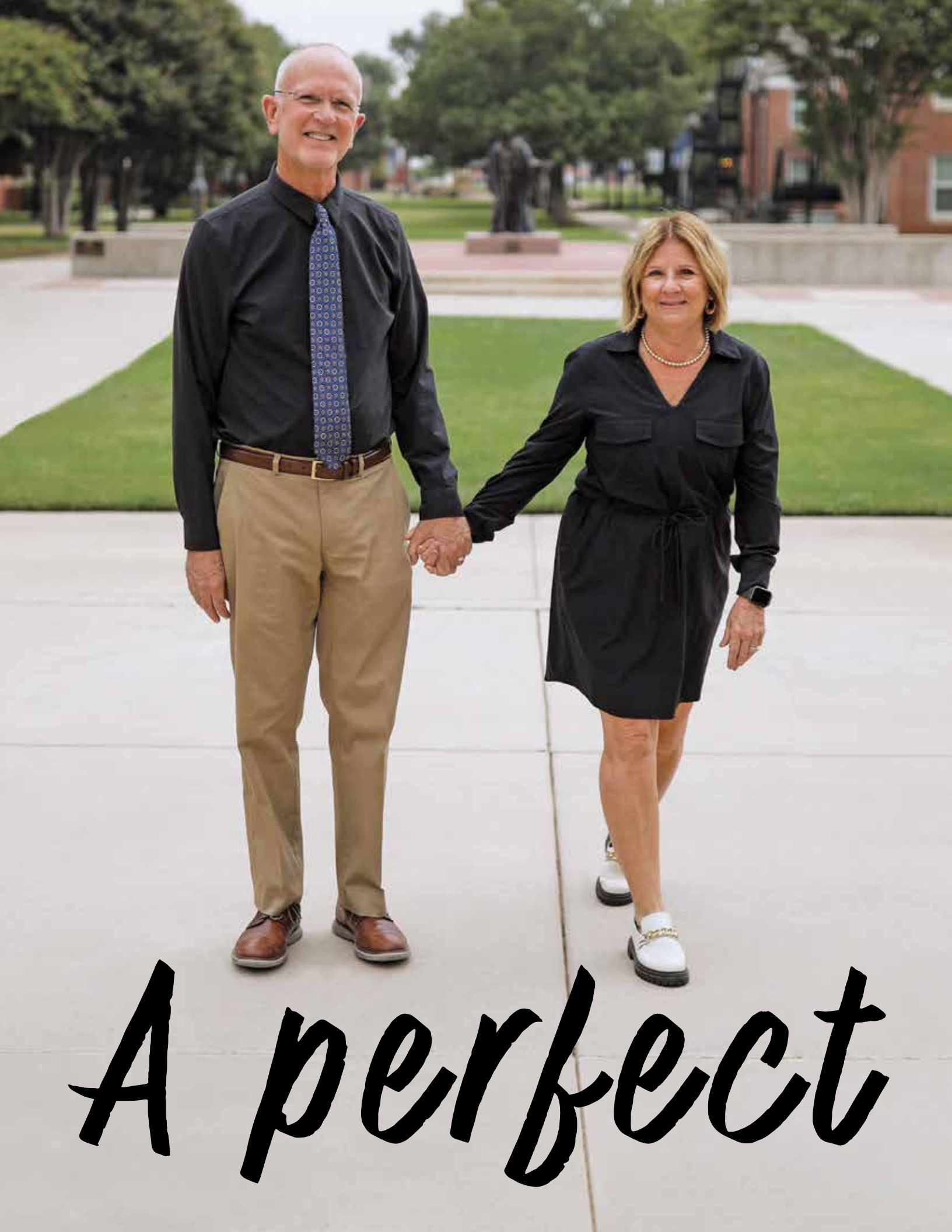
What will you take away most after graduation? **RB:** After graduation, my biggest takeaway will probably be how grateful I am to have gotten to play a college sport, and how not many people get to have the experiences I did getting to play four seasons. It was always a dream of mine, and I think I will have made my younger self proud knowing I graduated college with a degree I love and playing the sport I love.

What are your plans after graduation? **RB:** After graduation, I plan on going straight into teaching, hopefully at Valley Mills Elementary back home. Maybe I'll get to catch a few of the HPU volleyball games next fall to support the girls and the coach. ■



"I think I will have made my younger self proud knowing I graduated college with a degree I love and playing the sport I love."

PHOTO BY REBEKAH STERLING '18



A perfect

plan

Gary '81 and PJ '81 Gramling didn't meet each other until they were students at Howard Payne University, but they had near-miss connections going back to childhood. They lived on the same street when they were kids, had mutual friends in high school, attended some of the same football games, and Gary was at the same revival as PJ the night she accepted Christ. They even participated in a scripture memory contest in the same fourth grade Sunday school class, which they discovered when they became friends at HPU.

