There is so much happening at the University right now, which means this is a perfect time for another issue of the HBU News.

Perhaps the best place to start is with a milestone. The year 2010 marks HBU’s 50th year since its founding. We are celebrating in a number of ways, including the return of the Spirit of Excellence Gala tradition. Proceeds from this gala will benefit student scholarships.

In addition, this issue highlights the gift of the Sherry and Jim Smith Organ to the University. Thanks to the Smiths’ generosity, we have installed what music professor Dr. Rhonda Furr has called “a two hundred year instrument” in the Belin Chapel, where it contributes wonderfully to a sense of the majesty of God in worship.

While I am speaking of gifts, I would be remiss not to mention the advent of nighttime NCAA soccer competition at Sorrels Field. Thanks to a gift from Randy ’84 and Cheryl ’85 Sorrels, we were able to complete our soccer field with lights and stadium bleacher seating. The dedication event was a great success. Better yet, evening soccer helps us provide our students with the kind of programming that keeps them on campus, both learning and developing a sense of fellowship with one another.

Also, The Guild has provided a generous gift to establish The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies. Although the Institute is still in its early stages of development, we anticipate that it will provide a unique venue for education and research on this important subject.

Finally, all of you know that we held envisioning sessions with several different groups nearly three years ago that resulted in a vision statement, The Ten Pillars: Faith and Reason in a Great City. The Ten Pillars is a vital force shaping the decisions we make all over the campus.

I want you to be aware of our progress on fulfilling the vision. Please review the progress report in this issue of the HBU News and be heartened, as we are, by all that has been done already. We have achieved a great deal and have many plans that remain to be implemented.

I am especially gratified by our ability to make progress despite the devastating combination of Hurricane Ike and the economic crisis that began in 2008. Those of you who read this publication and follow University events are our best supporters. Thank you for everything you do by way of giving, prayer, volunteer service and word-of-mouth to promote HBU. We are blessed by your interest and your help.

In Christ,

Robert B. Sloan, Jr.
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Shaped to Lead
Dr. Ed Seay ’73 extends his ministry to chair HBU Board rooted in uncompromising faith

Pillars of Progress
University moves forward with bold vision for future of Christian higher education

Sapere Aude
HBU Honors College challenges students to engage in deeper dialogue

A New Song
Sherry and Jim Smith Organ fulfills long-time dream, enhances worship on campus

Traditions Embraced
Annual Homecoming festivities celebrate best of college life

On The Cover
The long-anticipated return of the Homecoming bonfire lights up the night sky near Sorrels Field on Nov. 6. The bonfire was just one of many Homecoming events designed to help the HBU family “Embrace Tradition.”
In December, President Sloan appointed Dr. David Capes as dean of HBU’s new Graduate School. He will also serve as director of the School of Theology. Capes, a renowned scholar, translator and long-serving member of the HBU faculty who previously served as interim dean of the Honors College, will lead a team who will coordinate the marketing and admissions activities of the HBU Graduate School. The School will support the various deans of the colleges and schools who host graduate programs, as well as work with the President and the Provost to plan new graduate programs. The creation of the Graduate School and its work are an important component of the University’s Ten Pillars vision.

In January, President Sloan announced the appointment of R. Kimberly (Kim) Gaynor as vice president for University Communications. Gaynor led the “Baylor: Above and Beyond” branding campaign and previously spent his career in marketing and advertising as a senior executive at some of the largest and most successful advertising agencies in the world. He most recently served as president of Gaynor Communications.

“Kim will be a great asset to the University in brand building,” Sloan said. “And, it is particularly timely that he joins our Executive Team as we begin plans for HBU’s 50th anniversary celebration.”
University plans 50th anniversary
Celebrating a half-century of excellence

The year 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of Houston Baptist University. On Nov. 15, 1960, Houston Baptist College was created by action of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Immediately following on Nov. 16, 1960, the state of Texas issued the new college its letter of incorporation. To commemorate this milestone, the University is planning special celebrations throughout the year, including the return of the Spirit of Excellence Gala on Nov. 16, 2010.

HBU Guild establishes Institute in Christian Family Studies

Kandy Brittain, president of The Guild, presented President Sloan with a $50,000 gift in December to launch The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies. The gift was made in recognition of the University’s 50th anniversary celebration and presented during the organization’s annual Christmas Luncheon.

“The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies will serve to strengthen the family through projects involving teaching, research, publications and outreach,” Sloan said. “We are thrilled that The Guild has made this special investment in both the University and the community with the creation of the Institute.”

The Institute will provide scholars, ministers, students, parents and other policy-making and community leaders a place to come together to support Christian understanding regarding the traditional family. Christian scholars will develop interdisciplinary research and educational programs to be presented in seminars, training sessions and lectures to address Christian worldview issues related to strengthening the family.

The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies will advance the goals outlined in the fifth pillar – Increase Our Cultural Impact Through Our Faculty – of the University’s Ten Pillars vision.

50th Anniversary Steering Committee (front row, L-R): Pat Ingram, Dr. Harold Raley, Dr. James Furr, Tom Fanning ’85, President Sloan, Dr. Don Looser, Jane Marmion ’68, Dr. Paul Bonicelli (second row, L-R) Vivian Camacho ’91, Clay Porter, Dr. Ed Saay ’73, Sharon Saunders, Andrew Miller ’10, Charles Bacarisse, Kandy Brittain, Carlos Soto ’10

THE GUILD INSTITUTE INAUGURAL LECTURE

Featuring
Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse
founder and president of the Ruth Institute

Monday, March 29
7 pm Belin Chapel
HBU welcomes new deans, faculty, chairs and Board members

ASSOCIATE DEAN OF NURSING

Dr. Margaret Ugalde, RN, was appointed to the post of associate dean of the School of Nursing and Allied Health in September. She most recently served as the director of nursing programs at Lone Star College-CyFair, where she had been an administrator and faculty member since 2005.

Ugalde has 25 years of experience in the health care field as a nurse, nurse administrator and educator. She received her bachelor’s from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, her master’s from the University of Colorado, and her doctorate from the University of Texas Health Science Center’s School of Public Health.

DEAN OF EDUCATION

Dr. Alice Ledford was appointed to the post of dean of the School of Education in January, after having served as interim dean of the school since August 2009. Ledford, who was previously chair of the Department of Education, has been an associate professor in education at HBU since 2007.

Ledford holds professional certifications in K-12 special education, K-12 school counseling and K-12 school administration. She received her bachelor’s from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her master’s from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and her doctorate in education from Regent University.

NEW ARTS AND HUMANITIES CHAIRS

Dr. Randy Hatchett, professor in Christianity and philosophy, was named chair of the Department of Philosophy in December.

Dr. Matthew Boyleston, assistant professor in English and writing, was named interim chair of the Department of Languages in January.

NEW FACULTY (as of Fall 2009)

Dr. Jeffrey Green, assistant professor in philosophy – University of Notre Dame, Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Arts in philosophy; Southern Methodist University, Bachelor of Arts in philosophy

Jodey Hinze, visiting assistant professor in business – University of Houston Law School, Doctor of Jurisprudence; Criswell College, Master of Arts in philosophical theology and Bachelor of Arts in Biblical studies

Dr. William Rutherford, assistant professor in Christianity – University of Edinburgh, Doctor of Philosophy in New Testament and Christian origins; Dallas Theological Seminary, Master of Theology in New Testament and Old Testament; University of Texas at Austin, Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering

Nicole Pinaire, visiting assistant professor in biology – University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston, candidate for Doctor of Philosophy in cancer biology; Saint Louis University, Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering

Carol Lavender MBA ’92, visiting instructor in nursing – Houston Baptist University, Master of Business Administration; Lamar University, Bachelor of Science in nursing

Keri Strong, instructor in kinesiology and clinical coordinator, Athletic Training Education Program – University of North Texas, Master of Science in kinesiology; Texas Woman’s University, Bachelor of Science in kinesiology and health

HBU Board of Trustees

New Board Members

Madeline Collier
Ray Cox ’81
Clois Smith
Janet Taylor
Bill Williams
Bruce Williams

Board Officers

Dr. Ed Seay ’73, Chair
David Brooks, Chair-Elect
Larry Womack ’79, Secretary

Completed Service

Dr. J. Bruce Belin, Jr. Bob Powell ’76
Jack Carlson Bill Robbins
Zadok Hakim Bob Rule
David Lino Claire Turner

Retiring Trustee Dr. J. Bruce Belin was named an Advisory Trustee.
HBU posted a record undergraduate enrollment in the fall of 2009, with 2,333 students attending classes, an increase of close to six percent over the fall 2008 undergraduate enrollment of 2,208. Freshman retention also showed an increase. Combined undergraduate and graduate enrollment for the fall semester stood at 2,710 students.

“We are excited about the continued growth trends we have seen in the past three years,” President Sloan said. “We know there are families out there who value a quality Christian higher education, and especially one set in one of our nation’s largest cities with all the unique opportunities that Houston offers.”

More than 8,200 students applied for admission to HBU last year, a 26 percent increase over the previous year and another record for the admissions books.

According to James Steen, vice president for enrollment management, a lot of credit goes to University faculty and staff and their work on both recruitment and retention. “Our admissions team, from our admissions counselors to our applications processors to our financial aid staff, worked very hard this past year to ensure that prospective students had the information they needed in hand to make a solid decision on where to attend college. You put that great effort in place along with the support we received from faculty and staff on both recruitment and retention, and you have a true team effort to set this record.”

Even with the record undergraduate enrollment in place, Steen and his admissions team have not rested on their accomplishments. “Our admissions representatives began hitting the road in September to visit with students across Texas about the advantages of attending HBU. We are hoping for another great year ahead.”

Scenes from ‘Welcome Days’
Dr. Ed Seay ’73

assumes the position of Chair of the Board of Trustees at a unique moment in HBU history – the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the University’s founding. Seay, the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Magnolia, sees this as a time for reflection on past blessings and as an opportunity to root the University’s future growth and expansion in the uncompromising faith that has brought it this far.
What makes a pastor uniquely qualified for the position of Board Chair?

Because HBU is a distinctively Christian institution, the spiritual dimension of a pastor’s calling and equipping from God serves him well in his role as Board Chair. The core values of our school, as articulated in our Preamble and applied in The Ten Pillars, call upon us to lead according to a Biblical worldview. A pastor lives and leads in such an environment in his own local New Testament church, and that same philosophy of leadership and direction can and must be applied to leading the University.

How did your experiences as a student at HBU prepare you for your ministry, and for your current role as Board Chair?

My days as a student at Houston Baptist College, as it was known then, provided me with many leadership opportunities under the mentoring care of wonderful professors that helped shape my philosophy and style of leadership today. I was blessed to be one of the “founding fathers” of Alpha Pi Kappa, and I served in various leadership roles in the fraternity during my college years. I also had the privilege of serving as president and student director of the College Singers my senior year. By observing the servant-leadership of godly men like Dr. A. O. Collins, who was our Alpha Pi Kappa faculty sponsor, and allowing them to mentor me, I was being shaped to lead in every role that God has given me in my ministry, including the honor of serving as Board Chair for the next year.

You are also serving on the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee this year. Why is the University’s fiftieth year such a significant milestone?

In comparison to most other universities, HBU is still a young institution. There is great value in being a part of pioneering something new and dynamic that will impact thousands of lives in its future. We have been so blessed to have had visionary leaders like our first president, Dr. W. H. Hinton, and Dr. Stewart Morris, Dr. Rex Baker, Dr. Bruce Belin and others who saw the vision and were used by God to bring the University to life. But now, as HBU celebrates a half century of existence, we not only look toward an unlimited future, we also can celebrate a dynamic history. The school is no longer in its infancy – we have five decades of God’s blessing and direction to look back upon. Such a past as ours anchors us in history as we continue to build and grow toward the future.

As the parent of a current HBU student, what would you say to parents considering an HBU education for their children?

