

Link

THE MAGAZINE OF
HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY
SUMMER 2022

NEW ON CAMPUS

Opening of welcome center
marks historic day
in HPU history



**NEWBURY FAMILY
WELCOME CENTER**

GREETINGS FROM DR. CORY HINES '97, HPU PRESIDENT



Summer at Howard Payne University is a great time to look back at the previous year as we prepare for an exciting new year just ahead. We recently hosted the grand opening of the Newbury Family Welcome Center and have marked many other achievements and areas of growth.

Within the pages of this issue of the *Link*, you'll read about many of these successes. Last semester, we celebrated the inaugural William B. Dean, M.D. Lecture Series and Community Impact Day. We are also honored to have been recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution by the Department of Education and our School of Nursing received national accreditation.

Reading about how numerous HPU alumni have followed God's call on their lives to serve in Honduras is a heartening reminder of His calling for each us as Christians. This is a calling I know the HPU family takes to heart and is expressed through the lives of so many on our campus each day.

The story of the Piper family is a great reminder that, while we know what happens here has a great impact on our students, this university can have just as great an impact on those who work here. Debby Dill and Dr. José Romero are examples of the chief priority of all our personnel – serving students.

These and the other stories in this issue are confirmation of the good work that is done here at HPU and the impact our university has in a world that needs Christ. The Lord gives each of us the opportunity to play a role in HPU's future. Join me as we take up these opportunities and trust they will be used as part of His work here.

Blessings to each of you,

Cory Hines, Ph.D.
President

- 2 **Campus News**
 - 8 **Alumni Association Spotlight: Tim Whetstone '85**
 - 10 **Howard Payne University Artifacts: Treasure Room Collection, 1880s-present**
 - 12 **What I Love About HPU: By Katie Burnside, HPU senior**
 - 14 **Two families to share: Piper women have mutual love for one another and HPU**
 - 18 **Cover story – New on campus: Newbury Family Welcome Center opening marks historic day in HPU history**
 - 24 **The beauty in math: Dr. José Romero reflects on how he has seen God at work throughout his life and in mathematics**
 - 26 **Feeling at home: As director of Walker Memorial Library, Debby Dill '92 seeks to foster same sense of community she experienced as HPU student**
 - 28 **Wherever He leads: How five HPU alumni followed God's call to serve in Honduras**
 - 32 **Student-Athlete Spotlight: Miles Koehler**
 - 34 **Sisters of the Seventies: Group maintains strong bonds as they care for one another and support HPU**
 - 36 **Treasure in jars of clay: Finding the difference at HPU**
 - 38 **In Memoriam** 40 **Alma Mater**
- Inside Back Cover – Stay connected with HPU online**
- Back Cover – Student Perspective: Cynthia Montalvo**

Office of University Marketing and Communications:

Kyle Mize
Assistant Vice President for Communications

Rebekah Sterling '18
Communications Coordinator and Digital Content Specialist

Seth Rainey '19
Communications Coordinator and Website Specialist

Julia Catlett '21
Communications Coordinator

Coby Sauce, MBA '14
Part-Time Communications Specialist

Design and layout
by Rebekah Sterling '18, Seth Rainey '19 and Kyle Mize

The *Link* is published by the Office of University Marketing and Communications at Howard Payne University

Articles may be reprinted with permission

Correspondence:
link@hputx.edu
or
The *Link*
Office of University Marketing and Communications
Howard Payne University
1000 Fisk Street
Brownwood, Texas 76801
325-649-8009

DR. HINES PHOTO BY HEATHER NIX; WELCOME CENTER PHOTO BY REBEKAH STERLING '18



HPU serves Brown County during inaugural William B. Dean, M.D. Lecture Series and Community Impact Day

More than 400 HPU students and personnel participated in 16 service projects benefiting non-profit organizations across the Brown County area during the inaugural William B. Dean, M.D. Lecture Series and Community Impact Day on March 30. All campus offices were closed and classes were canceled to allow HPU students and personnel to volunteer.

“Throughout the day, I was so pleased to see the HPU family at work in our community following Christ’s example of service,” said Dr. Cory Hines ’97, HPU president. “During this event, we made community service the sole focus of all our efforts as a university. At HPU, we seek to work for the good of our community, and today was a meaningful, enjoyable opportunity for us to do that.”

HPU volunteers served at The ARK Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelter; Boys & Girls Club of Brown County; Brown County Christian School; Brown County Museum of History; Brownwood Area Community Garden; Brownwood Public Library; CASA in the Heart of Texas; Cecil Holman Park; Child Welfare Board of Brown County; Community Connections of Central Texas; Howard Payne University; Janie Clements Industries; Lehnis Railroad Museum; Lyric Performing Arts Company; Pat Coursey Park; and Texas 4-H Conference Center. Projects included painting, working on flower beds, picking up trash and cleaning facilities.

The projects were preceded by messages about the importance of community and service from Dr. Scott Venable, 2002 HPU graduate and lead pastor of Northwood Church



Pictured are Dr. Kalie Lowrie '06, assistant vice president for alumni relations; Dr. Scott Venable '02, lead pastor of Northwood Church in Keller; and Dr. Cory Hines '97, HPU president.

in Keller. Dr. Venable spoke at HPU’s Wednesday morning chapel service and, for the first entry in the annual related lecture series, at a luncheon for HPU personnel.

HPU announced the annual event in early 2021 following a \$200,000 gift from the Dean Foundation. The Dean Foundation is chaired by Dr. David A. Dean, son of the late Dr. William B. Dean, distinguished Dallas-area pediatrician and trailblazer in treating conditions affecting children such as dyslexia and polio. Dr. David A. Dean serves as chair of the North Texas Crime Commission as well as president and CEO of the public policy consultancy Dean International, Inc. He served the State of Texas for more than a decade as general counsel to Democratic Governor Dolph Briscoe and Republican Governor William P. Clements, Jr. He also served as Texas Secretary of State under Governor Clements. He earned the Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Southern Methodist University and the Juris Doctor degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

Any non-profit organization in the greater Brown County area can register to request volunteers for the event. Information about HPU’s 2023 William B. Dean, M.D. Lecture Series and Community Impact Day will be released closer to the event date.

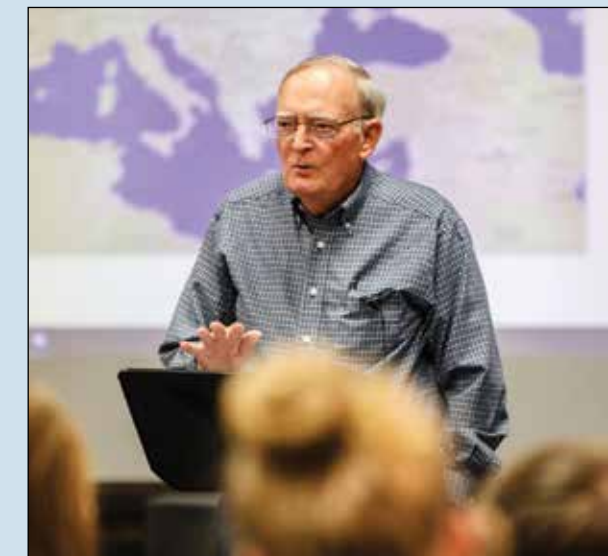
Teams of students and employees from HPU participated in projects at locations such as the Brownwood Area Community Garden.

PHOTOS BY REBEKAH STERLING '18

HPU receives new accolades

- In the *Forbes* 2022 College Financial Grades list, HPU was the highest-ranked institution in Texas, ranking 61st out of 905 private institutions of higher education across the nation.
- HPU was named a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) by the U.S. Department of Education. HSIs are eligible institutions of higher education that have an enrollment of undergraduate full-time students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students. The designation will allow HPU to expand financial aid options and support for Hispanic students.
- HPU was named a bronze-level Military Friendly School by VIQTORY, a marketing company for military personnel entering the workforce. The list identifies 665 institutions of higher education in the U.S. that excel in welcoming and preparing military service members, veterans and their spouses for success as students.
- HPU’s School of Nursing received national accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for the baccalaureate degree program in nursing. The accreditation was announced in the fall of 2021 and is effective as of Oct. 21, 2020, the date of the program’s CCNE evaluation.
- The School of Education’s Educator Preparation program was recently commended by the Texas State Board of Education for exemplary performance in preparing and supporting teachers who are employed in rural schools. HPU’s program is one of only four that received the commendation.

Gen. Terry Scott addresses Russian invasion of Ukraine



Howard Payne University’s Guy D. Newman Honors Academy, the Program for Civic Leadership and Public Policy, hosted retired Lt. Gen. Terry Scott for a unique and expert perspective on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Speaking to and answering questions from approximately 80 HPU students and personnel, Gen. Scott identified causes and potential consequences of the conflict.

Prior to serving as the Honors Academy’s Brand Visiting Lecturer in Political Science (2003–2020), Gen. Scott directed the Harvard Kennedy School’s national security programs and taught at the United States Military Academy (West Point).

HPU celebrates record day of giving on GivingTuesday

HPU’s alumni, friends, community partners and students showed record-breaking support on GivingTuesday, the global day of giving held annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. HPU received a total of \$800,345 with donations given by more than 260 individuals, topping last year’s GivingTuesday as the largest single day of giving in the university’s history.

The extraordinary response continues a positive trend in HPU’s GivingTuesday fundraising, with the amount raised in 2021 nearly doubling that of 2020. Many GivingTuesday gifts were magnified by matching gifts HPU received in response to a call to give, including a \$250,000 gift toward campus improvements, \$50,000 toward athletics, \$7,500 toward chemistry equipment and

\$12,500 toward the Brown County Endowed Nursing Scholarship.

“The response this year from the HPU family on GivingTuesday was truly amazing,” said Dr. Dale Meinecke ’98, vice president for development. “Together, we were able to raise significant money that will have a direct impact for our students through improved campus spaces, more scholarships, better athletic facilities and more. We praise God for the overwhelming generosity shown to HPU.”

To learn more about how you can support HPU financially, visit www.hputx.edu/give or contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 325-649-8006 or development@hputx.edu.

HPU alumna Bobbette Bell '87 named recipient of BGCT's B.E.S.T. Award

The Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) named Howard Payne University alumna Bobbette Bell '87 as one of nine recipients of the Baptist Educators Serving Texans (B.E.S.T.) Award.

The annual B.E.S.T. awards recognize individual Christian educators who live out their faith among their students and the Texas Baptist institutions that are the award recipients' alma maters. Each recipient is an educator working in the Texas public school system, an alumnus or alumna representing one of the nine Texas Baptist universities and a member of a BGCT-supportive church.