Their lives have been characterized by God's direction. He directed each of their lives to bring them together at just the right time, and He's directed them to where they are now. In their current roles at HPU – Gary as dean of the School of Christian Studies, director of the Christian studies graduate programs and professor of Christian studies, and PJ as director of admission – they each minister to students every day.

Gary grew up with five siblings in Fort Worth. His family regularly attended North Fort Worth Baptist Church, and he became a Christian when he was 9 years old. In high school, he felt the call to ministry. His youth minister took a group of students who were interested in ministry on a tour of different Christian colleges, including HPU.

"I'll always be glad he did that," Gary said. "When we

got to Howard Payne and I went into Old Main and met people in the admissions area, I knew. I felt so at home, and it just felt right."

Patti Jo Gray (not yet using the nickname "PJ") also grew up in Fort Worth. Her dad wasn't a Christian, but her mom was. They didn't regularly attend church, but they would sometimes visit North Fort Worth Baptist Church. In high school, after her friend Delisa Daniel invited her to the revival where she accepted Christ, she began attending a church down the street from where she lived.

Neither of PJ's parents went to college, but her road to HPU began all the way back in 7th grade when she started coming to the Homecoming parade every year with Delisa, whose three siblings attended HPU. When PJ finished high school, no one had taught her about the college admissions process. However, her high school boyfriend was going to college, and his mom helped PJ go through the admissions process to attend the same school. When she decided she wanted to transfer somewhere else, the only other college she knew about was HPU.

Gary and PJ's college years were filled with fun, growth and friendship. The campus was full of energy from students who wanted to enjoy time with friends.

"It was just so much fun," said Gary. "You know the old slogan about Howard Payne, 'where everybody's somebody.' You really just got to know people and that was the best part."

PJ added, "The majority of people ate at the cafeteria and then afterward just stood outside, talking for hours."

In addition to all the fun, they both grew spiritually. For PJ, it was her first time engaging with Christian community.

"I was a Christian before I came, but I didn't really have a lot of growth in my life until I came to Howard Payne and was immersed in this Christian environment," said PJ. "My suitemates and my roommate, Gigi (Minner) Magee, pitched in and all bought me a Bible. That was the first Bible I ever owned."

One of the major spiritual growing points for Gary as a student was beginning to serve in youth ministry at First Baptist Church in Blanket.

"They let me make all kinds of mistakes," said Gary. "It's such a great thing, how they could love on me as a young

Dr. Gary '81 and Mrs. PJ '81 Gramling look back at God's direction and faithfulness

by Ben Sartain '23



“We are so grateful that He has given us the opportunity to come back and invest in students here at HPU.”

minister and help me, seeing my potential.”

After graduating in 1981, Gary became the youth minister for North Fort Worth Baptist Church. PJ became a member and started volunteering with youth.

“Although PJ and I never dated in college,” said Gary, “we were already good friends, so it wasn’t long before we began a dating relationship.”

They married in 1985, and a couple of years later they moved to California for Gary to earn his doctorate at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. While they were there, PJ started working as administrative assistant to the provost and dean of academic affairs.

After the completion of his comprehensive exams in 1990, they returned to Brownwood for Gary to be part of

starting a youth ministry major at HPU. This program was suggested by alumni who saw a need. Students were serving in youth ministry during and after their time at HPU, but there wasn’t any official track to get them ready for it. This would be the first youth ministry major offered in Texas, and being a part of it was very exciting for Gary.

“What’s cool to me is that it wasn’t the administration saying, ‘Here’s a way we can make money,’” Gary said. “It was grass roots, people saying, ‘Here’s a need, let’s get some training for these students.’”

Gary had been one of those students, and now God was going to use him to help prepare new students for ministry. At this point he had been in youth ministry positions in a rural setting in Blanket, a suburban setting in Fort Worth

and an urban setting in San Francisco.

“God had given me some valuable and varied experience in youth ministry,” Gary said, “so that when the HPU president at the time, Dr. Don Newbury, asked me to come and start a youth ministry program here, God had already been at work preparing me.”

Their daughter, Hannah, was 9 months old when they returned to HPU, and their son, John, was born in 1992. PJ stayed home with the kids until Hannah was a senior in high school. As PJ asked questions about HPU admissions for Hannah, PJ’s eye for detail and her organizational ability became evident to Dr. Brad Johnson, the vice president for enrollment and student services at the time. Meanwhile, PJ was looking for what God had next for her now that her kids were reaching an age where they needed less of her attention.

“Brad Johnson called and talked to me about working at HPU,” PJ said. “Brad said, ‘We are looking for someone who loves HPU and enjoys working with students.’ Gary said I was just looking for someone else to mother.”

Both Hannah and John attended HPU, and each got involved in aspects of campus life that fit their interests. There was a year when the whole family was on campus every day, but for Gary and PJ it didn’t feel much different than if their kids were away at school somewhere else.

“I didn’t see them any more than other parents who would go visit their kids in college,” PJ said.

Both Hannah and John are now HPU graduates, and Gary and PJ continue to invest in students with the same care and commitment.