First, let me say that we were thrilled when Jessica, the youngest of our five children, chose HBU to continue her education. We believed that HBU would offer our daughter a wonderful environment in which to grow and develop – not only academically, but spiritually, socially and emotionally as well. As Jessica is enjoying her third year on campus, her experience as a student, and ours as parents of an HBU student, has been everything that we could have hoped it would be, and more. It is almost impossible to put a value on committed Christian professors and administration, a spiritual and social environment that encourages a student’s growth as a believer in Christ, and a Biblical worldview that permeates every dimension of the campus experience. HBU is not only a university that provides our students with a world-class education, it is a family that nurtures them and helps to shape them for Christ. As a Christian parent, nothing is more important to me than that.

The seal of the university has a single Scripture reference – John 14:6 – at its center. We unapologetically affirm Jesus’ claim when He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” Though we welcome students of all faiths, and no faith at all, our greatest desire is that they would find the truth about Christ while they are here. The leadership of our University continues to stand on this central truth of our faith, and we always will.

In light of the 50th anniversary, what is a key aspect of the University’s past that you think is most relevant to the HBU student of today?

As I bring alumni who have not been here in several years to visit our campus, they are astonished at the growth and enhancement of the campus. The new facilities, such as the Morris Cultural Arts Center, the Lake House and the University Academic Center, make an undeniable visual statement of the physical progress of our University. But the real identity and values of the University are not to be found in our campus facilities – they are seen in who we are and what we stand for.
The American Museum Society (AMS) ushered in its 41st year in October 2009 with a meeting in the home of Diane Williams ’93. Carol Young, a creative floral designer formerly with Cornelius Nurseries, made a presentation on creating beautiful holiday decor for both the fall and Christmas seasons. Members present included the late Nell Smith, Joella Morris, HBU Vice President for Advancement Charles Bacarisse, and HBU First Lady Sue Sloan.

Nina Hendee, co-owner of the Taste of Texas, captivated members with her presentation, titled “Men and Women Who Made Texas History,” at the November meeting, held in the home of Margaret Hutton. AMS members and their guests enjoyed an informative and fun-filled afternoon.

December was a busy month for the AMS. Members gathered to decorate the Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts for Christmas with a collection of Nativity scenes and Christmas ornaments from all over the world. Kandy and Bill Brittain also hosted a Christmas Tea and Open House in their exquisitely decorated home to celebrate the holiday season. In addition to the delicious food and wonderful fellowship, members enjoyed Christmas carols played by HBU School of Music student and pianist Ben Sieben.

In January, AMS members were greeted with another treat. After refreshments in the Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts, Dr. Rhonda Furr, HBU professor in music, delighted everyone with a presentation and recital on the Sherry and Jim Smith Organ in Belin Chapel.

The American Museum Society was founded in September 1965 to promote public interest in the development of the cultural and educational aspects of the Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts and to assist the museum director with its operation. For further information, please call the Museum of American Architecture and Decorative Arts at 281-649-3997.
Under the leadership of President Kandy Brittain, The Guild is celebrating its 35th anniversary with special events and special friends.

In September, Peg Harman chaired the 2009 orientation meeting, where more than 25 new members were welcomed by HBU First Lady Sue Sloan.

In October, Jan Benjamin and Katie Thompson chaired the Fall Coffee at the home of Lisa Simon ’76, where guests enjoyed an update on University activities from President Sloan and a heartfelt thank you from scholarship recipient Katie Dunn.

The annual Christmas Luncheon, hosted by Annette Duggan and Judy Elleson, was a special highlight on the calendar. Assistant professors in music Dr. Melissa Marse and Melissa Givens entertained the crowd of some 400, and featured speaker Cathy Jodeit shared a Christmas message. In observance of the University’s 50th anniversary, Guild President Kandy Brittain presented President Sloan with a check establishing The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies.

Established in November 1974 as the President’s Advisors, The Guild is a group of civic-minded, dedicated Christian women of many denominations joined under the auspices of the HBU President to fulfill a unique role in the future growth and development of the University. For more information on The Guild, email TheGuild@hbu.edu.

Top: Sue Sloan, third from right on the bottom row, welcomes new members of The Guild.
Middle: Lisa Simon ’76, Katie Thompson, Jan Benjamin and Kandy Brittain
Bottom: Annette Duggan, Cathy Jodeit, Judy Elleson
The Ten Pillars Vision Statement - Adopted in early 2008 after many listening sessions with faculty, staff, alumni, students, and other friends of the University - established a clearly defined set of aspirations for the future of HBU, and specifically its next 12 years. In just two years, the institution has made progress on many of the vision’s initiatives, despite a challenging economic environment and recovery from a major hurricane strike. The following is a pillar-by-pillar review of what has been accomplished thus far.

I. Build on the Classics

The first pillar expresses a desire to eschew educational fads in favor of the enduring classics that have nourished human beings and civilization.

- Redesigned and partially implemented a new core curriculum designed to be among the strongest in the nation once fully implemented
- Built Honors College around classical/“great texts” model
- Hired faculty to build out strategic areas such as philosophy and Christianity
- Implementing campus-wide program to improve students’ skill in writing
- Began The City, a tri-annual journal of classical and contemporary Christian thought

II. Recruit for National Influence

HBU is becoming a top educational destination for students of merit from around the nation interested in a distinctively Christian university learning experience. HBU is steadily increasing its footprint in Texas and, over the years, will have more students from all parts of the country.

- Established Honors College
- Increasing enrollment from outside of Houston; generating more interest than ever
- Redesigned scholarship model for the coming year to improve SAT scores
- Bringing back Spirit of Excellence Gala to raise HBU’s profile in the community and across the state while increasing scholarship dollars, a fundamental building block of the University, for recruiting students
- Mailed The City to all Christianity Today and World subscribers in Texas and surrounding states

III. Embrace the Challenge of Christian Graduate Education

HBU is expanding its graduate-level programming and establishing professional schools to educate more Christian scholars and initiate a cycle of Christian mentorship in the scholarly disciplines.

- Appointed Dr. David Capes as new dean of the Graduate School to centralize operations, develop best practices and exercise entrepreneurial leadership
- Began new graduate program in Biblical languages
- Master’s degree in human resources management has blossomed beyond expectations
- Graduate education cohorts around the city are growing rapidly

IV. Establish a Residential Society of Learning

HBU is increasingly emphasizing the value of a residential campus infused with a combination of scholarship, friendship and Christian fellowship where the work of teaching and learning integrates itself into the lives of students.

- Lake House Residence College increased number of beds on campus by nearly 400
- Corner Pawket, Moody Library Grab-and-Go, Husky Express, Lawrence Park and Williams Fountain all provide more places for students to develop a spirit of community together
- Remodeled student dining facility in Baugh Center
- Completed Belin Chapel – HBU’s first dedicated worship facility – and established weekly Sunday evening worship service on campus
- Beach volleyball pit currently under construction in front of the Baugh Center
V. INCREASE OUR CULTURAL IMPACT THROUGH OUR FACULTY

HBU encourages its outstanding faculty to focus their efforts outward into the culture while continuing to approach the teaching and mentoring of students as their central mission.

- The City, with more than 6,000 subscribers, provides a showcase for our faculty’s work alongside that of other national voices
- Began process of increasing faculty salaries to better reflect peer university compensation
- Several faculty members are publishing books with national readership, including Dr. Hunter Baker’s *The End of Secularism*, Dr. Louis Markos’ *From Achilles to Christ*, and Dr. David Capes’ *The Voice* New Testament and related books
- Founded The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies

VI. RENEW OUR CAMPUS, RENEW OUR COMMUNITY

HBU is helping its southwest Houston community transition into a truly diverse, mixed-income college neighborhood.

- Substantial build out of our campus – addition of the Morris Center, the Lake House and the University Academic Center, has added more than 260,000 square feet of academic, residential and performance space – coincides with renewal projects on Fondren Road and beautifies the area
- Top-level NCAA sporting competition coming to southwest Houston because of our programs
- Nighttime NCAA soccer competition now a reality at HBU on Sorrels Field
- New electronic signage on the Southwest Freeway and Fondren Road draws the community into our activities

VII. BRING ATHENS AND JERUSALEM TOGETHER

The seventh pillar is a metaphor for engaging the wisdom of the world with the wisdom of the Word. HBU is becoming a place where people can come to hear, see and experience a panoply of edifying events.

- Morris Center – with Belin Chapel, Dunham Theater and University Museums – regularly draws big crowds to campus for cultural events, educational programs and worship opportunities
- Recent campus speakers have included former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Gettysburg Superintendent Dr. John Latschar, former Secretary of Education Bill Bennett, and talk radio personalities Michael Medved and Dennis Prager
- The City, which has been cited in *The Wall Street Journal*, continues to grow and develop a national audience for HBU

VIII. EXPAND OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CREATIVE ARTS

HBU invites students, and the community as a whole, to share its academic and emotional admiration for the arts and to be part of the creative tradition.

- Morris Center is extraordinarily attractive to performance groups around Houston, including the Houston Symphony and the Houston Chamber Music Society
- Sherry and Jim Smith Organ is an investment in tradition and musical excellence
- Dunham Theater and Belin Chapel are exceptional practice and performance venues for music students
- Established Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program as prelude to establishing a Master of Fine Arts
- New instructional and gallery space for art in the University Academic Center is innovative and exciting for students

IX. CULTIVATE A STRONG GLOBAL FOCUS

HBU seeks to provide an education that is increasingly international in its scope.

- Hired new provost, Dr. Paul J. Bonicelli, a seasoned diplomat with experience in foreign policy and comparative politics
- Appointed dean of business school, Dr. Mohan Kuruvilla, a proven business leader with substantial international experience and connections
- Appointed Dr. Ron Rexilius to coordinate international programs

X. MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL AS AN INSTITUTION

The tenth pillar is a declaration of HBU’s overall commitment to educational excellence.

- Moved from quarters to semesters
- Moved from mandatory double majors to single majors in line with expanded majors nationwide
- A totally redesigned enrollment management approach has, on an annual basis, doubled size of the freshman class
- Returning to competition in NCAA Division I
- Reformed student advising system to make it more effective and less clerical in nature
- New college and departmental nomenclature and separation of joint departments like history/government and Christianity/philosophy

The foundation of the efforts detailed here – and the work toward further realization of *The Ten Pillars* that is yet to come – will be to produce graduates who have been challenged to think carefully and critically, to write and speak clearly and effectively, to demonstrate integrity in their daily lives, and to see their faith as being important both to their behavior and to their way of thinking. By implementing these initiatives, HBU and the people who choose to fuel its mission will be instrumental in building the first in a new wave of great Christian universities in America.
To the unreflective observer, the curriculum might look like nothing more than a list of courses one is obliged to complete in order to obtain a degree. And truth be told, that is often the case at many universities. Our Honors College core curriculum, however, has been thoughtfully crafted as a challenging and comprehensive course of study rooted specifically in God’s revelation, discovered both through His Word and through His Creation.

In Psalm 19, David sings eloquently of the logos behind Creation. One might even say he describes Creation as a sort of divine messenger: “The heavens declare the glory of God…day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.”

Artwork by Seth Miller ’11
The Apostle Paul puts the same observation in the form of a warning. No one may justly claim ignorance of God's character, since “His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.”

These passages are familiar to many of us, but take a moment to consider those words more carefully. God literally speaks to us and reveals Himself to us through His Creation. Not only has He graciously given us His Bible, but Creation itself teaches us about the Creator. For many centuries, believers who have heard, read and sung these inspired words have been filled with a passionate yearning to learn more of God by diligently studying His creative work. Our faculty and students in the Honors College feel that same yearning today.