After graduating from HPU in 1987, Bell began teaching business education classes at Mart Independent School District, where she met her husband, Rodney. While at Mart, she transitioned to teaching computer classes and later became the technology director for the school. She served for 15 years in the school district before moving to Salado High School.

At Salado, she taught computer classes and instructed journalism and yearbook courses. She now serves as the librarian for the city's high school. She and her husband are active members of First Baptist Church Salado. Bell is also a past president of the HPU Alumni Association.

Through a teaching career that has allowed her to teach multiple subjects and watch technology evolve, Bell says a few things have remained consistent.

"In whatever position I've held, the best part has always been the students – the relationships that we as teachers are

able to build with them and their families," she said. "Wow – just thinking about it is pretty overwhelming. I'm always so honored and so flattered when I receive a wedding invitation, a baby shower invitation or a college graduation invitation from a former student."

The joy that Bell finds in watching her students achieve successes in life is representative of her care for her students that extends beyond the classroom. In her teaching career, she has sought to encourage students to persevere through challenges.

"First and foremost, I want the relationship that I establish with my students to be a professional relationship," Bell said. "Then, I want to make sure that those students are challenged. I want to make sure that at some point, as a result of my influence on them, they are able to accomplish something that they didn't think they could accomplish. I think that is paramount in the learning process."

Bell expressed her gratitude as recipient of the B.E.S.T. Award and her appreciation for the work of many other educators.

"I am so very flattered and so very appreciative of the award," she said. "Throughout my career, I have encountered amazing educators who are so deserving of awards like this one. I know that there are countless deserving educators who came through the School of Education at HPU, who are probably deserving of this award, if not more deserving than I am."

Dr. Kylah Clark-Goff, dean of HPU's School of Education and professor of education, commented on how Bell represents the impact of HPU alumni in education.

"Mrs. Bell is a wonderful example of the quality educators prepared in HPU's School of Education," she said. "HPU is blessed with outstanding students who are passionate about the teaching profession and making a difference as they serve in the mission field of Texas' public schools."



Bobbette Bell '87 received the Baptist Educators Serving Texans (B.E.S.T.) Award from the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOBBETTE BELL '87

"Mrs. Bell is a wonderful example of the quality educators prepared in HPU's School of Education. HPU is blessed with outstanding students who are passionate about the teaching profession and making a difference as they serve in the mission field of Texas' public schools."

- Dr. Kylah Clark-Goff, dean of HPU's School of Education and professor of education

HPU El Paso Center Highlights

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

In October 2021, the HPU El Paso Center hosted a 30th Anniversary Celebration. The event included a celebration of life for our dearly-departed friend and HPU staff member of 25 years, Bertha Valle '09. The creation of a scholarship in her memory, the Bertha R. Valle Annual Scholarship, was also announced at the reception. The funds have continued to grow, and we are nearly two-thirds of the way toward the scholarship becoming endowed. We thank our main-campus guests, Dr. Cory Hines '97, HPU president; Dr. Donnie Auvenshine '75, vice president for academic affairs; and Dr. Dale Meinecke '98, vice president for development, who were able to attend, participate and celebrate with us!

The HPU El Paso Center would like to recognize several scholarship recipients from this academic year. Fadi Carlos Melendez and Nubya Lopez received the 2021-22 Dr. Richard W. Nassar Annual Scholarship. Anabel Argueta and Jessica Miramontes received the 2021-22 El Paso Center Scholarship. Adrian Garcia, Luis Jimenez, Paul Topper and Ruben Otero received the 2021-22 Hunt Family Foundation Scholarship. Lastly, Audria Rausch and Damone Hopewell received the 2021-22 Dr. Joe T. Poe Christian Studies Annual Scholarship. Thank you

very much to our generous donors and way to go, students!

Additionally, the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation (HFF), a private family foundation supporting non-profit organizations and initiatives that focus on the Paso del Norte region, has awarded \$10,000 to our Center (\$50,000 total over the past five years). The foundation's grant monies continue to provide scholarships for our students majoring in business. Due to this relationship with the HFF, the GECU Foundation provided a \$10,000 matching grant to be used for scholarships for all our students in the upcoming academic year. The Jeremiah 29:11 Scholarship Fund was also recently established to help El Paso Center students in need of financial assistance. An anonymous donor contributed monies for the first scholarship distribution last semester. Finally, we have a new scholarship opportunity, the Alicia Franco Annual Scholarship, designated for women attending our center. We are truly blessed beyond measure!

We are very proud to introduce our new 2022 HPU Alumni Association El Paso Chapter Officers: President Eva Gutierrez '11, Vice President Nicole Wilson '20, Treasurer Annie Adams '13 and Secretary Victoria Maldonado '20. We pray and strongly believe this new group of leaders will continue the great work of chapters past. Sting 'em!

HPU New Braunfels Center Highlights

By Whitney Hooper '11, assistant vice president for the New Braunfels Center

HPU New Braunfels is excited to share that we're moving to the Veramendi development in the fall of 2023! This is one step closer to our vision of partnering with our local community and the future of HPU in New Braunfels.

In April we hosted the first-ever race, Run for the Future 5K, through the Veramendi development. We had more than 80 participants ranging from ages 6 to 89, and we raised more than \$7,500 toward scholarships. We are grateful to all of our sponsors and friends who made this 5K a great success!

In the fall, we also raised more than \$9,000 toward a new scholarship called the Pathways Scholarship. This scholarship is aimed at helping create a pathway to higher education for local under-resourced students who need assistance due to the ripple effects of COVID-19.

HPU NB hosted financial aid seminars at New Braunfels High School and New Braunfels Christian Academy to help local students understand and prepare for the financial aid process.

Additionally, we've continued to seek out ways to integrate HPU into our beloved community. We're proud to have partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to host the NB Business University seminars and share about college with LEAPS students as well as the 2022 Youth Leadership New Braunfels cohort.

Finally, we got to see lives transformed and eternities shifted this year. Praise God for this mission and the work in which we get to partner with Him! We're grateful to everyone who partners with us to bring life transformation and raise up Kingdom-focused leaders in the greater New Braunfels and central Texas areas. We can't wait to see how God continues to work in and through HPU NB in the years ahead!

HPU family celebrates first Stinger Spectacular Weekend

HPU welcomed alumni, prospective students and other friends of the university for Stinger Spectacular, a combination of Homecoming, Family Weekend and Yellow Jacket Preview held on October 1-2, 2021.

The weekend was highlighted by a pair of sports successes – the Yellow Jacket football team’s 73-30 victory over Sul Ross State University and the Yellow Jacket women’s soccer team’s 1-0 victory over Belhaven University. Honored at halftime were HPU’s 2021 alumni honorees: Tim Viertel ’80, Distinguished Alumnus; Cindy (Hughes) Liebrum ’72, Coming Home Queen; Bridget (Wells) Jones ’08, Outstanding Young Graduate; Terry ’91 and Robin (Quinn) Chumbley ’91, Grand Marshals; Dr. Bill Taylor ’64, Medal of Service; and Rev. Ben Delgado ’68, Dr. José Rivas Distinguished Service Award.

Friday’s Homecoming events included various class gatherings, the Golden Graduate Luncheon for the class of 1971, the Alumni Banquet, Cobbler on the Campus and a performance of the Homecoming musical *Cinderella*. On Saturday, numerous reunions, a concert featuring Austin Upchurch ’16, and a performance of *Cinderella* were held, in addition to the football game and men’s and women’s soccer games.

Stinger Spectacular 2022 is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 14, and Saturday, Oct. 15. More information is available at www.hputx.edu/spectacular.

1. Jason Bachtel ’03, Robert Morrison ’82 and other friends enjoy the opportunity to visit at the Alumni Banquet. **2.** Aleah Curtis performs as Cinderella in the Homecoming musical. **3.** Delicious Underwood’s cobbler, served at the Cobbler on the Campus event, is a popular Homecoming treat. **4.** Dr. Cory Hines ’97 greets honoree Dr. Bill Taylor ’64 at the 2021 Alumni Banquet. **5.** Hispanic HPU students and alumni are pictured with Dr. Juan Andrade ’70 (far left) at the Hispanic Alumni Breakfast. **6.** Linsey and Stephanie Piper are pictured at the HPU Family BBQ. **7.** Alumni visit at Cobbler on the Campus. **8.** HPU football players celebrate during the Homecoming game. **9.** Pictured during the Homecoming game’s halftime are Homecoming King James Jakubowski ’22; Homecoming Queen Kate Van Wyk ’22; Dr. Chris Liebrum ’73 and Coming Home Queen Cindy (Hughes) Liebrum ’72; Homecoming Prince Chadwick Foster; and Homecoming Princess Linsey Piper. **10.** The Yellow Jacket Marching Band performs at halftime.



1



2



3



4



6



5



7



8



9



10

PHOTO 5 BY OLIVIA CATLETT; OTHER PHOTOS BY THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Becoming something greater

Tim Whetstone '85 encourages alumni, students to connect through Alumni Association involvement

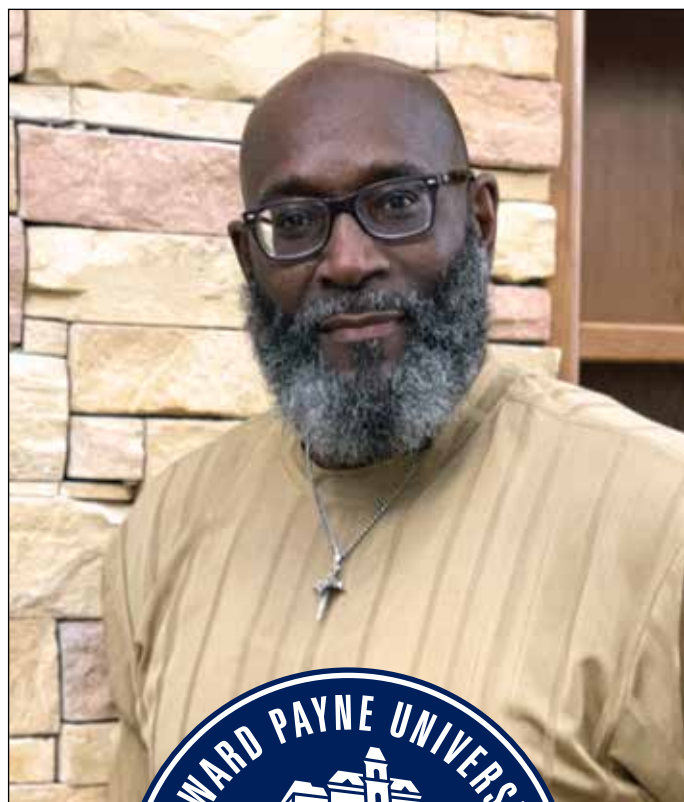
By Coby Sauce, MBA '14

As president of the African American Chapter of HPU's Alumni Association, Tim Whetstone '85 naturally spends a good deal of time planning events for and fellowshiping with other HPU graduates. Much of his work, however, is focused on a different group within the HPU family.