PJ views her work in admissions as an opportunity to help get students connected with HPU so they can have the same great experience she had – especially students who may be unsure about going to college.

“If someone hadn’t made going to college easy, I could have backed out at any point,” said PJ. “I think in the admission area that’s what I like to do – to make an easy answer to questions. We have a friend who said one time, ‘Lord, let me be the answer to somebody’s prayer today.’ A lot of mornings I pray that prayer and look over the campus and thank the Lord for who He’s going to bring.”

For Gary, his work as a professor and dean is informed by his experience serving in ministry while he was a student.

“There are two philosophies out there,” said Gary. “There’s one that says, ‘Go to college, major in something other than religion and then prepare for ministry at seminary.’ Howard Payne has always been the school that says, ‘Go ahead and do ministry while you’re in college and see if you’re really called,’ and I really like that.”

As the Gramlings look back at their lives, they are

grateful to God for how He has guided them to where they are today. Gary was greatly impacted by spiritual leaders in his life growing up, and he celebrates the lasting influence his HPU professors have had.

“I did not realize how much I was impacted and equipped by professors like Dr. Frankie Rainey, Dr. James Shields, Dr. José Rivas and Dr. Wallace Roark,” said Gary. “I will never be able to repay the Lord for all the amazing people He has placed in my life.”

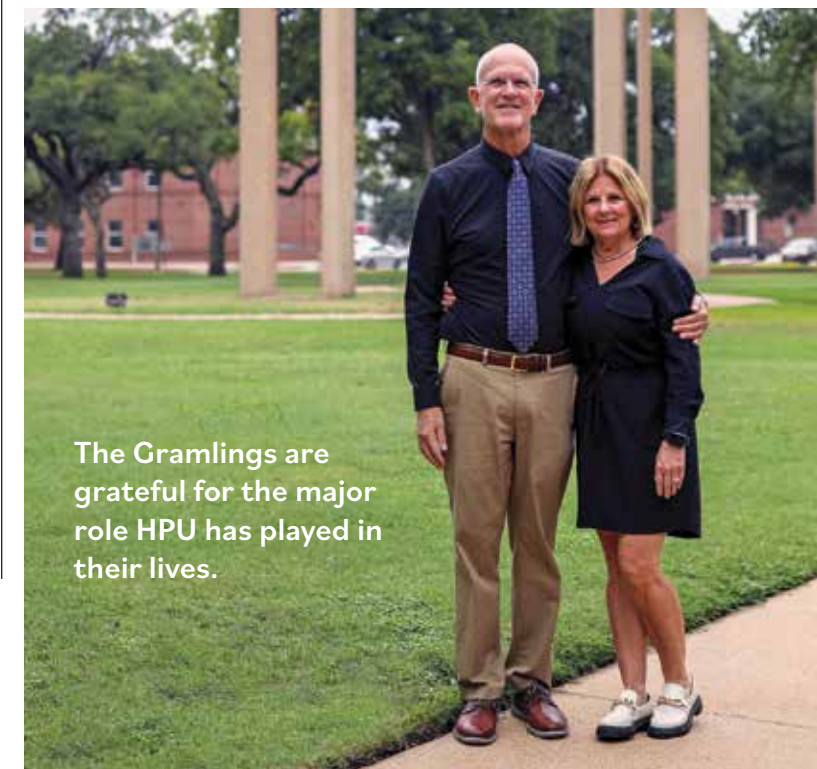
PJ sees the same ongoing impact in her life through the people she met at HPU.

“I look back and am grateful for all those in my life who helped guide me,” said PJ. “My friend Teri (Davis) Andrews was the first person to tell me that the Lord could work daily in my life. Her life was an example of following Jesus. This is the kind of friendship that starts at HPU and still lasts over 40 years later.”

Both Gary and PJ have every confidence that their current roles at HPU are exactly where God has called them, and they are thankful for the opportunity to give to others what God gave to them.

“My journey to really seek the Lord started at HPU,” said PJ. “This is why I’m grateful for the opportunity to assist students through the admission process. Maybe someone else will come to accept Jesus as their savior here or learn how to follow Jesus.”

“I never even had on my radar that I might teach college students,” Gary adds. “Honestly, I thought we would be in churches where I would serve as a youth minister all my life. But God had other plans, and we are so grateful that He has given us the opportunity to come back and invest in students here at HPU.” ■



The Gramlings are grateful for the major role HPU has played in their lives.

PHOTOS BY BEN SARTAIN '23

HOPE for the HURTING

*Hope Home Ministry
gives young women
a fresh start*

BY REBEKAH STERLING '18

PHOTOS BY REBEKAH STERLING '18

Home is more than just an assemblage of walls and doors and windows. It is meant to be a place where one's needs are met – physical, emotional and spiritual. Without this space in which nourishment, rest, healing and laughter can reside, where else is there to go? Where can hope be found?