The last few years have witnessed a rash of new books espousing the cause of atheism. These “new atheists” seem to want to pit the God of Scripture against science and nature, as though the two were somehow adversaries. But how, we might ask these short-sighted authors, do they think the modern scientific endeavor began? It grew from the desire of great Christian thinkers from the Middle Ages onward to better understand God's creation. Indeed, higher education itself was born out of that same desire to know God. The world’s first universities were thoroughly Christian institutions committed to the study of theology, philosophy and science. Today’s sophisticated secular universities ironically trace their very origins to the efforts of sincere Christians of old to more thoroughly understand the handiwork of God.

The publishing world may have only recently rediscovered atheism, but attacks on the divine truths written in Creation are nothing new. For quite some time now, in America and throughout the world, our universities have typically become the domain of brilliant but prideful men and women who sadly choose to separate the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom from the pursuit of God and His truth.

Given such developments, Christians may find themselves tempted to despair of higher education in America, but just like Israel in the days of Elijah, God has retained for Himself a remnant who have not bowed the knee to the false gods of educational secularism. HBU remains a steadfast Christian university where students can pursue a truly excellent education for the absolute best of reasons. Our logos and our purpose remain to know God better through His Word and through His Creation, and in so doing, to lead more worthy lives. Nowhere is this more clearly reflected than in the Honors College curriculum, in which our students read the great texts of the great thinkers with a view toward ever greater understanding of what God has done.

Our Honors curriculum is necessarily broad and deep, covering the Christian liberal arts tradition comprehensively. Our subjects run the gamut from literature and science to the fine arts and philosophy, but without the usual surveys and introductory courses that populate the so-called general education menus at other universities. Such courses tend to compartmentalize knowledge as if poets were never influenced by philosophers and statesmen were never influenced by either. In reality, ideas and events and movements interact with and help to shape one another. Taking our cue from actual events played out in Creation, we discard the usual walls of separation between disciplines. When we study the Greek world, for instance, we study its history, its philosophy and its literature at the same time in order to better understand how culture really develops.

As our students can attest, the Honors College curriculum is demanding. The texts we study are rich and often difficult to fathom. The professors and students alike wrestle with the words and ideas of the Western tradition’s great thinkers in every discipline. Some might find such a task daunting, and it certainly can be so. At the same time, however, we tend to find it exhilarating as well.

Sapere Aude. This Latin phrase borrowed from Horace—roughly translated as “Dare to be wise”—is the motto of the Honors College at HBU. It serves as both an invitation and a challenge. On one hand, it invites serious-minded students to participate in the great classical Christian liberal arts tradition. On the other hand, it challenges those same students to embrace the arduous yet rewarding life-long pursuit of genuine truth—a worthy enterprise indeed. In that sense, may we all dare to be wise.

Robert D. Stacey, Ph.D.
Dean of the Honors College
As part of its Roundtable series, in which students meet and learn from leaders in the local, national and international communities, the Honors College welcomed former Houston Mayor Bill White, who recently finished his third and final term as mayor, to the HBU campus in October.

White spoke to the 51 Honors College students in attendance on leadership and public service. His speech, which Honors College Dean Robert Stacey described as practical rather than political, stressed trustworthiness and responsibility, competency, and learning to respect and pay attention to people.

The mayor was the eighth speaker in the Honors College Roundtable series, which has also featured Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, British Consul-General Paul Lynch and former Houston Chronicle Sports Editor Carlton Thompson ’92.

In October, presenters from Japan, Latvia, Canada, the nation and around the state of Texas came to the HBU campus to examine the connections between faith and scholarship during the regional Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, hosted by the HBU Honors College.

The three-day conference featured 48 panelists presenting on 21 different topics, ranging from medieval literature to post-modernism, all with a theological approach. Eight HBU professors served as chairs or presenters for the conference’s panel discussions, and Dr. Louis Markos, professor in English and scholar-in-residence, delivered one of two plenary addresses, “The Aesthetics of Incarnation: A Christian Response to Postmodernism.”

By bringing students and professors together in the active pursuit of knowledge outside of the typical classroom setting, the Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, coordinated by Dr. Evan Getz, assistant professor in literature, was designed to help realize the fourth of the University’s Ten Pillars: Establish a Residential Society of Learning.

In conjunction with the Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, the Leonidas Loizides Theatrical Company of Athens performed the Greek tragedy “Troades,” or “Trojan Women,” in Dunham Theater. The play, written by Euripides in 415 B.C., depicts the suffering of the Trojan women as they await their fate to become concubines and slaves of the Greek heroes of the Trojan War. The production was co-sponsored by the HBU Honors College and the Hellenic Cultural Center of the Southwest.
Home base.

It is a concept that is familiar to anyone who has played tag or hide-and-seek.

For Terry and Linda Swift, parents of alumnae Sheila Swift Hurst ’04 and Christi Swift Wulf ’06, it is also an apt description for their family’s connection to HBU.

The Swifts had long been familiar with HBU, thanks to the experiences of Linda’s sister, Terri Carnett Blalock ’78, and Terry’s cousin, John Paulding ’99. It was the decision of both their daughters to attend the University, and their subsequent love for their professors and their fields of study – Sheila in art and English, and Christi in history and political science – however, that served to bond the Swifts with the campus, its programs and its people.

“Our daughters entered HBU with an appreciation for education,” Terry said, “but they left with something more, a passion for lifelong learning.”

Although she originally selected art simply because she needed a second major, Sheila seemed to find particular joy in her art classes, through which she met and developed friendships with professors like Michael Collins and the late Virgil Grotfeldt. Described by her mother as “a great marketer,” Sheila encouraged her parents to attend as many of the School of Art events and exhibitions, both on and off-campus, as their schedules would allow.

Thanks to their daughter’s enthusiasm, the Swifts began to identify with and develop a greater appreciation for the quality work being produced by the faculty and students in the School of Art.

“With its core faculty members, including positive leaders like Michael Collins and Jim Edwards, and dedicated facilities, the art program is exposing the University to and linking it with the greater artistic community in Houston in a powerful way,” Terry said.

The couple believes that President Sloan, whose vision for HBU includes an emphasis on the arts, has given the school and its artists-in-residence the tools they need, including the University Academic Center and its in-house Gallery, to transform the program into one of the premier art schools in the state.

“The space and lighting in the art building lend themselves to creativity,” Linda said, “while its on-site studio offices, in which professional artists practice their talent in conjunction with their teaching, allow students to learn through an apprentice-style approach that transcends the typical classroom environment.”

As competitive people, the Swifts are driven to involve themselves in organizations and causes where they can see growth and the potential to leave a legacy that goes beyond their individual abilities. Having witnessed firsthand the strong foundation on which HBU, and its art program in particular, is based, they have chosen to support the University through multiple gifts to the School of Art.

“Sheila’s and Christi’s experiences emphasized to us that HBU is a place of integrity,” Linda said, “and we know that HBU will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of students in the future.”

“HBU has stood the test of time and remains a positive influence in the community. In today’s uncertain times, being associated with a worthy institution with a history like that is especially significant,” Terry said.

Home base, indeed.

- Justin Lacey
During Family Weekend in October, HBU named Rick ’69 and Avie ’68 Bailey, their children and their grandchildren – three generations of Huskies – the University’s Family of the Year.

The Baileys have exhibited a legacy of involvement with the University through the commitment of their time, talent and resources. Rick is a current member of the HBU Board of Trustees, having served on the Board for 19 years, including as chairman in 2007-2008. Avie is an active member of The Guild. Their past service to the University also includes Rick’s membership in the President’s Development Council and their participation as a couple in the HBU Charter Club.

Through the years, Rick and Avie have supported the HBU Alumni Association in a variety of ways, including service on the Alumni Association Board and the Homecoming Committee. Rick was twice honored for his contributions to HBU, first with the 1995 Distinguished Alumnus Award and then with the Meritorious Service Alumnus Award in 1999. Avie is also a recipient of the Meritorious Service Alumnus Award, having been recognized in 1997.

Rick and Avie’s sons, Ty ’93 and Ryan ’98, followed in their parents’ footsteps by attending HBU. Both Ty and Ryan played for the Husky basketball team, again following their father’s lead. The Baileys’ daughter, Spring Payne, has joined her mother as a member of The Guild. This August, the first third-generation Bailey – Ty and his wife Kelli’s son, Blake – began his freshman year at HBU.

Whether first, second or third generation, the Baileys truly personify the spirit of HBU by exemplifying Christian family values and exhibiting a legacy of support for HBU’s mission.
Lights. Cameras. Soccer?
The excitement was electric when the men’s soccer team took to the Randy and Cheryl Sorrels Field against Adelphi University on Saturday night during Family Weekend.

Fans in the newly constructed grandstands eagerly anticipated the setting sun and the first soccer match played under the field’s newly installed lights.

The grandstands and lights were made possible by a generous gift from HBU alumni couple Randy ’84 and Cheryl ’85 Sorrels, for whom Sorrels Field is named. Randy, a four-year letterman and NCAA Academic All-American who played soccer at HBU from 1980-1984, and Cheryl, who served as president of the Gymnastics Booster Club and vice-president of the Soccer Booster Club while a student at HBU, are loyal fans and supporters of HBU’s Athletic Department and its NCAA Division I soccer program, one of only two in the state.

To mark completion of the upgrades to Sorrels Field, Randy, Cheryl and two of their four children, Darby and Garrett, were honored during a special halftime celebration. President Sloan said a dedicatory prayer and presented the Sorrelses with a soccer ball signed by the University’s men’s and women’s soccer student-athletes and framed photos from their days at HBU. Prior to the game, the family was also presented with HBU jerseys bearing the number 3, the number that Randy wore while helping lead the Huskies to a Trans-America Athletic Conference Tournament Championship in 1982.

The large crowd of soccer fans, the Sorrelses included, had more than just new lights to be excited about by the time the night was through, as the men’s soccer team scored a 2-1 win over Adelphi University in its first night game at home.

“We want to encourage a spirit of giving to this University. It’s at a stage where there is tremendous growth and there is tremendous opportunity. And we think that if everyone gives a little bit – of their talent, of their time and of their dollars – it’s going to make a great university an even better university.” – Randy Sorrels
Preparation meets opportunity
Randy Sorrels receives Distinguished Alumnus Award

According to Randy Sorrels ’84, arriving at Houston Baptist University in the fall of 1980 was one of his biggest breaks in life. He believes that the success he has achieved would not have been possible without the foundation he received at HBU, which prepared him to take advantage of the many opportunities he has encountered.

Sorrels, managing partner in the Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend law firm and the recipient of the University’s 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award, is a respected and accomplished Houston attorney who sports a long list of achievements, awards and accolades in the legal profession.

As a student-athlete at HBU in the early 1980s, however, he saw himself as a work-in-progress.

“While I came to the school for the opportunity to play NCAA soccer,” Sorrels said, “exposure to the academic rigor at HBU was the best thing that could have happened to me. The first-class instruction and overall university environment really focused me on success in the classroom, preparing me for the demands of both law school and the practice of law.”

Sorrels is quick to praise his professors, who challenged him to think critically and develop better problem-solving and study skills. His public speaking aptitude, developed through his speech communication major, proved to be especially valuable, both at South Texas College of Law, where he graduated in the top five of his class, and in the courtrooms where he practices law today.

Playing on the Husky soccer team taught Sorrels time management skills, another key to his success in law school. Because he did not consider himself a natural talent, he worked harder than those he saw as gifted athletes, spending more time on the track, on the field and in the weight room.

“I quickly learned that a student-athlete is basically an individual who attends a full schedule of classes while holding down a full-time job for which he doesn’t get paid,” Sorrels said.

In his current full-time job, Sorrels has made a name for himself not only in Houston, but also across Texas and beyond. In 1999, the Houston Young Lawyers Association named him the Woodrow B. Seals Outstanding Young Lawyer of Houston, a special honor considering the city is home to more than 18,000 attorneys. The State Bar of Texas presented him with its highest recognition, the President’s Award, in 2006.

Sorrels has twice served on the Board of Directors for the State Bar of Texas, a rare privilege, and he was elected by his peers to be president of the Houston Bar Association in 2005-2006, when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the Gulf Coast. The storms put a heavy demand on legal resources throughout the region, and Sorrels became the point person coordinating those resources in not only east Texas, but also across Louisiana and into Mississippi.