"Our desire is to help the current students believe in a purpose, belong to a higher calling and become something greater," he said. "It takes a village to build strong, independent and creative people."

In the broader Alumni Association, the African American Chapter seeks to further the interests of the university, African American alumni and other former students and friends of the university by maintaining and developing the love and loyalty of the members for the university and for each other. Whetstone's vision for the African American Chapter is to continue the work of past presidents in designing and creating programs to help students grow in knowledge and contribute to society in service and in character.

"We want to encourage them to be proud and active students in the university and to contribute in service to the citizens of the city of Brownwood," he said. "I want them to see the value in the current alumni and build lifelong relationships with each other and with future African American students of Howard Payne."



Whetstone's own experiences as an HPU student influence his goals and decisions within the Alumni Association.

"I was 24 in 1976 when Coach Bob Derryberry offered me a basketball scholarship," he said. "I played one year of basketball and football and ran track as well. I left in 1978."

In his time away from HPU, Whetstone worked at Santa Fe Railroad and the Brownwood State School. In 1984, he ran into an old friend who was serving as assistant basketball coach at Howard Payne.

"He informed me that I still had one more year of eligibility on the basketball scholarship and asked if I'd like to come back to play," Whetstone said. "I said, 'Man, I'm 30 years old!'"

The coaches believed in Whetstone and encouraged him to return to the court.

"At age 30, I returned to HPU to play basketball and at the end of the season I was 31 years old," he said. "I often brag about being the oldest basketball player to ever play at HPU. I consider it a badge of honor."

Following his HPU graduation in 1985, Whetstone was a walk-on with the Houston Oilers.

"Bum Phillips gave me a chance," he said. "Although it didn't turn out the way I would have liked, I did get an opportunity to meet one of the most famous football players alive, Earl Campbell."

This connection came in handy when Whetstone worked

as a recreation specialist for the Federal Prison System in Bastrop.

"One of my most memorable experiences was driving Earl Campbell, in my very small two-seater sports car, to encourage the inmates," he said.

Whetstone also taught in the Dallas and Houston independent school districts.

"I taught sixth grade math and science," he said. "That was an experience. I felt accomplished when I saw students 'get it.' Just seeing them light up made me feel like I was doing something right."

Whetstone now serves as an inspector with the Harris County Engineering Department.

"I'm getting older now and I plan to work a few more years, then retire," he said.

Whetstone was raised in a Christian environment and, as an HPU student, found himself at home among the university's Christian values, friendly community and supportive educators.

"I have many memories of lessons and sermons we

received at Chapel three times a week," he said. "They helped shape me into the man I am today. I met guys who became lifelong friends. My times at Howard Payne are etched in my mind and will never be forgotten."

Whetstone encourages all alumni to become a part of something bigger through the Alumni Association.

"I often inform recent graduates that an Alumni Association membership is the best way to network," he said. "Howard Payne University is globally connected on many levels and has representation in many professions. Joining the Alumni Association gives you more insight to the university and different programs to enhance and promote lifelong learning. In addition, it allows students to connect with past and current students as well as to stay connected, serve, participate and help build the Howard Payne community." ■

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



HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY

STINGER

SPECTACULAR







Homecoming • Family Weekend • Yellow Jacket Preview

October 14-15, 2022

Visit www.hputx.edu/spectacular for details

PHOTOS AT RIGHT BY THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
PHOTO AT LEFT BY DR. KALIE LOWRIE '06

HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY ARTIFACTS

DATE : 1880s - Present

TYPE : Treasure Room Collection

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



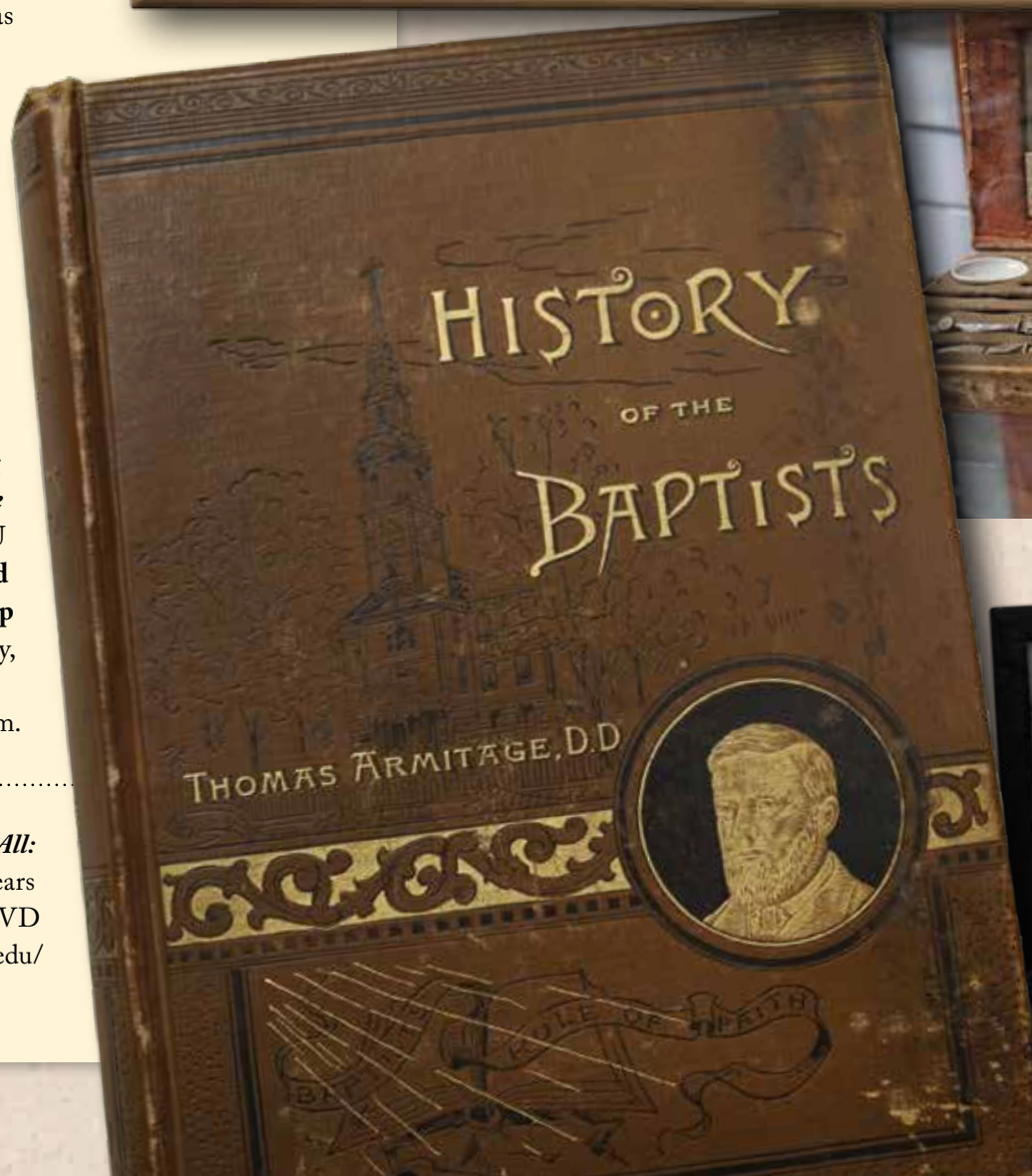
Historians are always looking for historical treasures – something no one has noticed or discovered before. Many of the present HPU faculty, staff and students as well as alumni are not aware that a place housing treasures such as these exists on our main campus today. On the top floor of the Walker Memorial Library is a nondescript door marked “Treasure Room.” Behind this door are many items that one could truly label as Howard Payne treasures.

Amongst these many items is an original seascape painting (top) owned by HPU founder John D. Robnett that is from the first building used by our institution in 1890, Robnett Hall. Robnett Hall was located across the street from Old Main on Austin Avenue in the vicinity of present-day First Baptist Church and was both a women’s dorm and classroom building while Old Main was being constructed.

Below that is a photo of two sets of drawing instruments reportedly belonging to Sam Houston which are part of the Boone Collection, a very interesting collection consisting of such items as ancient pottery, rifles and other oddities. Next is a volume of *History of the Baptists* by Dr. Thomas Armitage, published in 1887, just prior to the establishment of HPU in 1889. In the center is a rare glass plate photograph from the early 1920s showing Old Main facing Center Avenue. On the right is the Texas Conference Football championship trophy HP won in the year 1938 with a record of 7-2-1 defeating Southwest Texas, Trinity, Texas Wesleyan, Austin College, Abilene Christian, St. Edwards and Southwestern.

This is just a sampling of the delights that await an intrepid explorer in the Treasure Room.

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 HPU’s Stinger Store in the Mabee University Center or at www.hputx.edu/stingerstore. All proceeds from the book’s sales support an academic scholarship at HPU.





My road to college was unconventional. My final two years of high school I had absolutely no idea where I was going to be or what I wanted to do. This terrified me because it seemed as though this was out of my control. They always tell you in high school that you should take as many college visits as possible to find out what university best suits you and what opportunities are waiting after high school. Luckily for me, it only took me two college visits to find out where I am meant to be: Howard Payne University.

I toured campus in November of 2018 after talking with the women's soccer coach, Brandon Badgeley '09. I grew up in a small town and I knew I needed a school that would aid in the growth of my relationship with God while giving me a small-town feel like my hometown did. The moment I got to campus, I was welcomed warmly at the admissions office, greeted across campus and taken with the beautiful campus itself. I knew HPU was exactly where I needed to be.

Oddly enough, the reason I chose Howard Payne differs from the reason I continue to choose Howard Payne. The biggest reason I will continue to choose this school day after day is because I am not just another student in the eyes of

the campus. My professors do not just know me as another name on their class roster – they make an effort to know me as an individual. The professors who have

had the biggest impact on me in my time at HPU are Dr. Jill Heupel [assistant professor of kinesiology and director of the Master of Education in Sport and Wellness Leadership program], Mrs. Teresa Cavitt [assistant professor of kinesiology] and Dr. Jill Underwood [assistant professor of education]. I began freshman year as an athletic training major, but quickly realized that was not what I was being called to. I transitioned into the field of kinesiology as an all-level physical education major with a minor in education with hopes of being a teacher and a coach. I was skeptical of this change and had the feeling I was pursuing this path because of my family ties to the profession. It only took me one week of being in classes taught by these three professors to realize that I am exactly where I need to be, yet again. These three ladies are living, breathing lights of the Lord who teach with a passion that I only hope to achieve one day. I consider these professors inspirations as well as signs from God that I am on the right path.