Hope Home Ministry, founded and led by Chassidy (Carroll) Machmeier '08, is helping restore hope in hurting young women who need a new beginning after years of instability and trauma.

Machmeier's heart for these women is a calling she sensed early on in her time at Howard Payne University. As a Christian studies major with an emphasis in cross-cultural studies, Machmeier thought she would eventually become a missionary in Latin America. But when an opportunity to help lead a women's Bible study at a juvenile correctional facility presented itself, her eyes were opened to a need right here in Brownwood.

"I had no idea what a juvenile correctional facility even was," Machmeier recalls. "I went to the juvenile facility and saw 12-year-old girls walking around in jumpsuits and handcuffs and marching in lines and I thought, 'What is this place?'"

Ron Jackson State School is run by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) and houses young people ages 12 to 19, many of whom come from traumatic backgrounds and broken homes. Although the school is co-ed, it is the only state school in Texas that houses females on high restriction.

"I was introduced to that world and just fell in love with the ministry out there," Machmeier shares. "From my freshman year at Howard Payne all the way through the end, I was super involved with mentoring the girls at TJJD. By my senior year at Howard Payne, I was leading a group of around 40 mentors who were going out there."

Machmeier's time serving within the walls of the facility gave her a unique insight into the lives of the girls who lived there as well as the challenges they faced when they left.

"These girls had come from horrible backgrounds and had been abused and traumatized all their lives," Machmeier recounts. "A lot of times they didn't even have language for what had happened to them. So they came from horrible environments, then went into strict lockup and then, when they got out, they would be sent right back into the environments they came from. It was a perpetual cycle of abuse, poverty, shame and addiction."



*Chassidy Machmeier '08 founded
Hope Home Ministry in 2008.*

Machmeier and a couple of HPU friends shared a heavy burden for these women, some of whom had come to know the Lord in their time at the state school. Machmeier wondered if something could be done for these girls when they left. That's when Hope Home Ministry got its start.

In 2008, while still an HPU senior, Machmeier and her friends Beka (Mullins) Almen '08 and Chaley Perkins rented a house and shared the responsibility of caring for their first resident. Soon, they realized they needed to expand their offerings.

"She was there for six months and then we started realizing we needed to have an actual program that these girls would go through – not just 'Come live with us and do a Bible study,'"

Machmeier recalls. "So, we started the process of getting our nonprofit status, got a board of directors and started sending out letters to churches. And it just kind of grew from there."

Today, at its permanent location in Brown County, Hope Home can house up to five women. This allows the staff to devote time and specialized attention to each resident, based on her needs. Residents stay at least six months, but ideally longer. Many of the girls who stay in the home spent their formative years just surviving, so there is much to learn



before stepping back out into the real world. Throughout the multi-layered healing process, the women are connected with important mental health services but are also learning to cook, do laundry, set goals and have healthy relationships with others.

All these things are important steps in preparing the residents to become independent. More than anything, however, Machmeier knows that the girls' deepest need is to experience the love of Jesus.

"Our heart is for the girls to know Jesus and have that relationship with him," Machmeier emphasizes. "So we do Bible studies, get the girls connected with a local church and have mentors who work with the girls. We do our best to make sure that they're connected with a lot of healthy people to help them along the way, because it is very difficult to heal when you've had 18 or 19 years of trauma."

In addition to working with girls from TJJD, Hope Home also works with anti-trafficking agencies as well as Child Protective Services, which refers teens who are unable

to be in traditional foster homes. Machmeier shares how important the support of the community and volunteers has been for the ongoing recovery of the women in their care.

"People can partner with us through volunteering or donating if they are able," she says. "We have individual mentors or mentor families who we assign to one girl so they can work with her for the duration of her time in the home. We can use help with vehicle maintenance or home maintenance or yard work. Women can teach Bible study or people can come in and share their testimonies."

Since its founding, members of the HPU community have been a part of Hope Home's support network. Lynn and Dan Humeniuk, retired HPU faculty members, have been involved in numerous ways throughout the years and Abby Fraser '20 currently serves on staff as house parent. Dr. Kalie Lowrie '06, assistant vice president for alumni relations, and Dr. Wendy McNeeley, assistant vice president for student success, have served as board members.

Though the task of helping these women who have been

Hope Home gives residents a safe place to be a part of a healthy community



"OUR HEART IS FOR THE GIRLS TO KNOW JESUS

AND HAVE THAT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM."



The Hope Home team (from left): Tory Gardner, Chassidy Machmeier '08 and Abby Fraser '20



through such unimaginable pain looms large, Machmeier emphasizes that being around sincere and loving people has a long-lasting impact.