Having learned the importance of commitment to service and one’s fellow man while at HBU, Sorrels and his colleagues volunteer their time and talent to represent those who cannot afford an attorney, without expectation of payment in return. In recognition of this service, Abraham Watkins was named the 2008 Small Firm Winner of the inaugural Harris County Bench Bar Pro Bono Award.

While he has enjoyed success, both individually and as a member of a team, on the soccer field and in the courtroom, Sorrels’ greatest victory came when he met Cheryl Casas Sorrels ’85. “I was blessed by the training I received as a student at HBU, but I am most thankful for the opportunity to meet, befriend and ultimately marry Cheryl — the mother of our four children and the best teammate I have ever had,” Sorrels said. “My professional accomplishments cannot compare to the importance of my family, which provide me the strength and support I need to succeed in the other areas of my life.”

- Justin Lacey
Spoken like a champion
Terry Lewis receives Meritorious Service Alumnus Award

When Terry Lewis ’88 looks up to the rafters of Sharp Gym, he sees more than just the tournament, conference and national championship banners that most fans see. He sees memories as well.

Lewis has been the “Voice of the Huskies,” as HBU’s public address and radio announcer for a variety of athletic events in and out of Sharp Gym, for a total of 22 years. In that time, he has announced key contests along the road to many of the championships those banners represent.

In addition to the memories, Lewis has 15 championship rings to remind him of the accomplishments of the student-athletes — who he affectionately refers to as “the kids” — that he has gotten to know better along the way.

“Each year, I get to befriend 150 kids doing what they do best,” Lewis said. “You can’t buy that.”

He has had the privilege of watching several generations of HBU students become “difference makers” as they grow into not only better athletes, but also solid citizens, parents and leaders in their professional fields.

It should come as no surprise, then, that Lewis is hesitant to place too much of the focus on himself when discussing his 2009 Meritorious Service Alumnus Award, presented during the Spirit of HBU Alumni Awards Dinner in November, and induction into the HBU Walk of Honor.

“Being selected for this award is truly one of the greatest moments of my life, and I am honored to share it with the students,” Lewis said. “This award is not about me or anything that I have done. It is about the kids, and it will always be about them. They are the ones who are working hard, not me.”

Hard work or not, the breadth and depth of Lewis’ devotion to his alma mater cannot be denied. He began a new phase of his life when he transferred to HBU from southern California following eight knee surgeries that brought an end to his own career as a college athlete. A former member of the Student Foundation, Lewis was also voted student body president his senior year.

“I learned an important lesson when I started getting involved in non-athletic activities on campus,” Lewis said. “Everyone competes for something. That’s why I have always encouraged our athletes to return the favor and support their loyal fans by attending the recitals, art shows and other venues in which they ‘compete.’”

In his more than two decades of announcing athletic events, he has served under all three University presidents and worked with four athletic directors, including close personal friend and current men’s basketball coach Ron Cottrell. His role as announcer has also seen him through a battle with cancer and open heart surgery. For the last 15 years, he has been announcing with only one vocal cord.

As a current member of the HBU Coaches’ Circle, which seeks to advance and raise funding for the University’s athletic programs, Lewis wants the entire family — students, alumni and the community — to know that they can be proud of their Huskies.

For Lewis, who began broadcasting full-time on the Texas Sports Radio Network following the Homecoming basketball game — his last to announce in Sharp Gym — on Nov. 7, HBU’s return to NCAA Division I, in which it competed during his early years, is a positive move for the University and its student-athletes.

“In the NCAA, the kids get to play their hearts out against teams like Michigan, Duke and Texas Tech while becoming a better group of athletes,” Lewis said. “HBU is back in the big time, and our Huskies will go to the NCAA tournament again.”

- Justin Lacey
“Our vision and hope for this organ and this chapel is that it will always honor our Lord.”
- Jim Smith
Smith Organ Dedication
Sights and sounds of inaugural concert fill Belin Chapel

The Belin Chapel played host to a feast for the aural and visual senses as HBU celebrated the dedication of the Sherry and Jim Smith Organ with an inaugural concert in September. The Smith Organ, which delights the ears and uplifts the soul with its glorious sound while capturing the attention and interest of the eyes with its visually stunning presence, now serves as a major focal point in the Morris Cultural Arts Center.

The inaugural concert, featuring guest organist Dr. Joby Bell, assistant professor of organ and sacred music at Appalachian State University, was designed to exhibit the assorted capabilities of the new instrument. Bell, who memorized his entire performance, presented works by Schumann, Bach and several other noted composers.

The evening was also an opportunity for the University to recognize the generous friends who helped fund and shepherd the organ through its three years of development.

President Sloan presented Sherry and Jim Smith, who generously invested their resources in the construction and installation of the magnificent organ, with a framed Bible leaf of Psalm 33 and a framed copy of the sheet music for “Psalm Prelude No. 6.” The prelude, which is based on Psalm 33, was among the pieces Bell performed. In addition, the Smiths were shown appreciation for their gift of new hand-carved wooden doors installed at the entrance to the Belin Chapel.

Sloan also recognized special guest Fernand Létourneau, the founder and president of Orgues Létourneau Limitée, the Canadian firm that designed and built HBU’s new instrument. Dr. Rhonda Furr, professor in music, was honored for her tireless work to ensure that the Smiths’ generosity was transformed into an instrument of the highest quality. Former HBU President and First Lady Doug and Sadie Hodo were also in attendance.

The newly installed stained glass in the Belin Chapel’s chancel window, made possible through the generosity of long-time friends Mary Ann and Bruce Belin and The Hamill Foundation, provided a glorious backdrop for the evening’s festivities. Sloan presented the Belins with a framed Bible leaf of II Peter 3, which was selected to complement one of the concert’s musical selections, “O Zion Haste.”

Creating an environment conducive to and appropriate for spiritual reflection and praise has long been a dream of the University leadership. The dedication of the Smith Organ helps to fulfill that dream.
The College of Continuing Studies hosted its inaugural fundraiser – “Mother, Daughter, Sister, Friend, Tea & Fashion Show” – in McNair Hall in September. The event was designed to raise both funding and awareness for the College, which offered its first fall semester courses in 2009.

More than 100 friends of the University enjoyed a fashion show featuring 20 HBU faculty, staff, alumni and friends modeling the Gayla Bentley Fashion Design Group’s fall and winter collection. Bentley, whose husband Russell is a 1997 graduate of the University’s MBA program, sells clothing for women of all ages, shapes and sizes in boutiques worldwide.

Participants also received a lesson in tea etiquette from special guest Annie Cater, whom Oprah Winfrey has dubbed the “Queen of Etiquette.”

In addition to Gayla Bentley Fashion Design Group and Annie Cater and Associates, event sponsors included Bistro on the Square, Directory One Website Marketing, InTown Minuteman Press, Karen Banks with Mary Kay, Tea in Texas, and Visible Changes.

"Mother, Daughter, Sister, Friend" Models:

- Bridgette Bauman
- Encarna Bermejo
- Dr. Valerie Bussell
- Vivian Camacho ’91
- Rachel Coindreau
- Colette Cross
- Candace Desrosiers ’94
- Marsha Eckermann ’68
- Kim Elliston
- Suzanne Fails

- Cindy Crane Garbs
- Cyndi Jacobson
- Sneha Kuruvilla
- Dr. Diane Lovell
- Carolyn Miller
- Sharon Saunders
- Sue Sloan
- Claire Turner
- Dani Wilde
- Dr. Dawn Wilson MEd ’99
Barbecue. Basketball. Bonfire!

The HBU family “embraced” these and many more traditions during the celebration of “Homecoming 2009: Embrace Tradition,” Nov. 4-8. The full schedule of events included the Spirit of HBU Alumni Awards Dinner, the return of the Homecoming bonfire, the Husky Fair, and the traditional barbecue dinner followed by a Husky basketball game against the University of the Ozarks. It was a weekend marked by the best of college life.
1. Husky fans cheer on their favorite team at the basketball game.

2. The 2009 Homecoming King and Queen Andrew Miller and Nina Harrison are congratulated by President and Sue Sloan and the 2008 Homecoming King and Queen Carlos Soto '10 and Rachel O'Shields '09.

3. The men’s basketball team took on the University of the Ozarks in Sharp Gym, winning the game 99-48.

4. Sophomore Andrew Richardson rises above the Husky Fair.
5. Steve Braun ’80, right, outgoing chairman of the Alumni Board of Directors, passes the gavel to Tom Fanning ’85, left, the 2010 Alumni Board chair, at the Spirit of HBU Awards Dinner.

6. Bobby Sanders ’96 was the guest speaker at the Homecoming Convocation Pep Rally.

7. The volleyball team played a match against Utah Valley in Sharp Gym.

8. Alumni and their friends and family participate in the Chili Cook-off during the Husky Fair.

9. The ladies of Sigma Lambda Gamma celebrate winning the Husky Cup for successfully sharing their Husky spirit in the week leading up to Homecoming weekend.

10. Walk of Honor recipients gather for a photo following the Spirit of HBU Awards Dinner.

11. Rhonda Moore Howard ’92 enjoys the Husky Fair with her son Joshua.

12. HBU Trustee David Stutts ’82, left, and Steve Braun, right, visit with Dr. Mohan Kuruvilla, center, dean of the School of Business, at the pre-game barbecue dinner.
Faculty share talents with global community

Gallery director serves as co-curator of Texas art exhibition in Peru

Jim Edwards, director and curator of the HBU Art Gallery and associate professor in art, served as co-curator of “Amistad II,” an exhibition of Texas artists that opened in September at Centro Cultural Peruano Norteamericano, a cultural arts center in Arequipa, Peru. Friendship, the theme of the exhibition, was taken from the English translation of the word “amistad.”

Edwards and co-curators, Gus Kopriva, director of Redbud Gallery, and Max Boyd Harrison, director of Gallery M Squared, selected pieces from various media – printmaking, drawing, photographs, paintings and mixed media works – to reflect the diversity of the artwork being done in the state. HBU art professors and affiliates Michael Collins, Yousef Balat ’99, Hans Molzberger and the late Virgil Grotfeldt were among the 31 artists whose works were chosen for the exhibition.

In recognition of the friendship between Texas and Peru reflected in the exhibition, the Consulate General of Peru in Houston hosted classical guitarist Maria Lusia Harth-Bedoya in Belin Chapel in November. The concert, graciously supported by StatoilHydro and HBU, also raised support for the mission work of Operación San Andrés.

Music professor contributes to anniversary celebration of “Peaceful Revolution”

Friedenskantate, a “peace cantata” composed by Dr. Ann Gebuhr, professor in music, was performed by choir, soloists and orchestra at the dedication of the new Friedensfenster (peace window), a gift of the Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association and the Rotary Club of Houston, in St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Germany, in October. The dedication and performance during Sunday morning worship followed a week celebrating the 20th anniversary of the “Peaceful Revolution” that brought an end to communist rule in East Germany and ultimately led to reunification.

Gebuhr fashioned Friedenskantate, a 30-minute work in seven movements, to address four topics suggested by the committee overseeing the design and creation of the window: the peace of God, justice in the world, preservation of creation, and Johann Sebastian Bach, who is buried at St. Thomas Church and served as cantor there for more than 25 years. Gebuhr’s piece had its North American premiere during the HBU School of Music’s 50th Anniversary Celebration Concert in Dunham Theater in February.

Scholar-in-residence addresses Congressional Hellenic Caucus in D.C.

At the invitation of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus and the National Hellenic Society, Dr. Louis Markos, professor in English and scholar-in-residence, gave a presentation titled “The Heirs of Athens” to distinguished guests in the U.S. House of Representatives in October. Markos’ presentation, part of the National Hellenic Society’s “Contemporary World through Classic Eyes” Lecture Series, was designed to instill within government decision makers a sense of the past so that they can better plan the future.