Coming to college is always scary. You are in a new place,

your parents are not there when you come home and you really are on your own. I was blessed to arrive at HPU with a whole family ready for me – my teammates. Before starting classes, Jacket Journey or anything else, I began my freshman soccer season. I came in with quite a large recruiting class, so it was reassuring to know that I was not alone when I began college. This team made the transition to HPU so much easier than I thought it would be. I was always nervous that I would feel alone without my family in Brownwood with me, but what I did not know was that I would have a family of 33 girls that would soon be my rock. Throughout the past three seasons, we have been through our fair share of ups and downs together, but there is always a consistent sense of home with my team. I always have someone to turn to when I need to be lifted, and I consider them my home away from home.

Deciding where to go to college was a big and scary step to take, but I will be the first to admit that I felt the cliché, “when you know, you know” feeling at Howard Payne. I knew Howard Payne would help me grow in my faith, but I never imagined myself to be at the point I am at now. I could not be happier with my decision to be a Yellow Jacket and I cannot wait to see what the rest of my time at HPU brings me. As always, thanks and sting 'em! ■

Above: Katie Burnside enjoys being a member of the HPU women's soccer team and part of the campus community.

“... I KNEW I NEEDED A SCHOOL THAT WOULD AID IN THE GROWTH OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD WHILE GIVING ME A SMALL-TOWN FEEL ...”

LEFT AND LOWER RIGHT PHOTOS BY REBEKAH STERLING '18; TOP RIGHT PHOTO COURTESY OF HPU ATHLETICS

TWO Families TO SHARE

Piper women have mutual love
for one another and HPU

By Rebekah Sterling '18

*a*t HPU, fellow classmates, faculty, staff and alumni commonly refer to one another collectively as the HPU family. Small-town roots, a small campus setting, the familiarity of faces on campus, and a close-knit web of alumni help foster a sense of closeness. For Stephanie Piper and her daughters, Lauren (Piper) Haines '21 and junior Linsey Piper, the phrase "HPU family" has added meaning.

Stephanie is the administrative assistant to the School of Education but began working at HPU in 2016 as administrative assistant to the Office of Admissions. She and her husband, Toby, live in Early and have been married for 28 years. Having worked in Christian education years before, Stephanie was excited to be in a Christ-centered atmosphere.

"I didn't know much about Howard Payne," she admits. "I was just missing being around other Christians and I was drawn to the Christian environment at HPU."

Working in admissions gave Stephanie the opportunity to serve families and potential Yellow Jackets visiting HPU. As a parent of two high schoolers herself, she was able to empathize with the needs and concerns of visiting families

in a special way.

"As an employee in the admissions office and a parent, I always had a double perspective, which caused me to be more intentional," she shares. "I could see how things affected my own family and think about how it would affect other families."

When Lauren began looking for a college to attend, she knew she wanted to play golf and study pre-law. When she found out she could do both at HPU – just down the road from her family and her hometown of Early – she knew HPU was the right place for her.

"I just felt the Lord calling me here," shares Lauren. "Whenever I toured, Charles [Lewis '20], who's one of my great friends now, led my tour and I loved it because he told me all these great stories."

The intentionality Lauren experienced on her tour continued throughout the entirety of her time as a student. She majored in jurisprudence and the Guy D. Newman Honors Academy and was involved in Moot Court and Mock Trial. The experience helped her leave her comfort zone.

Linsey Piper, Stephanie Piper and Lauren (Piper) Haines '21 enjoy being part of the HPU family as a mother-daughter trio.



PHOTO BY REBEKAH STERLING '18

"It was a formative time for me," she says. "I made a lot of great connections that prepared me for my future and I met my best friends and my husband."

In 2020, Lauren married her college sweetheart, Xavier, and the couple graduated from HPU in 2021. She now works in the Office of Admissions – the same office in which her mom first worked at HPU – as the transfer admission counselor. She says her experience as an alumna has helped her in her current role.

"As an employee it's awesome to have an alumni background," she says. "I'm proud of Howard Payne and I'm a product of Howard Payne, so I can tell prospective students what my experience was like and encourage them to apply."

Stephanie and Lauren have enjoyed being colleagues and have lunch together almost every day. They can relate to each other when it comes to work and Lauren can easily call on her mom if she has work-related questions.

"I really look up to her," Lauren says of her mom. "Everyone loves her and enjoys talking to her. She really goes above and beyond, and that makes me want to be better at my job."

Lauren and Linsey enjoy seeing one another regularly on the HPU campus.



"It's great having a daughter as a coworker," Stephanie says. "I'm so proud of the awesome job she does. She works as unto the Lord and it shows."

In 2019 it was Linsey's turn to choose a college. Even though her sister and mom were already at HPU, she didn't take for granted that she would go to school here. In fact, HPU was one of the last schools she toured. The tour and lots of prayer convinced her Howard Payne was where she needed to be.

"I realized this was the most Christ-centered university I had experienced," Linsey recalls. "They wanted to know who I was and an importance was placed on family."

Following in the footsteps of a big sister can be intimidating, but that didn't stop Linsey from attending the same college as Lauren. As Linsey has established her own path at HPU, she has been able to look to her sister for advice while maintaining her own distinct personality and calling.

"I got to see what Lauren did and experiment with which of those things I wanted to do," Linsey says. "I was able to see the perspective of a current student and later a graduate and think about which road I wanted to take. I've had a tremendous experience here so far."

She shared how helpful it's been to have both her mom and sister close by.

"With both of them being here, I have had a built-in support system that most students have to develop over time," Linsey says. She adds that having her mom and sister on campus has helped her get to know people. "I've been able to establish good connections with professors and students on my own, but with Lauren and my mom working here I'm able to make more relationships than I would without them. Having them both here has really secured me where I am."

In 2019, Stephanie moved from the Office of Admissions to the School of Education, where she enjoys getting to know current HPU students. Stephanie's insight into the School of Education helped Linsey decide to major in elementary education. They see each other daily, as Linsey attends education classes in Newman Hall.

"I was able to build relationships with the education professors before I even knew I would be an education major," Linsey explains. "My mom was able to share a lot of things about being an education major that I probably wouldn't have known without her working there."

Stephanie, Lauren and Linsey love sharing HPU with their family. They also enjoy sharing their family with HPU.

"When I see Lauren on campus, I wave and tell my friends who haven't met her, 'Look, that's my sister!'" Linsey shares.

Lauren and Linsey have become used to sharing their

Lauren and Linsey are grateful for the Christ-like example set by their mom.



mom with their friends and classmates.

"My friends call her their HPU mom," Lauren laughs.

"Howard Payne University is all about family," Stephanie adds. "My coworkers are family and having my actual family here adds a neat layer to that feeling of Howard Payne family on campus."

Although Stephanie, Lauren and Linsey each came to HPU at different times and in different ways, a common theme has emerged in all of their experiences: a love for the Lord and a heart for people. Undoubtedly, those things were what drew them into the HPU family.

Lauren attributes much of her own growth in those areas to her mom's faithful guidance throughout her life.

"She taught me about faith, prayer, loving the Lord and living with integrity," Lauren reflects. "I just want to be like her."

"I don't think I've ever met anyone who gives more than she gives," Linsey adds. "She not only makes sure that Lauren and I are cared for, but that every student that she comes across is cared for. She trusts God and is very Kingdom-minded. She and our dad have instilled that in us."

Stephanie expressed how grateful she is for the vision of HPU, which so closely aligns with the truths she's taught her daughters.

"It's been awesome to be under leadership that puts such an emphasis on our relationship with the Lord and ministry," she says. "This doesn't even feel like a job so much as an opportunity every day to pour into people. We're really in the people business here." ■

"... this was the most Christ-centered university I had experienced. They wanted to know who I was and an importance was placed on family."

PHOTOS BY REBEKAH STERLING '18

New on campus

**NEWBURY FAMILY WELCOME CENTER OPENING
MARKS HISTORIC DAY IN HPU HISTORY**

By Rebekah Sterling '19

Nearly all HPU alumni and current students remember their first day on campus.



Some recall a professor who knew them by name or an admission counselor who offered helpful guidance. Even the campus itself leaves an impression – towering trees, spacious green lawns and red brick buildings with white columns are features that have formed the backdrop of the HPU experience for decades. The significance of that first visit to campus cannot be understated. So when the Newbury Family Welcome Center, HPU's newest building, was opened for the first time in May, it was no surprise that hundreds from the community and the HPU family turned out for the occasion. The first stop for potential HPU students and their families, the building will provide a welcoming space as newcomers form their first HPU memories.

The Newbury Family Welcome Center was unveiled at a grand opening celebration on Thursday, May 5, which featured self-guided tours and a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Newbury family, for whom the building is named, was present for the event and joined in the ribbon cutting alongside Dr. Cory Hines '97, HPU president; Melinda Hines, HPU's first lady; Ronnie Andrews '83, chairman of HPU's Board of Trustees; and his wife, Teri '83.

Dr. Don Newbury, a 1961 graduate of HPU, served as



Above: The Newbury Family Welcome Center's brick and stone exterior tie it to other campus architecture. Below: The facility is located at the corner of Austin Avenue and Center Avenue.



PHOTOS BY REBEKAH STERLING '18



At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Newbury Family Welcome Center, Dr. Don Newbury '61 (center) was joined by members of his family; Dr. Cory Hines '97 and his wife, Melinda; and Ronnie Andrews '83, chairman of HPU's Board of Trustees, and his wife, Teri '83.

president of the university from 1985 to 1997 and is now chancellor. Dr. Newbury is fondly remembered among the HPU family for his friendliness and the outreach displayed throughout his time as president. He and his wife, Brenda, frequently opened their home to students and university personnel.

The welcome center sits on the corner of Austin and Center Avenues – adjacent to the spot where Old Main, the university's original building, was located from 1890 until 1984 when it was destroyed by fire. Tributes to Old Main abound at the welcome center. At the rear of the building, in the midst of a space looking out onto campus, lies a stone that reads "Old Main Porch, dedicated to HPU's primary building." The design of the welcome center also incorporates stone reminiscent of the historic building and the cornerstone of Old Main is positioned at the front of the building in the shade of several oak trees.

"Old Main is a symbol of the history of this university and an important reminder of those before us who believed in the mission of HPU," shares Dr. Hines. "I'm glad we were able to honor the history of Howard Payne through the construction of the Newbury Family Welcome Center."