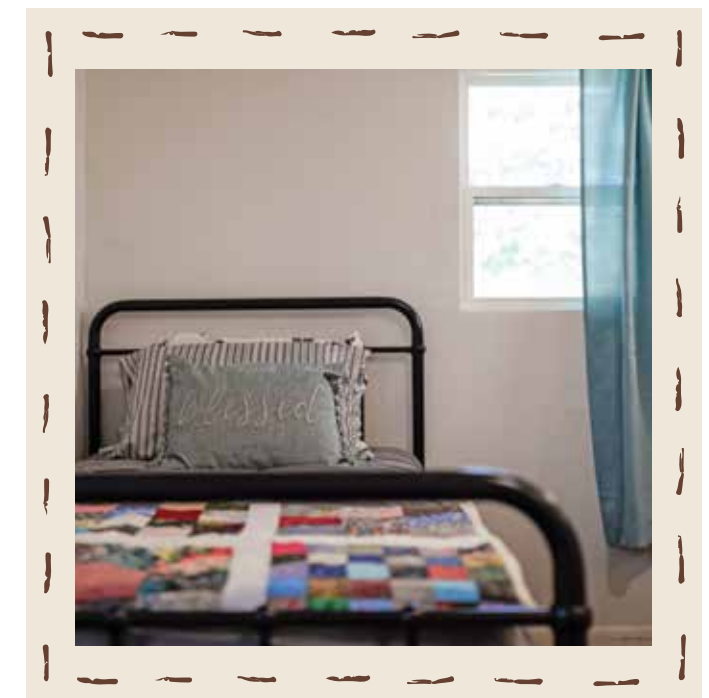
"I think the girls just want trustworthy people to be there for them," she adds. "Saying, 'I'm going to do what I say I'm going to do and I'm going to ask for forgiveness if I mess up,' and demonstrating the love of Christ is really helpful for them."

The Hope Home team stays connected with residents who have graduated from the program and moved on.

"At any given time, we have about 20 young women we're providing aftercare services for," Machmeier says. "Just like people who come from healthy families, whose parents don't just cut them off when they turn 18, we try really hard to provide that long-term support for our former residents."

Through the ministry and devoted care of Chassidy and her team at Hope Home, dozens of women have been given a place to sleep where they are safe and warm and won't go hungry. But ultimately, the hope given these young women goes beyond a place to live, because Hope Home Ministry shares the ultimate source of hope – Jesus – whose truth is a firm foundation and whose love is a shelter. ■

PHOTOS BY REBEKAH STERLING '18





When I first came to Howard Payne University, I didn't know what to expect from college. Though I had taken some basic classes at Weatherford College, they were all on-line; I only stepped onto that campus once. Needless to say, low-budget rom-coms and movies like *A Beautiful Mind* all painted wildly different pictures of university life.

I truly had no idea what the classroom experience would look like at Howard Payne. I was excited to be at school but worried about falling behind as another faceless person in seat 23D. What if I did not know the questions to ask? What if I did not know how to write the way the professor wanted me to? I was concerned.

Fortunately, my fears were far-fetched fantasy. I quickly learned that the men and women who teach at HPU have a passion for teaching and learning, and that they care about their students. The professors here are not merely concerned with class credit, GPA or the other numerical systems we employ to measure academic success. Rather, they strive to create an environment where people genuinely learn and

grow. To the faculty at Howard Payne, education is more than a series of boxes to be checked or prerequisites to be met; it is more than filing the proper paperwork at the right time so that a student can don robes, walk the stage and shake hands with the president. To them, providing an education means that they challenge students but also support them. In short, the faculty and staff here are not merely concerned with a set of facts but with a state of mind. They *want* to teach, and they *want* students to learn. This is what I love about HPU.

Allow me to share a story to illustrate my point. When I took Advanced Greek (commonly called "Greek IV") with Dr. Bill Fowler, it had been nine months since I was in a Greek classroom. I was rusty, to say the least. Another student and I struggled to remember some of the material we covered in the first three semesters of Greek, so Dr. Fowler kindly offered to meet with us on a Wednesday after Chapel.

This is noteworthy because this class was scheduled to meet only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. What began as a one-time

meeting to review some old subject matter quickly became a running tradition. The other student and I would meet Dr. Fowler in the conference room week after week. Sometimes, we reviewed old things, and others, we asked questions about topics that didn't fit into our official class time. These meetings were never mandatory; one of us occasionally missed a Wednesday gathering, but Dr. Fowler was always available. In my estimation, we likely spent 15 hours in these gatherings outside of regular class time.

I say all of this to emphasize a point. Dr. Fowler had no obligation to meet with us like this. He went beyond any reasonable expectations as to how far he should go to help us. He cared about teaching, and he cared about his students enough that he sacrificed his own time so that we could learn. Dr. Fowler is not alone. His mentality is not the outlier at HPU but the common mindset. The faculty and staff at Howard Payne love their students and love genuine learning, and they put in extraordinary effort to provide opportunities for growth to their students.

That is what I love about HPU. ■

PHOTOS BY BEN SARTAIN '23

Austin Griffin is a junior from Alvord. He is majoring in practical theology and Bible, minoring in biblical languages and serving as pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in De Leon. He values the influence of HPU personnel such as Dr. Bill Fowler '75 (top left) and friendships formed in the university's close-knit campus community (bottom left).