Dignitaries on hand for the presentation included Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.), co-chairman of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus; Andreas Kakouris, ambassador to Cyprus; Colonel Taxiahris Sardellis, Greece’s defense attaché; Magda Hatzopoulos, Greece’s press attaché; and Nick Larigakis, executive director of the American Hellenic Institute.
Dunham Museum Lecture

"Johann Sebastian Bach: His Bible & His Music"

Prior to the second Sherry and Jim Smith Organ dedication concert in September, Dr. Thomas Rossin – composer, church musician, and founder and conductor of Exultate, a Minnesota-based chamber choir and orchestra – delivered a lecture analyzing the marginal notations in the personal, hand-annotated Bible of Johann Sebastian Bach. “Bach’s Bible,” also known as the Calov Bible, was on display in the Dunham Bible Museum as part of the Soli Deo Gloria exhibit in the fall.

Rossin’s lecture and the Soli Deo Gloria exhibit were made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state-affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

School of Business Distinguished Lectures

Prince-Chavanne

Terry Looper, president and CEO of Texon Corporation, delivered the 2009 Prince-Chavanne Distinguished Lecture – “My Secret Weapons to Success” – in September. Looper oversees the buying, selling and transport of crude, natural gas and gas liquids in 26 states for Texon, which the Houston Chronicle ranks fifth on its list of top private corporations in the Houston area.

Begun in 1986, the Prince-Chavanne Distinguished Lecture Series is made possible by a generous gift from the estate of Harry and Hazel Chavanne in appreciation of the Christian example their parents set in both their personal and professional lives.

Brown


The Brown Foundation Inc. established the Herman Brown Endowed Chair of Business and Economics at HBU in 1972. Since that time, associated activities such as the annual Brown Distinguished Lecture have enriched the academic life of the University and the resources of the Houston business community.
**AWARDS & NOMINATIONS**

Charles Bacarisse, vice president for Advancement - Named presiding officer of the Texas Department of Information Resources Board by Gov. Rick Perry

Dr. Martin Bressler, professor in marketing and entrepreneurship - Received the Service and Past President’s awards from the Association for Small Business & Entrepreneurship

Dr. Richard K. Fiese, professor in music education - Named to the Texas Music Educators Association Research Committee to assist in the development of research projects supporting advocacy efforts for arts education in Texas

Dr. Melissa Marse and Melissa Givens, assistant professors in music - Sing on the album “Conspirare: A Company of Voices,” which was nominated for a 2010 Grammy Award for Best Classical Crossover Album

Dr. Felisi Sorgwe, assistant professor in Christianity and director of the Center for Exploring Ministry Careers - Won one of 30 Kern Fellowships to discuss the free market economy from a Christian perspective at the Acton Institute

**PERFORMANCES & EXHIBITIONS**

Dr. Lawrence J. Clark, associate professor in writing - Performed original music and poetry at Schreiner University’s Old Union Church as part of the Texas Heritage Music Foundation’s “Living History Day” celebration

Melanie Wade Leslie, associate professor in art, and Linda Joyce Renz ’03, advancement coordinator - Represented in “Fluxhibition #3: Thinking Inside of the Box,” an exhibition at The Gallery in the E.H. Hereford University Center at the University of Texas at Arlington

Dr. Brian Runnels ’81, professor in music - Conducted a performance of “The Pirates of Penzance” by the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Houston at the Wortham Theater

**PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

Publications:

Dr. Hunter Baker, associate provost and assistant professor in government - “Imagine You Are a Doctor,” an article on health care reform, for the Acton Institute


Dr. Linda Brupbacher ’69, professor in education, and Dr. Dawn Wilson MEd ’99, associate professor in instructional technology - “A Study at Multiple Age Levels: Indications that TEASes (Technology Enhanced Anticipatory Sets) Can Help Increase Motivation,” a research study, in The Forum; and “Engage Multiple Intelligences with a TEASe,” an article, in ASCD Express

Dr. Valerie Bussell, associate professor in psychology - “A longitudinal investigation of coping and posttraumatic growth in breast cancer survivors,” an article, in Journal of Psychosocial Oncology

Dr. David B. Capes, dean of the Graduate School and director of the School of Theology - The Voice of the Psalms, a book

Dr. James R. Claycomb, associate professor in physics - Outlines & Highlights for Applied Electromagnetics Using QuickField & MATLAB, a textbook

Dr. Suanna H. Davis, adjunct professor in English and writing - “Incorporating Digital Literacy into the Composition Classroom,” an article, in The CEA Forum; “The Use of the Familiar to Introduce Literature,” an article, in Changing English: An International Journal of English Teaching from Routledge; and selected poems in Scholarship and Creativity Online and Taj Mahal Review
Dr. Rebecca Dowden, assistant professor in English and writing - “In the Storm,” a non-fiction essay, in the National Gallery of Writing; and “Creation of Point-of-View in ‘The Lottery,’” a paper, in Scholarship and Creativity Online

Dr. Rachel Hopp, associate professor in biology - “A Success Story: Chemistry before Anatomy & Physiology I,” an article, in HAPS Educator, the journal of the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society


Dr. Diana Severance, director of the Dunham Bible Museum - Maidens and Matrons: Two Millennia of Women in Christian History, a book

Dr. Robert Stacey, dean of the Honors College and associate professor in government - “War, Ideas, and the New Conservative Dilemma,” a review of Angelo Codevilla’s book Advice to War Presidents, in First Principles


**Presentations:**

Dr. Miguel Estrada, associate professor in Spanish - “The return of Pre-Hispanic times in the short story ‘Chac Mool’ by the Mexican author Carlos Fuentes” and “Reading strategies to improve comprehension to analyze the poems ‘Dos patrias’ and ‘Versos sencillos’ by the Cuban author José Martí” at the Advanced Topics Institute for Experienced Teachers of AP Spanish Literature

Dr. Chris Hammons, director of the Master of Liberal Arts program and associate professor in government - “Revoking Poetic License” at the annual meeting of the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs

Dr. James Johnson, associate professor in kinesiology, and Dr. Joseph D. Brown, professor in kinesiology - “Using Undergraduate Professional Interviews to Enhance Program Assessment” at the annual Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Convention

Dr. Ernest Liang, associate professor in finance - “The Global Financial Crisis: Biblical Perspectives on Corporate Finance” at the 2009 Annual Convention of the Christian Business Faculty Association

Dr. Louis Markos, professor in English and scholar-in-residence - “Retelling the Christian Story: C. S. Lewis’ The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” at the Foundation of Contemporary Theology; and a talk on G. K. Chesterton’s Orthodoxy at Chesterton House: A Center for Christian Studies

Dr. Constantina Michalos, professor in English - “Father’s Day in Maycomb County: A Rereading of Atticus Finch and Race on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of To Kill a Mockingbird” at the National Association of African-American Studies

Dean Riley, professor in library science - “Information Apprenticeship: Integrating Faith and Learning in the Library” at the annual meeting of the Association of Christian Librarians

Dr. Robert Sloan, president - “The Summons of Freedom: The Pope, the Apostle Paul, and Alasdair MacIntyre” at the fall conference of the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture

Dr. Doni M. Wilson, associate professor in English - “F. Scott Fitzgerald and the Contemporary Response: Art as Criticism” at the International F. Scott Fitzgerald Society Conference
THE COLLEGIAN RECEIVES ALL-AMERICAN RATING, AWARDS FROM COLUMBIA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION, BAPTIST PRESS

The Collegian, HBU’s student newspaper, received its ninth All-American rating from the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) for the 2008-2009 academic year. The rating is the highest given to any publication by the ACP National Scholastic Press Association.

In addition, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association at Columbia University awarded Collegian journalists 12 certificates through its 27th annual Gold Circle Awards program. Of the more than 8,000 entries judged, The Collegian took first place for both editorial page and overall design in the tabloid category.

The staff of The Collegian also won first place in Overall Newspaper Division I and second place for Overall Worldwide Web during the Baptist Press Collegiate Journalism Conference in October. In addition, five HBU students took individual honors at the conference, which included 500 entries from mostly Baptist-affiliated schools.

NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHES ARTICLES BY HBU STUDENT JOURNALISTS

Two HBU students serving as interns at the New York Times had articles with their byline published in the paper’s print and online editions. In June, Mauricio Guerrero, former editor-in-chief of The Collegian, filed a report from the R. Allen Stanford bail hearing. In December, senior Kristen Crawley wrote an article detailing the tough season facing Texas oystermen one year after Hurricane Ike.

HBU SENIOR SELECTED FOR WHITE HOUSE INTERNSHIP

HBU senior Cavett McCrary spent the fall 2009 semester interning in the White House Correspondence Office, which handles thousands of letters written to President Barack Obama. McCrary, who is the first University student to secure a White House internship, followed in the footsteps of her government professor Dr. Christopher Hammons, who interned at the White House Advance Office in the fall of 1991 during the presidency of George H. W. Bush.

MUSIC STUDENT’S FIRST SINGLE-ACT OPERA DEBUTS IN DUNHAM THEATER

“Alyce,” an opera composed for soprano, flute, bass and piano by senior music theory and composition student Jeremiah Joseph, had its premiere in Dunham Theater in September.

MOCK TRIAL TEAM MAKES STRONG SHOWING AT BAYLOR GREEN AND GOLD INVITATIONAL

HBU’s two mock trial teams competed against 18 teams and more than 130 competitors in the annual Green and Gold Invitational at Baylor Law School in December. The “Blue Team” finished with a record of 7-1, making it to the championship round and placing second overall, while the “Orange Team” finished with a record of 5-3 and placed sixth overall.

On the individual level, junior Dillon Smith earned the top overall witness award, and sophomore Joseph Strack earned the top overall attorney award. Smith and Strack were the only competitors to finish with perfect scores for the entire tournament.

JACK COWAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO HBU ART STUDENT

The Recreational Fishing Alliance Foundation awarded an art scholarship, named for famed outdoors and sporting artist Jack Cowan, to sophomore Honors College student Joel Stanulonis in October. His landscapes, which were selected through a blind competition in which entries were not identified by artist name or university, caught the award committee’s attention for his ability to capture the light and texture unique to wilderness areas.

STUDENT RECEIVES SCREENPLAY AWARDS AT FILM FESTIVAL

Jennifer Acres, an HBU senior majoring in music composition, won two Remi Awards for screenplays she submitted to the 42nd Annual WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival. “Bottom of the Bottle,” which she wrote while attending the University’s first screenwriting course in the fall of 2007, won the Silver Remi for student screenwriting. A second of her screenplays, “A Weekend to Remember,” won a Bronze Remi for romance screenwriting.
ATHLETICS ASKS HUSKY FANS TO ASSIST WITH NCAA COMPLIANCE

The HBU Department of Athletics is proud to have the loyal support and continued interest of the University’s outstanding fans. As HBU strives for continued excellence, all of us must always seek the highest standard of ethical conduct. As dedicated fans, you must be committed to compliance with the rules and regulations of the NCAA and the Great West Conference. With your assistance and cooperation, we believe we can accomplish our goals.

NCAA Bylaw 13.01.4 – Recruiting by Representatives of Athletics Interests
Representatives of an institution’s athletics interests are prohibited from making in-person, on or off-campus recruiting contacts, or written or telephonic communications with a prospective student-athlete or their relatives or legal guardians.

WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS?

You are a Representative of Athletics Interests if:

• You are an alumnus of HBU.
• You are, or ever have been, a season ticket holder.
• You have ever contributed to HBU Athletics.
• You have ever helped to arrange employment of enrolled student-athletes.
• You have ever been involved with promoting HBU Athletics in any way.

If you have ever been identified as a Representative of Athletics Interests, you retain that title indefinitely.

WHO IS A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE?

A prospective student-athlete is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade or above (seventh grade for men’s basketball), including students in prep schools and junior colleges, as well as students who have sought release and/or officially withdrawn from a four-year institution and plan to transfer to another institution.