Inside the welcome center, large windows throughout the building provide broad views of the HPU campus. The interior features a spacious gallery with high ceilings,

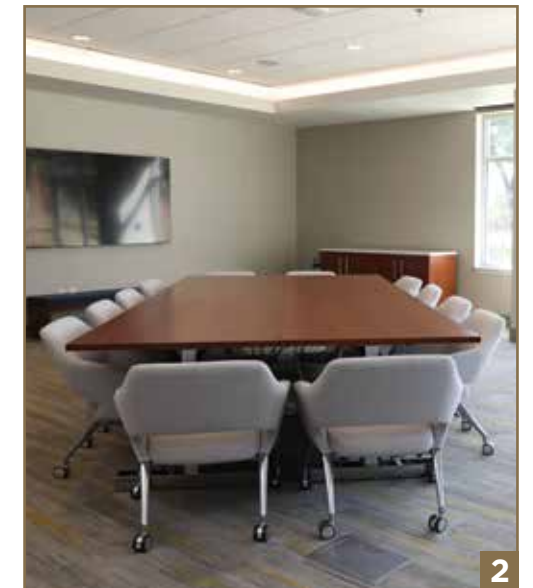
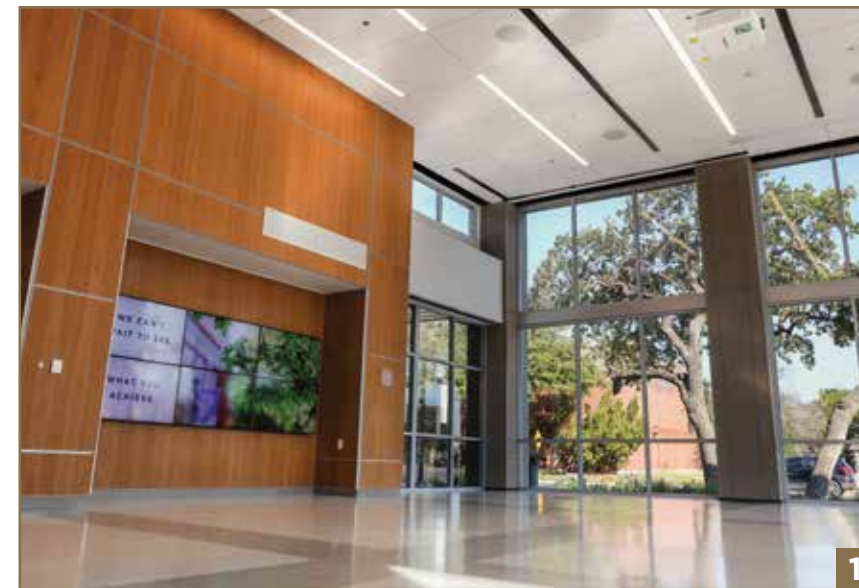
a reception desk, meeting rooms, modern office space for admission staff and a kitchen area for event preparation. Throughout the building, photos and murals of students at various campus events give visitors a first glimpse at life as an HPU Yellow Jacket.

The Newbury Family Welcome Center, while possessing its own impressive architectural features, is easily connected to campus through the use of red brick seen on nearly every other HPU building. Even the new facility's proximity to the 100-year-old L.J. Mims Auditorium seems fitting.

The idea for a new welcome center was birthed over two decades ago during the administration of Dr. Lanny Hall. The first commitment of a gift for a welcome center was from Dr. Leonard Underwood in 2000 and support for the building of a welcome center continued into the presidencies of Dr. Bill Ellis and finally, Dr. Hines. Dr. Hines said the opening day was the culmination of efforts of numerous people committed to the ongoing vitality of HPU.

"Howard Payne stands today because of the generosity of others and the belief that our world needs the kind of graduates we produce," he shares. "The completion of this project is a testament to that. The opening of the Newbury Family Welcome Center marks a significant milestone in the history of our school and I can't wait to see what we accomplish together in the years ahead." ■

PHOTO BY KYLE MIZE
PHOTOS BY REBEKAH STERLING '18



1. The Bruner Gallery, made possible by Dwain and Carolyn Bruner, features high ceilings, numerous large windows and plenty of space for hosting events. Technology throughout the building was made possible by Dr. Diann Smith Huber '71. **2.** The Underwood Executive Conference Room, made possible by Leonard Underwood and family, features large windows looking out onto Old Main Porch. **3.** The facility provides modern workspaces for members of the admissions team. **4.** The Main Lobby was made possible through a gift from The Central Texas Foundation, Inc. **5.** The Reception Area, the first stop for prospective students and their families, was made possible by gifts from the Robnett family, Dr. John '54 and Mrs. Marion Robnett, and David and Cindy Robnett.

(the) BEAUTY IN MATH

Dr. José Romero reflects on how he has seen God at work throughout his life and in mathematics

By Seth Rainey '19



Math is sometimes cast as a subject that is intimidating. Howard Payne University's Dr. José Romero seeks to dispel this stigma and encourage students to pursue studies in mathematics.

Through an academic and professional career dedicated to the subject, Dr. Romero's inclinations toward math have grown into a deep appreciation for the subject. For him, the field of mathematics can offer a more comprehensive understanding of the world around us and a way to express creativity.

"There's a lot of beauty in math," Dr. Romero said. "Doing proofs requires so much creativity. If you have a geometry problem, you can visualize the path to your solution in many different ways. This creativity is something I think we can often miss when thinking about math."

Though he's taught mathematics at HPU for more than 25 years, he hadn't always planned to teach math. Now the chair of the Department of Mathematics and professor of mathematics at HPU, he began his college career with plans to study engineering. However, as he began engineering coursework, he realized he was more suited to study the theoretical side of the field, rather than the practical side.

"Engineering looks more at the application of math in order to solve problems," he said, "and I wanted to learn more about why the formulas we were using were true."

While he still enjoys thinking critically about the

applications of math and using formulas to find solutions to real-world problems, he has certainly found his niche in learning and teaching mathematics. For Dr. Romero, the subject illustrates the beauty in the world. He compared his field to another implicitly associated with creativity.

"Math can be similar to an art," he says. "Like art, there are patterns in math. So many formulas have patterns in them. Even in nature, you can observe math in the way the world around us is constructed. So, math is certainly not a dry and lifeless topic."

Sharing the creativity he sees in math is a key component to his enjoyment of the subject. He finds great fulfillment in seeing his students grow in their abilities, and he enjoys helping them understand the opportunities available in mathematics, both conceptually and in terms of potential careers. He also expressed a hope that more and more students choose to study math as the field becomes vital to an ever-growing number of careers.

"Seeing students improve is my favorite thing of all," he says. "As a professor, I can see them start and then progress in their skills, and eventually start to appreciate math more. I'd like to see more and more students get into math, because there's so much potential for careers. It's a good investment."

He speaks from personal experience. As he grew up in Nogales, Arizona, teaching mathematics wasn't always in his

plans – certainly not at a university located in the heart of Texas. He felt his early interests were steering him toward physical therapy. However, input from his high school math teacher encouraged him to pursue a different track.

"I guess he thought I had some talent for math," he said. "He's really the one who inspired me to study a math-focused field in college."

On a path that has taken him to the University of Arizona and Purdue University in Indiana on the way to a fulfilling career at HPU, Dr. Romero said there were many times he didn't know what the outcomes of his decisions would be.

"When I went to Purdue for my doctorate, I opened up the catalog of schools and said, 'That looks like a nice place,' and applied," he said. "It was the same thing applying for professorship here at HPU. I almost randomly applied – I didn't even know it was a Baptist school until later."

Despite all of the unknowns that have been a part of his journey to HPU, he emphasizes these steps have not been incidental, but have instead been guided and purposeful.

"God definitely brought me here, because I didn't know much about HPU when I came here in 1996," he said. "I've been here 26 years now and HPU was a great fit. Often, you may not realize exactly where what you're doing is leading, but looking back you realize that God was at work in those choices. That's what I see."

Just as in his teaching career, he knows that God has been at work in his whole life, in ways that may not have been apparent at various times along the way. While working on his doctorate in Illinois, several major changes took place.

"I accepted Christ through a friend of mine from South America while working on my doctorate in Indiana," he said. "He had accepted Christ though a church there in Indiana. Then, I started going to a Baptist church and met my wife through the church."

Dr. Romero and his wife, Blanca, now have three daughters, with one in graduate school, one at HPU and one about to start college. Speaking as a parent, he reflected on the value of Christian education offered at universities like HPU.

"At Christian colleges, I think there's more support," he said. "Every day, I hear about conversations about faith that happen between students and professors. That's what I like about Howard Payne – the small, supportive and Christ-centered atmosphere here, that welcomes discussions about faith, is so unique."

He appreciates the fact that HPU is a place where people are seen for their value as individuals, just as math amounts to more than the specific numbers that make up functions.

"When I first came here, that immediately stood out to me," he said. "Things are so much different here than anywhere else. At HPU, you are not just a number." ■

FEELING AT HOME

As director of Walker Memorial Library, Debby Dill '92 seeks to foster same sense of community she experienced as HPU student

By Seth Rainey '19

Howard Payne University has always been about community for Debby Dill. From her time as a student to her current role as director of libraries, she has found HPU to be a place where Christ-centered values are fostered and community is built upon those same values.

Dill graduated in 1992 with a degree in theatre, but her experience working in HPU's Walker Memorial Library shortly after graduating helped transform an early passion into a career.

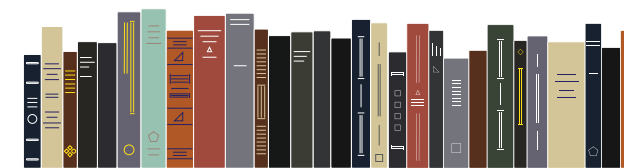
"I've always loved libraries," she says. "They have always made me happy – I love to be in a library. When I was a kid, before I was old enough to have a job, I would volunteer at a little local library branch. So, when I first had the chance to work in the HPU library, I thought it would be a good fit."

Prior to arriving at the university as a student, she hadn't heard of HPU. She grew up in San Antonio and planned on studying theatre at a college in the area before a recommendation from her grandmother set her sights elsewhere.

"My grandmother, who lived in San



PHOTO BY SETH RAINEY '19



“Whatever job or role we have will open avenues to serve others – in my case, that means serving our students.”

Angelo at the time, told me of a school down the road from her called Howard Payne University,” said Dill. “Neither one of my grandparents were HPU alumni, but they did have connections to Dr. José Rivas through their work with Hispanic Baptist churches.