"THE FACULTY AND STAFF AT HOWARD PAYNE LOVE THEIR STUDENTS AND LOVE GENUINE LEARNING, AND THEY PUT IN EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH TO THEIR STUDENTS."

Howard Payne University sadly lost the following alumni and other members of the HPU family between the dates of March 21, 2023, and October 31, 2023.

HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI/ FORMER STUDENTS

Allison Aitchison '97,
March 27, 2023
David P. Albin, August 24,
2023
Celia R. Armendariz,
August 18, 2023
**Pettye T. (Whitfield)
Arrington '88**, July 28,
2023
Garland R. Bailey, July 7,
2023
Dr. Stephen T. Bailey '57,
May 14, 2023
Michael G. Bannister '15,
April 1, 2023
**Leah J. (Miller) Bedford
'58**, October 23, 2023
Norman R. Bennett '61,
June 8, 2023 (Former
Board of Trustees
member)
Carl R. Brown '52,
October 31, 2023
Norma S. (Gill) Burns '53,
August 19, 2023 (Coming
Home Queen, 2008)
Bruce Campbell '87,
April 20, 2023
Mary H. Ceniceros '95,
June 30, 2023 (Former
member of the Alumni
Association Board of
Directors)
**Rev. W. Lamoin Champ
'50**, May 18, 2023
Douglas R. Chaney '74,
August 28, 2023
Stanley L. Coleman '52,
April 27, 2023

**Leonard D. Courtright
'65**, April 9, 2023
**Perry L. (Johnson)
Cowen '69**, April 5,
2023
David P. Cox, March 30,
2023
Brice W. Crippen '91, July
8, 2023
Pamela L. Davis '72,
August 13, 2023
Kaye (Marsh) Doll '77,
March 24, 2023
Wendell L. Donahoo '59,
July 23, 2023
Esther J. Duffie '82, July
16, 2023
Adam Espurvoa,
September 16, 2023
Gary D. Forbes '70, April
24, 2023
**Frances (Dennis) Franklin
'55**, May 12, 2023
James E. Gilliam '50,
March 24, 2023
Jay T. Gordon '96, June
27, 2023
Floyd Graham, March 25,
2023
Alta M. (Giddens) Green,
May 11, 2023
Whitney Gregory '96,
April 9, 2023
Robert C. Hargrove '66,
July 14, 2023
Myron R. Hastings, May
22, 2023
Edward G. Haynie '51,
September 19, 2023
Don Henry '53, July 1,
2023
Lyndon R. Herridge '71,
September 15, 2023

**Raymond G. Hildebrand
'64**, August 18, 2023
(Grand Marshal, 2002)
Tom M. Howard '53,
October 12, 2023
Dorothy N. Jackson,
April 7, 2023
**Herma Jean (Corder)
Johnson '71**, June 30,
2023
Tony Jones '79, March
27, 2023
**Wilma A. (Gemmell)
Kidd '46**, June 24, 2023
**Rev. Herman M. Kincaid
'60**, September 16, 2023
Donald L. Kissinger, April
19, 2023
**Peggy J. (Matlock)
Langston '54**, May 1,
2023
**Wayne E. Leatherman
'69**, July 27, 2023
George W. Lee '60,
September 18, 2023
Jess C. Little '92, July 28,
2023
Alfred C. Lohse '68,
March 25, 2023
Don Maddin '50, August
21, 2023
**Shirley (Stephens) Martin
'58**, April 22, 2023
Rev. Charles O. Mayo '52,
August 30, 2023
**Sarah S. (Weatherby)
McAlpine '63**, August
30, 2023 (Former Board
of Trustees member;
Woman's Club Yellow
Rose Award recipient)
**Mary A. (Gage) McCarver
'65**, April 4, 2023

**Karen R. (Andrews)
McMillan '83**, September
4, 2023
Pat McShan '55, May 6,
2023
Carey J. Miller '51, May
9, 2023
Frank T. Montagna '73,
May 19, 2023
**Thora L. (Roach) Morrow
'58**, October 21, 2023
Billy R. Mulvany, July 3,
2023
Robert H. Renfrow '58,
August 2, 2023 (Former
faculty/staff member)
James H. Reyes '82, April
22, 2023
Edythe Rippy, March 28,
2023
Carol Y. (Ebert) Roark '82,
September 8, 2023
**Marjorie E. (Brooks) Rose
'50**, September 2, 2023
Ronald T. Russell '71,
October 23, 2023
Joe Scott, June 24, 2023
William A. Shoemake '58,
August 13, 2023
Murl (Pepper) Smith '56,
March 29, 2023
William A. Smith '61,
August 17, 2023
**Dianna R. (Purvis) Stover
'69**, July 11, 2023
**Melba V. (Wolff)
Sylvester**, June 2, 2023
Larry D. Taylor, August
18, 2023
**Lisa M. (Tumlinson)
Thomas '96**, May 7,
2023