If you have any questions about various NCAA and Great West Conference rules and regulations, please do not hesitate to contact David Moss, assistant athletic director for academics and compliance, at dmoss@hbu.edu or 281-649-3353.
FALL SPORTS WRAP-UP

Women's Volleyball

The HBU volleyball team completed the 2009 season with a record of 13-20. In their first season of Great West Conference play, they completed the year with a 3-9 mark in conference and finished the regular season in sixth place.

The Huskies hosted the first Great West Tournament on Nov. 20-21, and pulled out a first round upset over third-seed New Jersey Institute of Technology. HBU won that match in five sets before falling to Utah Valley in the semifinals in a tight 3-2 match.

Senior Ligia Clemente and freshman Heather Leaverton both earned Second Team All-Great West honors, while Leaverton and sophomore Sarah Hazlewood both earned Great West All-Newcomer laurels. Courtney Whittleman was an All-Tournament selection.

Women's Soccer

HBU women’s soccer reached the championship game in the first-ever season of Great West women’s soccer. The Huskies finished the season 9-9-3 overall and 3-1-2 in conference play.

The Huskies earned the second seed from the West Division to the conference tournament and fell in the title game to Utah Valley by a score of 1-0. Junior Isla Cameron was named the Great West Offensive Player of the Year, and freshman Arielle Rodriguez picked up Newcomer of the Year honors. Cameron, Gemma McDonald and Michelle Rich all earned All-Conference laurels.

Men's and Women's Cross Country

Senior Daniel Martinez and junior Johnathan LeJeune earned All-Great West honors on the men’s side, while Raquel Tidwell was named All-Conference for the women. As a team, both the men and women placed sixth at the Great West Conference Championship held at historic Van Cortlandt Park in New York City.

On Oct. 17, the HBU men picked up the first major meet victory since the cross country program was re-established three years ago, winning the Sam Houston State Invitational over teams that included Texas A&M, Sam Houston State and North Texas.

Men's Soccer

The Huskies concluded the 2009 season with a record of 6-11, 2-2 in the Atlantic Soccer Conference. HBU had just three home games this season and finished with a 2-1 record at Sorrels Field.

Juniors Joelle Daniel and Duke Ogega both earned First Team All-Conference honors, while freshmen Francisco Diaz and Dan Dwyer were Second Team selections. Lorne Cameron, a junior, picked up Academic All-Conference honors and was also named to the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA)/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District team.

Natalie Magat, left, set the all-time assists record for the Huskies in 2009.
NCAA PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY

HBU Athletics began a year-long NCAA certification self-study in the fall of 2009. The study is an important next step in the University’s return to full membership in NCAA Division I, expected in the summer of 2011.

The primary focus of the certification is to ensure integrity in athletics operations at the University. Its purpose is threefold:

- To educate the campus about the athletics program and the many ways it supports the University mission.
- To affirm the praiseworthy aspects of HBU Athletics.
- To identify areas for improvement.

President Sloan appointed Rita Tauer MA ’85, dean of the College of Continuing Studies, as chair of the Steering Committee that is overseeing the self-study and coordinating the report. The Steering Committee works directly with three subcommittees, one for each of the three areas under review: Academic Integrity, Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance, and Gender/Equity and Student Well-Being.

To ensure compliance with the NCAA requirement that the certification committees represent broad-based participation across the campus, various faculty, staff, alumni, representatives of athletics and members of the community have graciously agreed to serve. Chairmen include Dr. Bobby Towery, associate professor in chemistry; Dr. Phil Rhodes, senior director, Office of Institutional Research; Dr. Jackie Horn, professor in biology; Dr. Levon Hayrapetyan, professor in business; and Vivian Camacho ’91, senior director of Advancement and Alumni Relations.

“HBU’s return to NCAA Division I athletics will bring our University closer to realizing the vision laid out in The Ten Pillars,” said Rita Tauer, Steering Committee chair. “I am honored to serve as chair of this effort and eager to see HBU’s re-entry into NCAA Division I as a full member.”

The self-study will be complete and submitted to the NCAA Division I office no later than April 30, 2010. After reviewing the report, the NCAA peer review team – chaired by Dr. A. Frank Bonner, president of Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina, and comprised of peers from other colleges, universities and/or conference offices – will visit the campus in October 2010 for an onsite evaluation. The peer review team reports to the NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification, which will then determine HBU’s certification status and make the public announcement in the spring of 2011.

HBU’s NCAA Certification Web site is updated regularly and contains all current certification information: www.hbu.edu/NCAA.

MONIACI NAMED ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Steve Moniaci was named athletic director at HBU in February 2010. Moniaci, who has served as the interim athletic director since May 2009, has played an integral role in HBU’s transition back to NCAA Division I status and its joining of the Great West Conference.

“The role of athletic director is critical to the University, and Steve’s talents and invaluable leadership provide a great asset to our entire program,” said President Sloan.

Moniaci joined HBU as associate athletic director in 2007, after 26 years of service in the athletic department at Rice University. At Rice, he rose from executive director of the Owl Club and director of athletic promotions to senior associate athletic director, a position he held from 2001 until 2006.

“This is a particularly momentous time in the history of HBU, and I have been and will continue to be excited to be a part of it. With the help of everyone on our campus, we will continue to move ahead with our goal of re-establishing HBU Athletics as a leader within the NCAA at the Division I level,” said Moniaci.
OTHER HBU ALUMNI WANT TO HEAR
WHAT’S GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE. SEND YOUR NEWS
AND PHOTOS TO: ALUMAGRAM@HBU.EDU OR MAIL THEM TO
HBUNNEWS, 7502 FONDREN, HOUSTON, TX 77074-3298

CLASSES OF 1964 - 1969

Gary Fore ’65 is a retired Baptist pastor working as a certified optician and lab manager for Texas State Optical. He and wife Linda have three children – Virginia, Ron and Amy – and five grandchildren.

Milford Kuhn ’67 recently married Elaine Corbin Kuhn. The couple resides in Louisville, Ky.

Raylena Barrada ’68 recently retired after 25 years of teaching in Denver Public Schools.

Vernon Lewis ’69 and wife Kathy McNemar Lewis ’69 have been recognized by Aldine ISD for their dedication to excellence in education through the naming of the new Vernon L. and Kathy E. Lewis Middle School, scheduled to open in August 2010. Vernon served Aldine ISD for 37 years, beginning as a high school teacher and finishing as assistant superintendent of administration upon his retirement in December 2006. Kathy also started with Aldine ISD as a high school teacher but later moved into a position as a middle school regular and special education counselor. She retired from the district after 38 years of service in 2007.

Dr. Rhonda Goodman Lesniak ’75 is a board-certified family nurse practitioner. She also serves as an adjunct professor of nursing at Florida Atlantic University and the Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda, East Africa. She is the founder and president of the Wellness Foundation at Katete/St. Mary’s, a charitable organization that is raising money to build a clinic and support a school nurse for a village school near Mbarara. She and husband James reside in Boca Raton, Fla., and have four children: Melissa, Dan, Matt and Tess.

Vernon Lewis ’69 and wife Kathy McNemar
Lewis ’69

CLASSES OF 1970 - 1979

Michael Ogg Sr. ’71 has been named location president for the Austin Bank in Troup, Texas. He and wife Bobbie Williams Ogg ’74 reside in Tyler.

Marless Hughes Owen ’71 is an accompanist for Livingston ISD. She resides in Goodrich with her husband Tom, pastor of First Baptist Church. They have five children – Timothy, Tamara, Matthew, Mark and Naomi – nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Rickylee Stafford ’76 is an adjunct professor of English at McMurry University. He and wife Paula reside in Abilene, Texas.

Michael Freeman ’78 is a regional leader for Primerica Financial Services in Houston. He and wife Doris Boswell Freeman ’79 have two children, Christopher and Elizabeth.

Ann Barbier Glass ’79 is a medical technologist for Kindred Hospital Medical Center. She and husband Jonathan Glass ’79 traveled to Hawaii in the summer of 2009 for the first time since they were there with the HBU Choir 30 years ago. They have two children, Jessica and Hannah.

Wendell Mansel ’80 is a senior site manager for the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of River Protection. He and wife Karen Taff Mansel ’79 reside in Annapolis, Md., and have a son, Ethan.

Dr. Richard D. Spence Jr. ’80 has been elected to a two-year term as president of the Texas Association of Advisors for the Health Professions. He also serves as an associate professor of biology and director of Health Professions at The University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

Nina Schaefer ’82 is seeking the position of Fort Bend County District Attorney. She has been practicing law in Richmond since 1988. She and husband Bob Mayne have five children.

Thomas Stone ’82 is a youth pastor for First Baptist Church in Cheraw, S.C. He and wife Debbie Irvin Stone ’83 have two children, Ryan and Shelly.

Teresa Fitts Burell ’83 works for a group insurance brokerage company near HBU. She and husband Mike have three children: Scott, Abigail and Taylor.
“Hallelujah” needs no translation

Cmdr. Aaron “Jeff” Jefferson Jr. ’71 has been around the world and experienced many things in his 21 years of service as a Navy chaplain, but it is opportunities to praise God with Christian brothers and sisters in places like Japan, Korea and Thailand that he remembers most fondly.

“I would often need an interpreter while preaching to our Asian brothers and sisters,” Jefferson said, “but I learned that the language of praise transcends the differences in culture and native tongue that might otherwise separate us.”

Whether in Asia or at his current station, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Georgia, Jefferson, a self-proclaimed “patriotic spirit” who served in the Junior ROTC while in high school, sees the chaplaincy as an answered prayer.

“When I was just a teenager, I asked God to use me to minister to all people,” Jefferson said. “As a chaplain, I have sown seed for the Lord in places and amongst people that I never would have imagined when I first prayed that prayer.”

Helping spread the word of God around the world is a ministry that runs in the Jefferson family. While stationed in Japan, Clainetta, Jefferson’s wife of 25 years, worked at the Christian school where the couple’s three children, all of whom speak Japanese, attended. In addition, Jefferson’s brother and fellow HBU alumnus, Keith Jefferson ’75, and his wife Deborah have been serving as missionaries in Brazil for almost 15 years.

Because individuals in their late teens and early 20s account for the majority of the military personnel with whom he works, Jefferson also considers himself privileged to be involved in one of the biggest and best youth ministries there is.

“Young people come to the military seeking their bearing in life,” Jefferson said. “They are asking ‘Where am I going?’ and ‘Where do I belong?’ I can think of no better ministry than investing in the lives of young men and women like that who have the capability to become change agents for Christ.”

Jefferson learned the importance of such investment while a student at HBU, where Christianity professors like Dr. A.O. Collins and Dr. Duncan Tidwell provided him with the solid grounding in God’s word that has proven integral to his work as a chaplain.

His HBU experience also helped prepare him for his current ministry to the diverse community that exists in the Navy, where worshipers of various races and extractions of Protestant beliefs attend his general Protestant service each Sunday. Having attended a segregated high school while growing up in a segregated neighborhood, Jefferson believes that the opportunity to develop open and honest relationships with students of different races and backgrounds at HBU changed his viewpoint of the Christian family.

“I love the old hymn ‘In Christ There is No East or West,’” Jefferson said, “because my time at Houston Baptist, as well as my years spent stationed in Asia, made it clearer than ever to me that while not all brothers and sisters look or act the same, we are all still one in Christ.”

- Justin Lacey

James Myers ’83 is a senior human resources advisor for Shell Pipeline Company. He resides in Houston with wife Janet and two step-children, Elizabeth and Louis.

William Flores MBA ’85 is seeking the Republican nomination for Texas’ 17th Congressional District. He was previously the president and CEO of Phoenix Exploration, an oil and gas company. Flores, a member of the HBU Board of Trustees, and wife Gina reside in Bryan, Texas, and have two adult sons.

Benny Agosto ’86 became a named partner in the Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend law firm.