“I came to visit over the summer and met the head of the theatre department at that time, Neil St. Clair. He offered me a drama scholarship on the spot. I remember feeling that it seemed meant to be – this is where I wanted to go to school.”

Upon arriving on campus as a student, the uniquely close-knit community made an immediate impression.

“I remember meeting people during freshman orientation – everyone was so friendly,” she said. “I could tell it was like a family.”

As a high school student, Dill said her Christian beliefs and interest in theatre often made it difficult to find strong community. However, interests and beliefs that once created separation became points of connection at HPU.

“Sometimes you can end up ostracized a bit if you dare to take a stand for Christ or don't behave in a worldly way that is often commonplace,” she said. “So, it was a big difference to be here with like-minded Christian kids who have the same love for drama and theatrical productions I do. Before coming here, I didn't know that existed.”

In addition to finding a place where she knew she belonged, she also met her husband, Dr. Pepper Dill, while at HPU. The couple married in 1991.

After graduating, she was hired by Nancy Anderson, HPU's director of libraries at the time. While working in the library, Dill

began working toward a Master of Library Science degree at the University of North Texas, which she completed in 1996.

When she and her husband adopted the first of their two children, she chose to step away from her role as a librarian. She returned to HPU in 2014, this time working with the School of Science and Mathematics as an administrative assistant. In 2017, Dill returned to work in the library and was named director in 2019.

A unique view of her role as director of the library shapes the way she approaches her work. She sees the responsibilities inherent in the position as opportunities to serve those around her.

“Being in Christ means our job titles don't define our significance,” said Dill. “Instead, whatever job or role we have will open avenues to serve others – in my case, that means serving our students.”

Dill, along with fellow library staff members, seeks to amplify the same sense of community that she experienced as an HPU student and maintain a welcoming environment in the facility. Her hope is that the library is a resource for students, as well as a place where they will find people who care about them.

“One of my goals is for students to feel at home here,” she said. “If they need help, even if it's not library-related, we want to be that help. We don't want students to be constantly told not to do that, not to touch this.

“Obviously, we can't have wrestling matches in the living room, so to speak, but I want students to be able to kick their feet up, have a cup of coffee and get comfortable as they study here.” ■

WHEREVER HE LEADS

How five HPU alumni followed God's call to serve in Honduras
By Rebekah Sterling '18



Artwork by Victoria Henry

Tucked away in the mountainous region of western Honduras is a town called Gracias, Lempira. The town has been home to Hondurans for hundreds of years. Today, it's also home to five HPU alumni. Paul '20 MATM '21 and Taylor (Cox) Chandler '21, Josh Dykes '18, Jeff Holloway '87 and Kylie Johnson '21 currently reside in Gracias and serve with 61 Isaiah Ministries.

A Christian non-profit organization, 61 Isaiah Ministries was founded in 2009 by Shannon Hopkins and his wife, Kristi, and moved to Gracias in 2011. The organization's mission is divided into five parts: prayer, gospel saturation, education, empowering locals and breaking cycles of poverty. Since its inception, 61 Isaiah Ministries has expanded to a team of 15 members, all working to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the Hondurans in the area.

The team's work at 61 Isaiah Ministries varies from day to day but typically begins with morning devotionals at a local school. The organization also prioritizes ministering to pastors in the area. Different team members are assigned to villages where they provide support for pastors, sometimes traveling over an hour up a mountain to meet with them. The goal is to equip pastors as they equip their churches and ultimately further the spread of the gospel. 61 Isaiah works with the Lenca people, the largest indigenous people group in Honduras and the poorest in the country. In addition to supporting local pastors, the team also

disciples individuals throughout the week. Unsurprisingly, adjusting to life as a full-time missionary in a foreign country has its challenges, including the language barrier and the initial culture shock. Sticking to daily and weekly schedules in Gracias can also be an uphill battle. Local life moves at a different pace in Honduras, and the missionaries have had to learn to be flexible.

"You have to adjust to the culture and that takes time and can be frustrating," Josh admits. "But you have to be willing to trudge through that process because the gospel is worth it."

"It can be messy," Taylor says of mission work, "and sometimes it feels like the awe is gone – but God is teaching me to be in awe at all times."

Another challenge for each person on the team was leaving behind significant sources of comfort: family and friends. Jeff brought his wife, Michelle, and two of their children with him to Gracias, but their oldest son is currently in college and remains in the U.S. They also left behind their church family, which they had served for more than three decades. The group has had to learn to lean on one another and form a new community with their fellow team members.

"It is really hard to start over when you already had all of those relationships established," Taylor shares. "But it's also so rewarding. Praise the Lord that we aren't called to do ministry alone and we have a team that has a common vision."

"I'm really blessed that, just like there was community at

Five HPU alumni are currently serving as missionaries in Honduras. They are pictured from left to right: Taylor (Cox) Chandler '21, Paul Chandler '20 and '21, Kylie Johnson '21, Josh Dykes '18 and Jeff Holloway '87.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TAYLOR CHANDLER '21

MEET THE TEAM

PAUL CHANDLER



- first visited Honduras in 2019;
- received a bachelor's degree from HPU in 2020 and a master's degree from HPU in 2021;
- married Taylor in 2021; and
- moved to Honduras as part of the 61 Isaiah team in 2021.

TAYLOR (COX) CHANDLER



- made previous trips to Honduras in 2019 and 2020;
- received a bachelor's degree from HPU in 2021;
- married Paul in 2021; and
- moved to Honduras as part of the 61 Isaiah team in 2021.

JOSH DYKES



- received a bachelor's degree from HPU in 2018;
- made short-term trips to Honduras in 2017 and 2018; and
- moved to Honduras as part of the 61 Isaiah team in 2018.

JEFF HOLLOWAY



- received a bachelor's degree from HPU in 1987;
- has traveled to Honduras more than 15 times;
- has been married to Michelle for 20 years;
- has three children; and
- moved to Honduras as part of the 61 Isaiah team in 2019.

KYLIE JOHNSON



- first visited Honduras in 2020;
- received a bachelor's degree from HPU in 2021; and
- moved to Honduras as part of the 61 Isaiah team in 2021.



61 Isaiah Ministries is based in a mountainous region of Honduras.

Howard Payne," Kylie adds, "there's community here too."

The five also expressed the joy they experience when they get to see their labor result in fruit. Josh described a conversation he'd had with a local pastor named René, whom he has been discipling for over three years.

"We were at his house for his wife's birthday and, out of nowhere, he started talking about how we've been an encouragement to him," Josh recalls. "Then he started saying that he wants to do what we do with other pastors. That is 110 percent what we want to happen."

Jeff was also encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by a man he's been discipling.

"He was coming regularly, but one Sunday he came in late with a messed-up elbow, apologizing all over himself," Jeff shares. "It turned out he'd been hit by a car on his motorcycle. I told him getting hit by a car is a pretty good excuse to miss, but he said, 'Discipleship is just so good, I couldn't miss it. I had to find a way to get here.' He didn't know how much that meant to me."

The five are each at different stages in their time in Gracias. Kylie recently completed her one-year commitment with 61 Isaiah but has committed to staying another year. Taylor and Paul have lived in Gracias for nine months and have committed to staying at least two years. The Holloways are two years into their five-year commitment. Josh has been in Gracias for nearly four years and doesn't plan on leaving anytime soon. They're all in constant prayer for the Lord to use them where they are and to direct them as they look to the future.

The Honduras group shared how their connections to the Howard Payne family have bolstered them through the challenges of ministry life.

"Dr. Rainey, Dr. Cravens, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Mangrum – all my professors played a major role in showing me how to live a life of service," Jeff says.

As students Paul, Taylor, Kylie and Josh had opportunities to work with 61 Isaiah Ministries on a short-term basis through the influence of Dr. Rusty Wheelington, professor of Christian studies. Dr. Wheelington, a long-time friend of Shannon Hopkins, has been visiting Honduras with Southside Baptist Church in Brownwood since 2015. Each time he makes the journey, he makes sure to bring along some HPU students.

"Every time we've gone as a church, I've always opened it up to students because it fits so well with what we do as a university," Dr. Wheelington explains. "And now, some of those students are serving over there long term and that's super cool."

Reflecting on his first trip to Gracias with Dr. Wheelington in 2017, Josh shares how God has directed his steps along the way.

"It's crazy that when I felt called to ministry I also felt called to Howard Payne," he says. "Then Rusty Wheelington connected me to 61 Isaiah Ministries and when we came here I just thought, 'This where I'm supposed to be.' God had me on this path all along and was getting my heart ready to be here."

God's way of directing the lives of Taylor, Paul, Kylie, Josh and Jeff has been unique to each one of them. And yet as distinct as each one's calling is, for each of the five, HPU has played a key role in helping discern God's will and prepare for mission work.

"By the time I got done at Howard Payne, the thought of going and serving in a place like Honduras actually sounded possible," Paul shares. "I felt equipped to go serve anywhere in the world."

Since 61 Isaiah began expanding its team just a few years ago, HPU alumni have been a part of that growth as team members. The vision of 61 Isaiah Ministries and HPU are aligned as both seek to equip believers to further the Kingdom of God in a chaotic world.

"GOD HAS A CALLING FOR EACH OF US ... WE TRY TO HELP PEOPLE FIND WHO THEY ARE IN GOD AND THEN ENCOURAGE THEM TO BE THAT PERSON."

"Howard Payne taught me that God has a calling for each of us," Josh says. "Coming here, that translates as we try to help people find who they are in God and then encourage them to be that person." ■

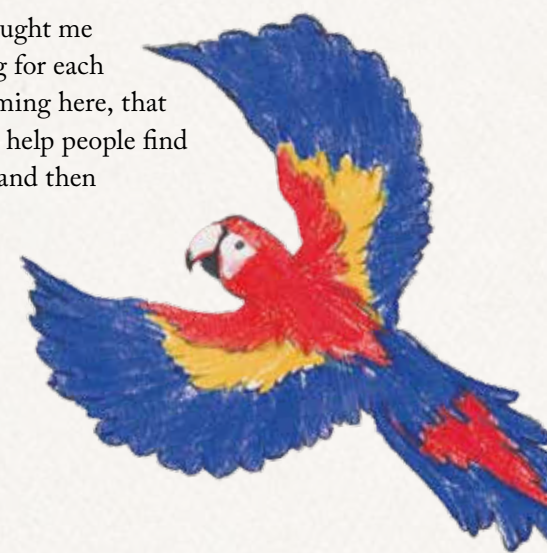


PHOTO ABOVE BY BRYAN PATE

STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: MILES KOEHLER

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

Currently a student in Howard Payne University's MBA program, Miles Koehler is a graduate of Kansas Wesleyan University and Athens High School in Athens, Texas.