**Dorothy (Keese) Tipps
'46**, May 9, 2023
**Rev. Ellis John Villarreal
'80**, December 20, 2022
(Notification received
after publication date of
previous *Link* issue)
**Judith (House) Walker
'61**, August 27, 2023
Gwen E. (Lein) Windahl,
April 17, 2023
Dr. Carl E. Young '64,
October 20, 2023

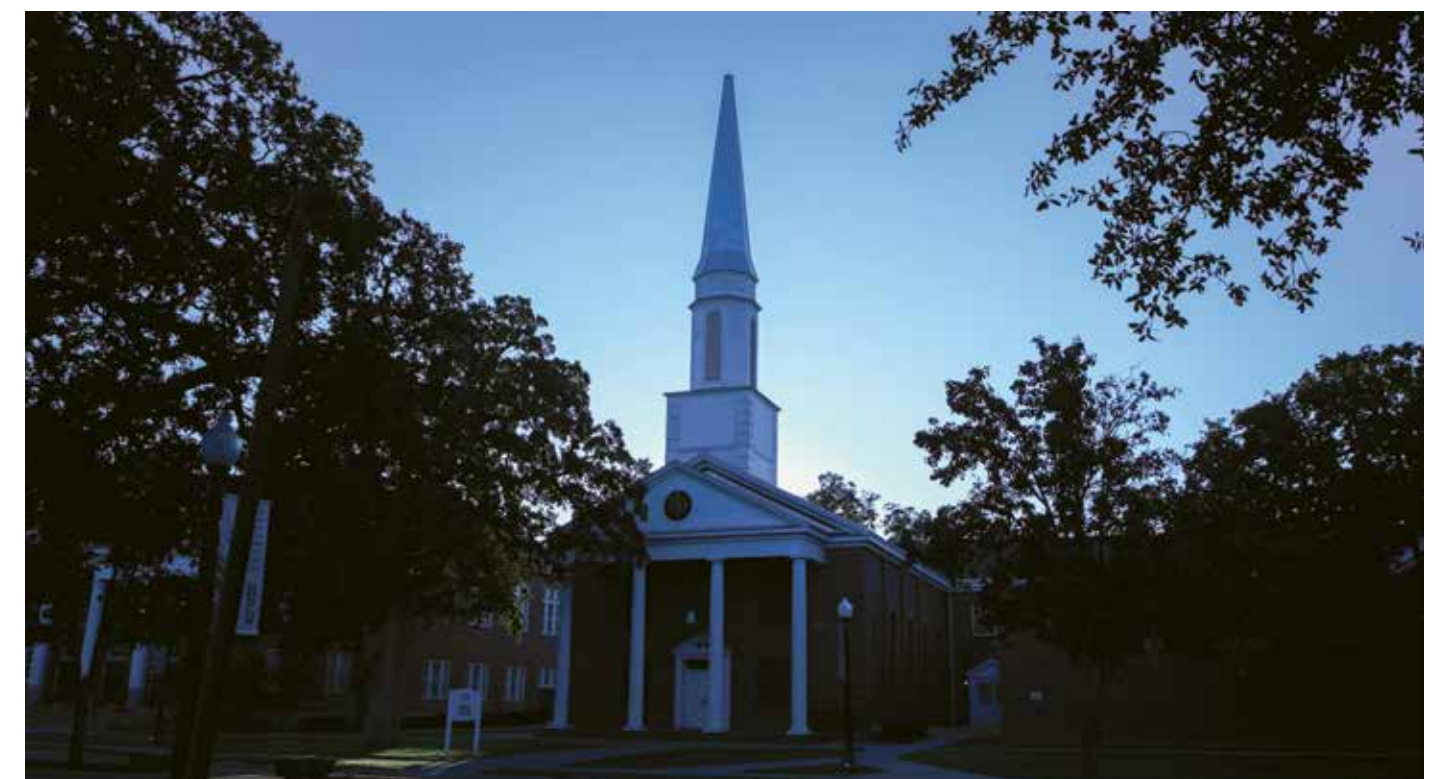
DANIEL BAKER COLLEGE ALUMNI

Carroll Tatom '50,
April 2, 2023 (DBC
Distinguished Alumni,
2000)
Arlis Willingham,
October 14, 2023

ADDITIONAL HPU FACULTY, STAFF, BOARD MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Brent Groom, May 2,
2023 (Former faculty/
staff member)
Dr. Jerry DeHay, June
23, 2023 (Member of
the Guy D. Newman
Honors Academy Board
of Directors)

Dr. Frankie Rainey,
May 19, 2023 (Former
faculty/staff member;
Outstanding Faculty
Member Award
recipient, 1990)
Dr. Jack Stanford, April
21, 2023 (Retired
faculty/staff member;
Outstanding Faculty
Member Award
recipient, 1999)



*Whatever is good and perfect is a gift
coming down to us from God our Father,
who created all the lights in the heavens.
He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.
- James 1:17 (NLT)*

PHOTO BY BEN SARTAIN '23



*High above old Bayou's waters, out on Center's heights
Stands our noble Alma Mater, towering in her might
Keep her colors ever floating, sing her praises due
Hail to thee our Alma Mater, hail the Gold and Blue*

PHOTO BY KYLE MIZE

STAY CONNECTED TO HPU!