Kaylynn Burns ’86 is an e-learning instructional technology specialist for Clear Creek ISD.

Ken Konstanzer MS ’86 has been named associate vice president of sales for public programs at American Specialty Health Incorporated, where he helps the company develop opportunities to directly contract with federal and state agencies. A retired commissioned officer and helicopter pilot, Konstanzer served in the United States Army and Army Reserves for 30 years. He and his family reside in Atlanta, Ga.

Richard Royster ’86 is a firefighter for the City of Houston. He and wife Shelly have three children: Katelyn, Allyson and Hillary.

Holly Wostal ’86 graduated summa cum laude from Missouri Southern State University in December 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in business administration.

Marty Brack ’87 is a human resources manager for Amico. He and wife Debbie reside in Hoover, Ala. They have two children, Logan and Reagan.

Lourie Iliong Moore ’87 is a nursing clinical educator for Ambulatory Care Services at Ben Taub General Hospital. She retired from the U.S. Air Force as a lieutenant colonel in July 2009, after more than 21 years of service. She and husband Richard have two children, Marissa and Scott.
Eight-year-old Jessica Rogers had a class of Cabbage Patch Kids® to teach, and these items for her classroom were at the top of her birthday wish list.

Although Jess Rogers ’00, MEd ’02 traded Cabbage Patch Kids for actual students as she grew up, her passion for education still remains her primary focus.

As the founder and president of TutorVille, a Houston-based firm offering private tutoring services, Rogers oversees a team of highly skilled tutors that includes reading specialists, professors, former principals, lawyers and more, some of whom are current and former HBU students. Rogers and her team develop mentoring relationships with the company’s more than 95 clients to help their students cultivate a lifelong love of learning as they seek to better themselves and become tomorrow’s leaders.

“Tutoring has evolved from its traditional role of simply helping students bring up their grades,” Rogers said. “From children with an interest in cooking classes to those with a desire to learn Greek or sign language, in this competitive climate, TutorVille caters to nontraditional learners.”

Her current role as a tutor and mentor reminds Rogers of the positive role models in her own life that she credits for helping shape her into an educator and successful entrepreneur.

“I had a geometry tutor, Ms. Schott, in high school,” Rogers said, “and I continued to see her long after I completed geometry, because I valued the relationship we had developed. She challenged me to ‘change the way I think about learning,’ and that is a lesson that has served me – and my students – well to this day.”

Rogers used Schott’s advice in her job as the managing editor in charge of training and development of The Collegian, HBU’s student-produced newspaper. It was in that role that she met Dr. Alice Rowlands, professor in mass media and the paper’s faculty adviser, who has served as one of her closest mentors for more than 13 years.

“I would not be who I am today without Alice in my life,” Rogers said. “When I stood in the lobby of CBS headquarters in New York scared to death on the first day of a three-month summer internship with ‘48 Hours,’ it was Alice I called for the encouragement that I needed to conquer my fears of facing premier, professional journalists.”

When Rogers felt the call to leave her teaching job to focus on tutoring full time, she found the encouragement and direction she needed from Jeff and Susan Gray, whom she first met when their oldest daughter Lauren was struggling in her sixth-grade math class. Rogers promptly took Lauren, who she considers her protégé, and her “spunky” younger sister Emily under her wings. As a result, she developed a close relationship with the family that opened the door for Jeff to serve as her business mentor and coach.

“Without the Grays, there wouldn’t be a TutorVille,” Rogers said. “They gave me the courage and support I needed to move forward with my new business.”

With that same determination in hand, Rogers turned to the Staartjes family, another client, to take the next step in starting her own business. Ten-year-old Sofia suggested the name TutorVille one night over dinner, and her father Peter helped register the name. From there, friends Jenna Jackson, whom Rogers met while working at “48 Hours,” and John Grube, whom she credits for the speed with which she was able to turn her decision to start her own company into a reality, helped her set up a Web site in time for TutorVille’s May 2009 launch.

While she has surrounded herself with strong mentors with a variety of skills, it is the man who gave Rogers her first chalkboard at age 8 who has been her biggest supporter.

“My father Steve instilled in me the confidence to be and to do whatever I could dream,” Rogers said. “From the time I was a little girl, he has given me the tools – both literally and figuratively – that I need to be successful. Essentially, my father was my first tutor.”

- Justin Lacey

Jo Ann Tucker Morton ’87 is a junior high life management and career education teacher for Needville ISD. She previously taught elementary school for 21 years. She and husband Bubba have two sons, Matthew and Johnathon.

Diane Haynes Barnett ’89 is a teacher at Calvert Elementary in Aldine ISD. She has two children, Devin and Dakota.

John Womack ’89 has accepted the position of CEO of Deloitte Tax Australia. He and wife Jade Joe Womack ’93 will move to Sydney for the three-year assignment. Their children, Brittany and Brent, attend college in Michigan.

Scott Woolley ’89 is a registered representative with Horace Mann Insurance in Austin.

Eldon Franco ’90 has completed his superintendent certification and passed the Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES). He is the principal of Kountze High School. He and wife Carrie Smith Franco ’88 reside in Silsbee, Texas, with their two children, Mason and Mariah.

Michelle Allen ’91 was promoted to captain with the Sugar Land Police Department in November 2009. She commands the patrol division, which includes traffic, crime prevention, the special enforcement district, patrol officers and beat accountability.
Shawn Kelly ’91 is an IT systems coordinator for General Electric. He and wife Shannon have two children, Joeseph and Kierstyn.

Kevin O’Brien ’91 is a network operations manager for ExxonMobil, where he has worked for 30 years. He and wife Jane have two children, Diane and Michael.

Mark Bisbee ’92 was promoted to Navy commander and is now the director for administration of the Naval Hospital Corps School at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois. He and wife Cindy have four children: Stuart, Garrett, Marcia and Bryant.

Tony Buntyn MS ’92 is seeking the Republican nomination for Florida’s 11th Congressional District. He is a colonel in the Air Force Reserve and has served more than 30 years in the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve. He and wife Carol reside in South Tampa, Fla.

Franklin Callaway ’92 graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry in December 2009. He is the senior pastor of Truevine Missionary Baptist Church. He and wife Barbara have two children, Lloyd and Leigh.

Linda Johnson MBA ’94 was recognized by Cambridge Who’s Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in finance. She is global business finance manager for Shell Oil Company.

Dr. Khoa Nguyen ’95 is a doctor with Houston Family Physicians PA. He, wife Victoria Pho Nguyen ’02 and daughter Elizabeth reside in Pearland.

Dr. Rakesh Patel ’95 is a board-certified diagnostic radiologist for Medical Diagnostic Imaging Group. He and wife Shital reside in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Gabriel Villarreal ’95 is an analytical chemist for Dow Chemical Company. He and wife Cheryl reside in Crosby with their seven children: Tommy, David, Nathaniel, Jessica, Phillip, Daniel and Justin.

Shadi Sidarous ’96 works for Floors ‘N More in Sugar Land. He and wife Rasha have two children, Samuel and Lucy.

James Rorie Jr. MAP ’97 owns the Renewing Hope Counseling Ministry in Houston. He and wife Teresa have three children: Mark, Mac ’08 and Micah.

Rebecca Dudley Bell ’98 is a teacher and coach for Sheldon ISD. She, husband Anthony and two children, Jacob and Jamie, reside in Crosby.

Dr. Scott Belshaw MLA ’98 accepted a professorship in the Criminal Justice Department at the University of North Texas after completing his Ph.D. in juvenile criminal justice at Prairie View A&M University. He and wife Amanda have two children, Clayton and Dillon.

Jonathan Wiles ’98 is the senior director of communications and marketing for Living Water International. He and wife Maridyth Marion Wiles ’00 have a son, Elliott.

Himesh Gandhi ’99 began a one-year term as legal counsel for the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce in January 2010. He is also an associate attorney at Hrbacek & Associates, P.C., where he focuses on entity formation, acquisitions, collections, litigation, construction, real estate, finance and general business.

Tracy Sweeney Gray MBA ’99 has authored a book, Smile for Your Child: A Parent’s Guide to Finding Positive Energy During Diagnosis, Treatment, & Life After. The book is about understanding, supporting, nurturing and parenting a child who has just been diagnosed with a major illness. Gray’s five-year-old son is a cancer survivor, having first been diagnosed when he was 13 months old. More information on the book is available at the Smile for Your Child blog: smileforyourchild.blogspot.com.

Susan Saurage-Altenloh ’99 has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Qualitative Research Consultants Association (QRCA) for 2009-2011. She is the former co-chair of QRCA’s Creativity and Innovation Shared Interest Group, and she has also served as technology chair and webmaster for the group. Saurage-Altenloh is the president of Saurage Research Inc.

Tamika Harvey ’00 completed a master’s degree in social work in December 2009.

Shannon Lakey Laidlaw ’00 married Chris Laidlaw on July 25, 2009, in Trinity, Texas. She is an athletic department assistant at Houston Christian High School.

Schmecia Davis Linares MEd ’00 is an assistant principal for the Life Skills Center of Opa Locka. She and husband Carlos reside in Pembroke Pines, Fla., with their daughter, Gabriella.

Karen Baird Thomas MS ’00 is a certified nurse practitioner for RediClinic. She and husband O.B. reside in Clear Lake Shores, Texas.

Donna Ferraguto Villasana ’00 is a research coordinator for the Human Genome Sequencing Center at Baylor College of Medicine. She has two children, Isabel and Rose.

Olivia Tucker Alexandre ’01 is a distributor with Xango Products. She and husband Jacques have four daughters – Saleemah, Joyce, Olivia and Angela – and one grandson.

Tessie Bradford MS ’01 completed a Doctor of Education in sports management at the United States Sports Academy in Daphne, Ala., in August 2009. She is coordinator for a branch location of the University of West Florida Emerald Coast, where she oversees all campus operations, activities and services.

Anita Hall Jacobs MEd ’01 was named principal of Fielder Elementary in Katy ISD for the 2009-2010 school year.

Dr. Jon Lineberger ’01 was named to the Dallas Business Journal’s 2009 list of “40 Under Forty.” He is the director of Dallas Baptist University Frisco.

Shane Lakey ’01 is an associate pastor for Clay Road Baptist Church. He and wife Rebecca Voholetz Lakey ’06 reside in Houston.

Tran Nguyen ’01, MS ’03 completed a Doctor of Medicine in December 2009. She works as an intern in Adelaide, South Australia.

David Tate ’01 is the associate director for SONight, a ministry organization that produces and distributes evangelism and discipleship radio messages worldwide. He can be heard in Houston on 105.7 FM KHCB at 6:15 p.m. and 9:55 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He and wife Lydia Beard Tate ’02 have three children: Joshua, William and Josiah.
In less than a second, an exploding car battery threatened to derail the best-laid plans of Dr. Glenn Orsak ’88.

Having changed from his original computer science and physics majors to the pre-med program after wondering how he would turn his computer hobby into a full-time job, the HBU senior was medical school-bound. While Orsak was helping a stranded motorist move his stalled vehicle on Beechnut near the HBU campus, however, the car’s battery exploded in his face, blinding Orsak for more than a week.

After his sight returned and the other physical effects of the incident were behind him, Orsak found himself facing more than $1,500 in medical bills, just as he was preparing to make a significant financial investment in his professional future by attending the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

One day while Orsak was eating in the cafeteria, Ken Rogers, former director of scholarships, whom Orsak had gotten to know personally as a recipient of an academic scholarship, approached him to let him know he had found an additional grant that needed to be signed. When Orsak visited Rogers’ office to sign it, he discovered the grant was enough to help him complete his studies at HBU, despite his medical bills.

“I could not believe it,” Orsak said. “No one other than my parents had ever looked after me that way.”

It was a lesson in caring that continues to serve Orsak well today as he looks after patients at his Pearland Family Medicine practice. With a staff of eight, including a family nurse practitioner, he has witnessed phenomenal growth, both in the city of Pearland and in his own practice, since opening his doors in the suburb south of Houston 10 years ago.