The youngest child of three, Miles has now made his way back to Texas and is a member of the HPU men's basketball program.

As a contributor off the bench for the Yellow Jackets, Miles averaged 3.7 points per game in 12.7 minutes of action per game. He recorded a career-high of 14 points versus Belhaven and Hardin-Simmons this season.

For Miles, growing up in Athens, Texas, he knew early on that basketball would have a major part in his future.

Was it just about basketball growing up or did you play other sports? M.K.: I was interested in other sports, such as soccer and football, but I started to concentrate mainly on basketball starting in the fifth grade with Little Dribblers programs and Select Basketball. From that point, I knew that basketball was what I wanted to do through high school and college.

What were things your family liked to do when you were growing up? M.K.: We enjoyed traveling, from family vacations to attending road basketball games at Kansas Wesleyan and Howard Payne.

Brownwood is a little closer to Athens than Salina, Kansas. M.K.: For sure. It's a lot closer than 7½ hours. My family definitely enjoys that.

“[HPU] feels like a family.”

Sum up your high school basketball career. M.K.: I was a four-year varsity starter at Athens. We won three district championships and I was blessed to receive 1st Team All-District honors for three seasons, two District Offensive MVP honors, All-Region honors and Academic All-District honors.

How did you select Kansas Wesleyan University? M.K.: It was just a traditional recruitment process. Despite being looked at by several junior colleges, D-II schools and other NAIA schools, I felt Kansas Wesleyan was just a good fit.

You graduated after just two years at Kansas Wesleyan? M.K.: I was blessed to have graduated from Athens High School already with my associate degree from Trinity Valley College. So, to be able to earn my bachelor's degree in sports management in just two years and have two years of eligibility left was great.

With two years left of eligibility, why transfer? M.K.: I wanted a new experience and challenge.

What circumstances led you to Howard Payne? M.K.: I was back home and knew the Trinity Valley coach well. He reached out to Nadir Dalleh [head men's basketball coach] at HPU and it all started from that.

Are there many differences from Howard Payne and Kansas Wesleyan? M.K.: There have actually been a lot of similarities between the two, such as city size and school size.

What has been your favorite thing about HPU so far both on and off the court? M.K.: Off the court, it is definitely the school size and how everyone feels like a family. On the court, it is traveling with my teammates and becoming close.

What are your plans after graduation? M.K.: Coaching might be a part of that, but I would really like to work for myself and open my own basketball training facility.



PHOTO BY SETH RAINEY '19

Sisters of the Seventies

Group maintains strong bonds as they care for one another and support HPU

By Dr. Kalie Lowrie '06

Sisterhood is a special bond that can be hard to put into words. A group of women known as “Sisters of the Seventies” has been gathering together since the early 1990s to embrace their sisterhood, which began during their days as students at Howard Payne College in the early 1970s. Some have maintained strong friendships through the years, while others were welcomed into the fold after years of working and raising children. Regardless of when they joined SOS, every woman is welcomed, loved, prayed for and encouraged to stay connected.

Prior to COVID-19, the Sisters of the Seventies planned an annual retreat for

shopping, eating and fellowship. They met in Texas locations such as Glen Rose and Round Top, in New Mexico at Glorieta, and they even traveled on international excursions such as a tour of Italy.

During the annual retreats, Candace Smith '71 loved the time of worship that was always included. Several women would help lead singing and then they would rotate who would lead the devotional time each year.

“It was always so special, and would always bring tears,” Candace said. “It was always a time that was so meaningful – a time of encouragement for so many of our sisters who, through the years have gone through tough situations, losing children, spouses who were sick, and more. It was a way to come together and wipe a few tears and laugh until I thought we couldn’t stop.”

For Nelda (Findley) Carpenter '72, the prayer support offered by her fellow sisters is one of things she loves most about SOS.

“I started off enjoying the fellowship and retreats,” Nelda shared. “But soon, I became aware of what a marvelous spiritual bond there is in sharing the ups and downs

of life’s experiences. With recent health issues, I have been a recipient of much of their prayer support. They have a lovely way of letting you know you are in their prayers.”

From Facebook comments to gift cards and text messages, the sisters rallied around Nelda during her recent time of need, just as they have done for so many others through the years.

Inevitably, every reunion also brought times of reminiscing of their days at Howard Payne. In endless supply are tales of button-ups, beanies and other freshman activities; meeting spouses; playing pranks; and other instances of the wholesome fun that made up their days in Brownwood.

“When I was a student at Howard Payne I made friends with so many fellow students I loved and admired,” said Cindy (Hughes) Liebrum '73. “I didn’t dream that many of us would still be connected today, but we are. Even though I loved visiting with our Howard Payne friends every year at Homecoming, I became connected with this sweet group of fellow coeds around 2005 when I joined an email prayer group. Since that day we’ve continued to pray for each other and encourage one another through emails, texts and our SOS group on Facebook. I do not take for

granted these God-given blessings.”

Several years ago, after the death of one of their sisters, Nona (Tullos) Pickler '72, the ladies decided they wanted to start a fund at HPU to memorialize her and to give back to students. Jan (Williams) Koger '72 shared that the Sisters of the Seventies Fund was officially started in 2009 with the purpose of helping deserving students “in dire need of small amounts of financial assistance.”

Their desire was to help provide funds for a student who faced a difficult situation. Students can apply through the Office of Alumni Relations for this assistance to help with the cost of books, a car battery or even meals and gas to get home in the event of an emergency. Each year as the SOS gather together for their retreat, they take up a collection to send to the fund to help HPU students in need.

Giving back to HPU and staying connected to one another have become cornerstones for this group of sisters. They are eagerly awaiting their next in-person retreat and ever-ready to pray for and encourage another in need. ■



As pictured, the Sisters of the Seventies enjoy every opportunity to gather together, whether on the HPU campus, across the state or beyond.

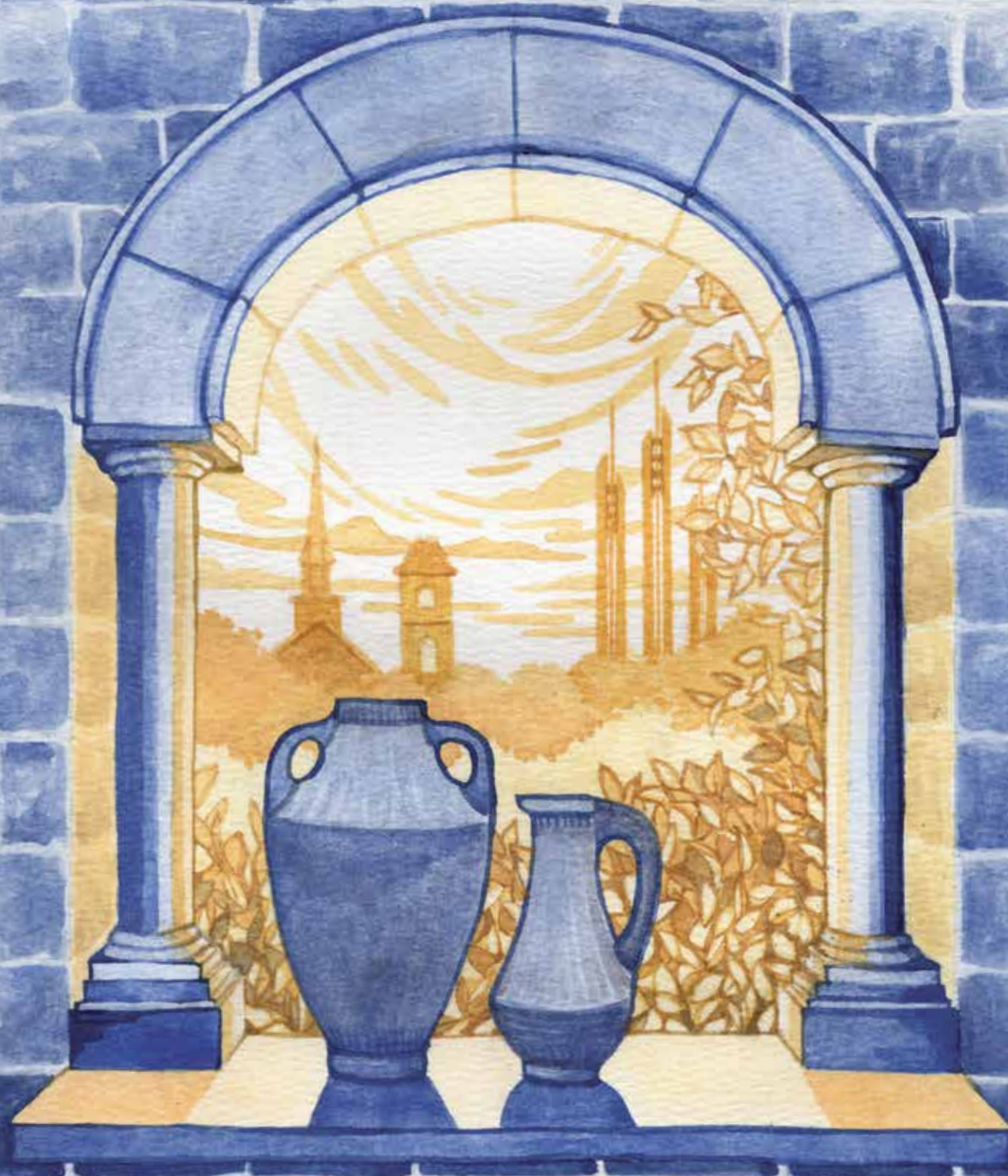


TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY

FINDING THE DIFFERENCE AT HPU

By Julia Catlett '21

Artwork by Sarah Abigail Rainey '20



“**W**hat’s your favorite thing about HPU?” Anyone associated with the university has probably been asked this question more than once. Throughout the years, one of the answers that has stood the test of time is the people. Whether these are faculty, staff or students, the community found at Howard Payne remains a beloved part of the HPU experience.

Those who have been affiliated with Howard Payne in any capacity remember the people who put their time and effort into making Howard Payne the life-changing institution that it is.

They remember the professors who helped them with their car troubles.

They remember the financial aid advisors who went out of the way to help them find scholarships.

They remember the coaches who cared more about who they were as people than how they performed as athletes.

They remember the admission counselors who made them feel at ease when they toured campus for the first time.

They remember the roommates who convinced them to get out of their dorm and make friendships that would last a lifetime.

They remember the coworkers who stopped and prayed with them when they were having a hard day.

With all the different people who have circulated through Howard Payne’s halls, what is it that makes each

of them stand out? How does the quality of people stay the same when the people are, in fact, different?