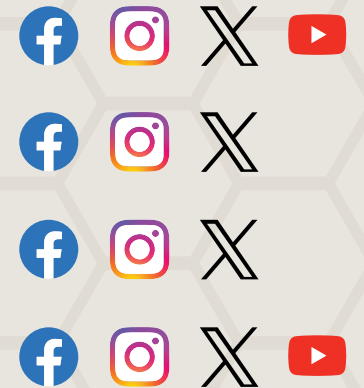
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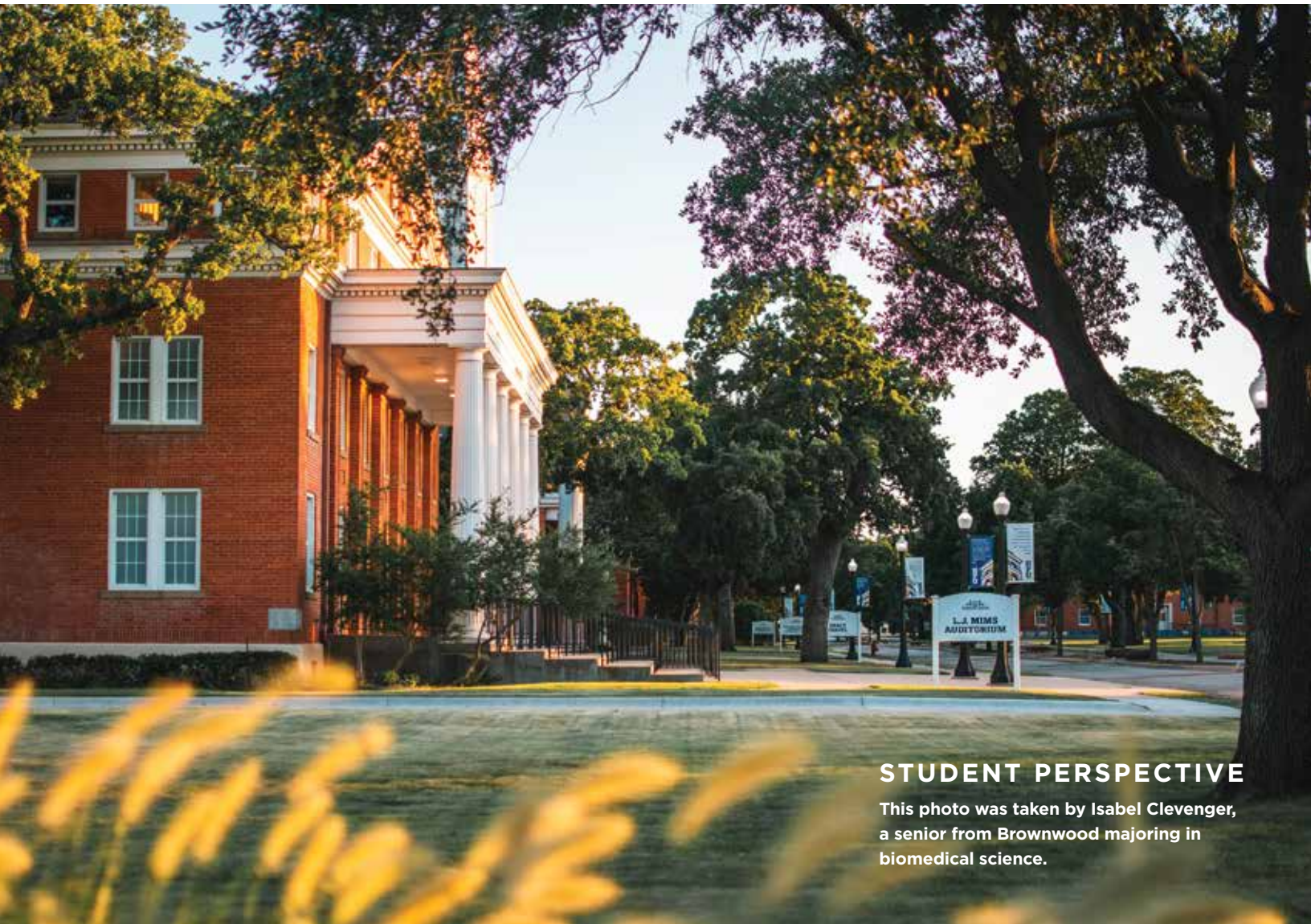
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**Do you know a student who would be a great fit at HPU?
Tell the Office of Admissions!**

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P.O. Box 2369
Brownwood, Texas 76804



STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

This photo was taken by Isabel Clevenger, a senior from Brownwood majoring in biomedical science.