“I was skeptical when friends first told me that as a doctor, I could ‘hang out my shingle’ and people will come,” Orsak said, “but come they have.”

Orsak, who started his practice in a spare room under another local doctor’s roof after having agreed to help set up the doctor’s computers in exchange for the space, moved out on his own in 2002 after his business started to eclipse that of his host.

At each step along the way – from medical school to his own successful practice – Orsak has had the faithful support of his wife of 15 years, Suzanne Nacim Orsak ’90, whom he met while taking a freshman speech class his junior year.

“There is no doubt about it,” Orsak said, “I was in the right place at the right time, and I could not enjoy what I do more.”

- Justin Lacey

**Brotherly kindness: alumni siblings serve medical needs of Houston suburbs**

Annetta Box ’02 is a team leader for Segue, a program in Royce City, Texas, that helps international refugees transition into new lives in the United States.

Dara Morris Haddad MEd ’02 is a teacher at Holy Spirit Episcopal School in Houston. She and husband Hussein have one child, Aly.

Ryan Kelly ’02 has been appointed the interim artistic director of the Holland Chorale, in Holland, Mich., for the 2009-2010 season. Kelly conducted his first program with the Holland Chorale, “America Sings! A Colorful Landscape of American Music,” in October 2009.

Joy Blanco Lupton ’02 is a kindergarten teacher for Alief ISD. She and husband Ryan have two children, Corey and Nicolas.

LaToya Martin ’02 is a case manager for Houston Achievement Place. She resides in Cypress with her daughter, TaMera.

Margie Moore Ricks MLA ’02 is a professor of developmental English and English composition for the Houston Community College System.

Jennifer Barnhardt ’03 is a special education teacher for Fort Bend ISD.

Sarah-Elise Dunklin ’03 works for the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston.

Wendy Weidner Hankins ’03 is a teacher for Cy-Fair ISD. She and husband David have three children: Channing, Alexia and David.

Andrew Sharp MBA ’03 is the director of client services and research for Paul Comstock Partners. He and wife Amy reside in Sugar Land with their two children, Cade and Jaylie.

Denise Garrison ’04 is a transition vocational rehabilitation counselor for the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services.

J.D. Humber II ’04 is a youth minister for Sweet Home Baptist Church in Hankamer, Texas, where he resides with his wife, Allison.

Stephanie Johnson Smith ’04 is a company commander for the U.S. Army in San Antonio.
Julie Pruitt Hernandez ’05 is a teacher for Alvin ISD. She and husband Miguel have a daughter, Ana Elise.

Cristina Marchesano ’05 was selected to complete her residency in pediatrics at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

Jose Velarde MBA ’05 is a senior capital expenditures negotiator with CEMEX. He and wife Guadalupe reside in Spring.

Laci Crowson ’06 is a fourth grade teacher at Outley Elementary School in Alief ISD. She and husband Christopher reside in Houston.

Jeremy James ’06 is coordinator of education and outreach productions for Theatre Under the Stars. He and wife Holly reside in Pasadena.

Sandra Walker-Mack ’06 works in project management engineering and project services for ExxonMobil Development. She and husband Billy Ray reside in Houston.

Christopher Chesney MBA ’07 is a credit analyst for Sterling Bank.

Chelsea Harris Trichel ’07 married Kyle Trichel on Oct. 4, 2008. She is a registered nurse in the emergency room at Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Texas Medical Center.

Amy Crook ’08 was selected as the rookie teacher of the year at Cornerstone Elementary in Fort Bend ISD.

Branden Mickan ’08 works in inside sales for T3 Energy Services in Houston.

Crystal Salas ’08 is a community organizer, working closely with the Hispanic community to foster development of neighborhood revitalization plans, with AmeriCorps VISTA in Newburgh, N.Y.

Nadiya Ibatulina MBA ’09 is an associate for Bank of America.

Brenda Mendez ’09 is a technical writer for Houston ISD.

“I could do it differently.”
Most have said, or at least thought, it before.

For Dr. Shannon Orsak ’90, the moment came after his brother Brian Orsak ’90 witnessed firsthand the frustration associated with long emergency room waits. The experience led Shannon to share with his brother a vision for an ER facility where no one would have to wait.

After three years of planning and Brian’s development of a business plan, the Orsak brothers opened their first such facility, St. Michael’s 24 HR Emergency Room, in Sugar Land in February 2007. They opened a second St. Michael’s facility on Westheimer in Houston in November 2008, and a third facility was added in The Woodlands in 2010.

There is more to the St. Michael’s story than just the elimination of the long waits associated with hospital ERs, though. Patients discover a comfortable environment featuring theme rooms – such as a Noah’s Ark room for kids or a sports room, complete with a prominently displayed HBU banner – designed to ease fears by providing distraction and comfort.

“We operate St. Michael’s by the ‘golden rule,’” Shannon said. “We hire the best people and offer the best quality service in a soothing environment, because that is how we would want to be treated if we were patients.”

Because St. Michael’s is not affiliated with a particular hospital, the staff can refer each patient to the hospital and specific doctor that are the best fit for his or her individual case.

“Unlike in your typical hospital ER, our patients are not stuck seeing whichever doctor is on-call at the time,” Brian said. “We only admit patients to hospitals and doctors that we know share our philosophy of care.”

Running the St. Michael’s facilities allows the Orsak brothers to put their unique strengths and respective HBU degrees – Shannon’s in biology and chemistry, and Brian’s in finance and management – to good use for a common purpose.

“Shannon knows medicine, and I know business,” Brian said. “I believe we work so well together because we stick to what we know.”

It is an approach that is proving to be profitable for the brothers. Shannon has seen patients who told him they saw a St. Michael’s ad during a long wait in a hospital ER and decided to get out of line there to give the Orsaks’ facility a try instead.

“Although hospital accounting practices often make ERs look to be unprofitable, ERs don’t have to lose money,” Shannon said. “With St. Michael’s, Brian and I are successfully doing things differently. We are removing the flaws in the system while delivering a level of service that exceeds patient expectations.”

- Justin Lacey
Julie Myers Perez '98 and Shane Perez '98 are proud to announce the birth of their son, Adin Kenneth, on Dec. 15, 2008. He was welcomed by big brother Nathaniel.

Laura Garza '98 and husband Efrain are proud to announce the arrival of their fourth child, Olivia Teresa, on April 6, 2009. She was welcomed home by her siblings, Matthew, David and Sofia.

Stefanie Graham Mulvaney '99 and husband Bernie are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Kaitlyn Grace, on June 22, 2009. They have another daughter, Madison. Stefanie is an eighth grade reading teacher at Hambrick Middle School in Aldine ISD.

Scott Kleist '05 and wife Cindy are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Alexis Ann, on July 13, 2009.

Amy Brown Burant '96 and husband Kevin are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Sophie Grace, on July 14, 2009. The family resides in Denver, Colo.

Jessica Porter Heinlein '04 and husband Danny Heinlein '04 are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Katelyn, on July 17, 2009.

Bryan and Amy Sloan, and grandparents President Robert and Sue Sloan, are thrilled to announce the birth of Juliet Susannah Sloan on Oct. 9, 2009. Juliet was welcomed by big brother Robby.

Jeffrey Jacobs '95 and wife Cathy are proud to announce the birth of their son, Charles William, on Nov. 9, 2009. Charles was welcomed by sisters Elizabeth and Emily.

Xavier “Tico” Montoya '07 and wife Nicole would like to announce the birth of Jasiel Nathaniel Montoya on Nov. 13, 2009. Jasiel was welcomed by big brothers Elijah and Benjamin and sister Lydia. Tico is the associate minister of recreation for First Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas.

Jeremy Bradshaw '00 and wife Blair are proud to announce the birth of their son, Asher Alexander, on Nov. 24, 2009.

Alexis Knapp MS-HRM '00 and husband Mark are proud to announce the birth of their son, Landon Alexander, on Jan. 12, 2010.

Mac and Sophie Macfarlan, and grandparents President Robert and Sue Sloan, are thrilled to announce the birth of Sloan Abbie Macfarlan on Feb. 8, 2010.

There is one common element that defies the boundaries of industry, country and orthodoxy. We find it in the hearts and minds of poets, artists, theorists and revolutionaries – but only those who seek will find it. For it cannot be told, only discovered.

Be part of the discovery. Go to HBU.edu/give
In Memoriam

Former Students

Diane Lamerne Laverty Dicks ’68 passed away on July 13, 2009. She worked for more than 37 years as a genetics researcher in the lab of Dr. Arthur Beaudet at Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Mark Fowler ’69 passed away on Jan. 6, 2009. He served on the staffs of First Baptist San Antonio and Boerne. He is survived by his college sweetheart and wife of 41 years, Bonnie Bates Fowler ’67.

Tim Whitten ’70 passed away on Sept. 28, 2008. His career in education spanned 32 years with Alief ISD, where he was an Outstanding Vocational Educator for District 8 in 1987.

Faculty/Staff

Dr. Robert Charles Bush passed away on July 22, 2009. He taught finance at HBU for 15 years. He was also a founding member of The Texas River Rogues, a group of canoeing enthusiasts with whom he would canoe the rivers of Texas, Arkansas and Colorado once or twice a year. Bush is survived by his wife Jane, who retired from HBU in December 2009, and two sons, Jack and Andrew.

Veronica “Ronnie” Lott passed away on Dec. 26, 2009. She served HBU for 31 years in food services and as supervisor of the post office. Many will remember Ronnie and her mother Bertha for the famous HBU “Bertha burger.”

Marjorie Georgena “George” Prator passed away on Dec. 3, 2009. She worked as a member of the library faculty at HBU for more than 20 years.

University Friends


O.E. “Ike” Eichelberger passed away on Sept. 25, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Bernice Carroll Eichelberger, a member of The Guild since 1995.

Vernon G. Garrett Jr. passed away on Oct. 30, 2009. A former interim CEO and vice chairman of the board of the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, he helped with the development of the system’s southwest Houston location on land owned by HBU in 1976. Garrett was a resident of University Place, which is adjacent to the HBU campus.

Samuel Lars Larson, the precious son of Eraina and Bryan Larson and the grandson of President Robert and Sue Sloan, was born on June 30, 2009, and passed away on July 9, 2009. He was surrounded in love and touched the hearts of all who knew him, especially his big sister Lucy.

I Samuel 1:27-28: “I asked the Lord for this child, and He has given me my request. Now I am giving him to the Lord and he will belong to the Lord his whole life.”

Tom Peacock Jr. passed away on Oct. 24, 2009. Best known as the owner and president of Tom Peacock Chevrolet, Tom Peacock Cadillac and Tom Peacock Nissan, he was also a benefactor to HBU and an original member of the President’s Development Council. He is survived by his wife Medrith, who was a member of The Guild from 1995 to 2005.

Joe Hunter Reynolds passed away on Dec. 19, 2009. He is survived by his wife Susie, who is a lifetime member of The Guild and a past member of the American Museum Society. The Reynolds were also members of the Museum of Southern History.

Nell Anderson Smith passed away on Nov. 23, 2009. In addition to memberships in the Covenant Society, the President’s Development Council and the American Museum Society, she was a charter member of the Auxiliary, a founding member of the President’s Advisors, and a member and past president of The Guild. In 1979, Smith’s sons established the Mevis Reilly & Nell Anderson Smith Endowed Academic Scholarship to honor their parents. In addition, a street on campus – Nell Smith Boulevard – and a classroom in the Hinton Center are named in the Smiths’ honor. She was also an active leader in the E.P. West Bible Study Class at Houston’s Second Baptist Church, which has endowed four scholarships at HBU. In recognition of her contributions and dedication to the University, she was the recipient of multiple accolades from HBU, including the Milton Cross Outstanding Volunteer Award in 1999 and the Spirit of Excellence Award in 2005.


Eleanor Wright passed away on July 11, 2009. She was a member of the University’s Covenant Society.