In 2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV), Paul says, “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” In this passage, Paul emphasizes that the treasure is more important than the jar. He uses the contrasting words “clay” and “treasure” to show the difference between the people Jesus uses and Jesus Himself. Paul knows that he would still be on the road to Damascus persecuting Christians if it wasn’t for the surpassing power of God. The people at HPU have encountered the same God and have held onto Him as their treasure. They have realized that they are jars of clay, the vessels that carry what really matters.

The people at Howard Payne may change, but the God at the center of it all is the same. He was the same in 1889 when HPU was founded, and He is the same now as the university grows and changes in the 21st century. When that same unchanging God is in the hearts of the people He brings to HPU, the essence of the people stays the same.

This is the reason why, when incoming students tour HPU for the first time, they can tell that something is different. It’s why people who have long been retired remember their coworkers who became dear friends, or their supervisors who treated them as fellow image-bearers of God. Because when a group of people are committed to being jars of clay containing the treasure of Jesus, hearts are changed and lives are transformed. ■

Howard Payne University sadly lost the following alumni and other members of the HPU and DBC families between the dates of August 28, 2021, and June 17, 2022.

HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

Dr. Leon K. Aduddell '51, January 5, 2022 (Former Board of Trustees member)
Riley W. Albertson '67, October 12, 2021
Edwin A. Allen '84, January 15, 2022
Carroll T. Aly '57, October 23, 2021
David B. Anderson '13, January 20, 2022
Valorie A. (Northup) Andrist, January 9, 2022
Crisantos G. Anguiano '92, September 12, 2021
Martha S. (Sheffield) Atkinson, May 27, 2022
Raul M. Balderrama, April 18, 2022
Bobby J. Beauchamp '60, October 3, 2021
Andrew F. Begaye '76, October 20, 2021
Paula (Rowlett) Berry '64, October 19, 2021
Nell S. Bishop '79, September 8, 2021
Melinda J. (Reed) Bledsoe '79, April 16, 2022
Betty M. (Baker) Bond '77, November 9, 2021
Dr. Geraldine (Fuller) Boyd '51, December 28, 2021 (Retired faculty/staff)
Richard D. Bramlet '63, February 13, 2022
William C. Brannon '63, June 14, 2022
John W. Brown '54, September 30, 2021

Jackie J. Bullion '65, January 24, 2022
Patricia J. (Grindstaff) Byerly, March 2, 2022
Linda M. Cardwell '80, March 17, 2022
Harlen W. Center '56, December 7, 2021
Patricia B. Chastain '59, January 22, 2022
Dr. Henry N. Chisholm, January 18, 2022
Derrell L. Cornelius '58, May 25, 2022
Terry L. Creek '76, December 9, 2021
Marilyn Y. (Booher) Crow '61, March 26, 2022
Eva B. (Holmes) Crowder '52, September 3, 2021
Leo J. Curda, March 9, 2022
Ray N. Delone '76, January 10, 2022
Bob L. Derryberry, January 22, 2022 (Former faculty/staff)
Jerry L. (Raybun) Dickson '59, September 9, 2021
Jerry A. (Swan) Dodson '55, December 29, 2021
Bobby Edgar '60, September 11, 2021
Rev. James H. Ellis '60, May 4, 2022
Rosalind (Beene) Eskew, April 25, 2022
David Espurvoa '56, May 30, 2022
Douglas G. Estes '45, January 11, 2022
Torrence J. Faver '93, March 3, 2022

Dr. Lloyd R. Ferguson '48, March 9, 2022 (Distinguished Alumni, 1978; Man of the Year)
Daniel C. Gartman '77, May 6, 2022
John A. Gilbert '72, January 30, 2022
Wanona L. Gilbreath, September 10, 2021
James L. Golden '59, February 28, 2022
Moises V. Gonzales, May 5, 2022
Knoxie (Brown) Gore '58, June 3, 2022
Leonard C. Griffin '64, November 19, 2021
Judith (Crook) Hackler '64, September 9, 2021
David E. Hair '63, November 23, 2021
John M. Hamlin '78, October 4, 2021
Steven L. Haynes '78, September 9, 2021
Aurora (Guarnero) Hernandez '83, April 18, 2022
Luis E. Hernandez '19, May 15, 2022
Leslie S. (McGowen) Heskett '97, January 20, 2022
Karen L. Hipp '71, April 10, 2022
John D. Holcombe '62, March 18, 2022
Michael J. Howard '77, May 3, 2022
Steven G. Hoyt '81, November 1, 2021
Leta L. Huff '58, February 1, 2022

Rev. Jay H. Humphreys '58, March 31, 2022
Maxine T. (Russell) Ingle '83, November 2, 2021
Billi E. (Kibler) Ingram '69, April 26, 2022
Rodney R. Irby, February 26, 2022
Herschel R. Jacobs '71, November 15, 2021 (Sports Hall of Fame, 2005)
Tyler L. James '18, March 16, 2022
Lynda S. Johnson, April 23, 2022
Jane E. (Trevino) Jones '83, January 16, 2022
Joetta Jones '53, April 7, 2022
Thomas E. Joshua, August 29, 2021
Samir Y. Khoury '71, September 10, 2021
Dorothy B. Kite '85, April 5, 2022
William J. Korenek '64, March 25, 2022 (Sports Hall of Fame, 2006)
Karen (Willson) Lancaster '71, April 15, 2022
Sandra (Howard) Laughlin, September 2, 2021 (Former faculty/staff)
Dr. Jean H. Law, May 1, 2022 (Retired faculty/staff)
Joan G. LeBleu-Kessinger '89, May 20, 2022
Harvey J. Lee, December 23, 2021

PHOTO BY REBEKAH STERLING '18

Bodie L. Lemons '86, September 28, 2021
Bobby V. Leverett, February 28, 2022
Lisa S. Maynard '84, December 4, 2021
Dennis M. McCluskey, April 12, 2022
Alton E. McConnell, May 4, 2022
Alfred L. McCurdy '70, September 2, 2021 (Former Board of Trustees member)
Russell W. McGough '67, November 26, 2021
Robert McMinn '61, January 10, 2022
Elizabeth (Norwood) Miller '62, January 4, 2022
Herman L. Moore '70, December 4, 2021 (Former Board of Trustees member)
William W. Moore, January 23, 2022
Mary D. (Wisener) Morgan '71, November 14, 2021
Paul J. Muhle '54, February 18, 2022
Minnie Munoz, September 27, 2021
Fred R. Niccum '63, November 17, 2021
Danny J. Nichols '73, May 17, 2022
Anna J. (James) Oliphint '66, December 19, 2021
Mary N. (Yousey) Patterson '64, December 2, 2021
Bruce G. Phillips '72, March 11, 2022
Janie D. (Norman) Popenoe, September 29, 2021
Joyce J. Purvis '65, May 23, 2022

Linda M. (Cardwell) Richardson '80, March 16, 2022
Randall L. Riley, August 28, 2021
Johnnie G. Roberts '51, June 2, 2022
Benny K. Rodgers '74, October 4, 2021
Andy R. Rowlett '60, April 23, 2022
Dr. Joe B. Rushing '46, December 8, 2021 (Former faculty/staff)
Durward Rutland '55, September 23, 2021
Michael D. Satterfield '62, May 6, 2022
June (Stanley) Schuman '60, October 7, 2021
John N. Scott '52, May 3, 2022 (Medal of Service, 1997)
Bobby Jack Seale '58, November 13, 2021
Peter M. Seward, October 21, 2021 (Former faculty/staff)
Marlene (Hodges) Shelton '76, January 20, 2022
Dr. Twila (Miller) Smith '48, March 24, 2022 (Coming Home Queen, 2005; Medal of Service, 1995)
Patti M. (Stewart) Snipes '56, January 1, 2022
Wanda J. (Mobley) Solley '62, February 23, 2022
Audie (Lovell) Stanley '62, November 16, 2021
Tana M. Stapp, September 29, 2021
Faye (Zeibig) Statser '45, April 5, 2022
Lee W. Stephenson '58, February 2, 2022

Ruth (Rhodes) Stephenson '58, December 20, 2021
Charlotte Strawn, February 22, 2022
Billie S. Thomas, May 3, 2022
Jon R. Vandagriff '57, May 29, 2022
Virginia E. (Solano) Wagner, November 23, 2021
Linda S. (Rader) Wallace '69, January 2, 2022
Catherine M. (Perry) Webb '46, April 19, 2022
Elmer Wilder, May 11, 2022
Barbara (Parker) Worley '63, April 29, 2022

DANIEL BAKER COLLEGE ALUMNI

Aleta C. (Chambers) Coleman '41, April 9, 2022 (Coming Home Queen, 1999)
Rev. John P. McClatchy '50, January 13, 2022 (Distinguished Alumni, 2004)

ADDITIONAL HPU FACULTY, STAFF, BOARD MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

David M. Bowren, October 24, 2021 (Friend)
Treldon Cutbirth, September 10, 2021 (Friend)
Dr. Larry Ehrke, March 4, 2022 (Friend)
C. Gene Gramling, March 27, 2022 (Friend)
Verl Hallmark, December 23, 2021 (Friend)

Al Lock, September 8, 2021 (Former Board of Trustees member; friend)
David Price, May 28, 2022 (Former faculty/staff; friend)
Thomas Sanders, March 10, 2022 (Friend)
Charles Skelton, October 16, 2021 (Former faculty/staff; friend)
Ethelyn H. Smith, May 28, 2022 (Retired faculty/staff; friend)
Lorene Southall, November 5, 2021 (Friend)
Weldon Wilson, February 15, 2022 (Friend)



Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord.

(Jeremiah 17:7, NKJV)



*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 JULIA CATLETT '21



Stay connected with HPU online

Visit our websites and follow us on social media to stay up to date on all things Howard Payne!

HPU Websites

www.hputx.edu
www.hpusports.com
www.hputx.edu/elpaso
www.hputx.edu/newbraunfels

General HPU Social Media

Facebook: @hputx
Twitter: @hputx
Instagram: @hputx

Alumni

Facebook: @hputxalumni
Twitter: @hputxalumni
Instagram: @hputxalumni

Admissions

Facebook: @hputxadmissions
Twitter: @hputxadmissions
Instagram: @hputxadmissions

Athletics

Facebook: @hpusports
Twitter: @hpusports
Instagram: @hpusports
YouTube: @hpusports



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

Visit www.hputx.edu/referastudent to help send someone on a life-changing journey through HPU!



P.O. Box 2369
Brownwood, Texas 76804

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

This photo of HPU's Old Main Tower was taken by Cynthia Montalvo, a senior from Bossier City, Louisiana, majoring in biomedical science and public policy through the Guy D. Newman Honors Academy.

