

UPDATES FROM THE HILL **TIGER PRIDE** EAST TEXAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



ETBU Lets the “Good Times Roar” during Homecoming 2017

East Texas Baptist University invited generations of alumni from the College of Marshall (COM), East Texas Baptist College (ETBC), and East Texas Baptist University (ETBU) back to the Hill to celebrate past and present traditions during Homecoming weekend on October 13 through October 15.

"We celebrate how God works through the alumni on this Hill and praise Him for equipping ETBU students from generation to generation," ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn said. "The East Texas Baptist alumni legacy goes beyond their time spent on campus, as they

live as God's Christian servant leaders in their communities and workplaces. We, as Tigers, are bearers of the light of Christ and hold to our motto: May the light on the Hill never die."

At the Homecoming Chapel, the University presented eight individuals with ETBU's traditional Golden Blazers for the sacrifices they have made to help their alma mater. These ambassadors have provided \$10,000 of financial support to the University and countless volunteer hours. The 2017 Golden Blazers are Dr. Rita Storie Turner ('48), Frances Eiland Henderson ('46), Barry Hale ('93), Dr. Tequecie Meek ('73), Merrill Nelson ('84), Jacob Richardson ('07), Kelli Richardson ('09), and Rev. Cecil Winn ('61).

The Homecoming Chapel service also announced the winners of the 2017 Alumni Awards. Robert Duvall ('63) received the J. Wesley Smith Achievement Award and accepted the W.T. Tardy Service Award on behalf of the Hope Pierce Tartt Scholarship Fund. In addition, Peter Muriungi ('98) received the Alumni Achievement Award, Chuck Kennedy ('68) the Unsung Hero Award, Starrla Penick ('03) the Young Alumnus Award, and Jerry Hamilton ('83) the Blue and Gold Award.

Three alumni were recognized with Golden Lightkeeper Awards. Susan Bennett Livingston ('64), Rutledge McClaran ('61), and Carolyn Wilkinson ('67) graduated 50 years ago or more and demonstrate continuing achievement in their vocation, church, and community. Their lives support and exemplify the mission of East Texas Baptist. Each year, alumni who have graduated 50 years ago are recognized as Golden Lightkeepers with the presentation of a medallion.

The activities continued Saturday with Class Reunions and the Tiger Family Carnival prior to the Homecoming football game versus Texas Lutheran. The 2017 Homecoming Court was announced during the halftime festivities at Ornelas Stadium. The court included Freshman Duke and Duchess, Johnny Turner and Haley Harmening; Sophomore Duke and Duchess, Bryce Hoffman and Helen Sperling; Junior Duke and Duchess, Richard Johnson and Madison Riley; and Senior Duke and Duchess, Brandon LeBlanc and Hannah McGowin. ETBU seniors Gabe Alonzo and Halee Vasquez were named 2017 ETBU Homecoming King and Queen.

"ETBU has impacted me in more ways than I can count," Vasquez expressed. "I have been challenged to love the Lord and His people better each day. I now know what a community of believers who work to further the Kingdom of God looks like. It means the world to me that I get to represent the school that I love most. I feel extremely blessed to have been given this opportunity."



ETBU Founders Society

East Texas Baptist University welcomed Dr. Billy and Winky Foote of Gilmer, and Jerry Hamilton ('83) of Huffman, into the ETBU Founders Society on Saturday, October 14, and Hal and Joyce Cornish of Marshall on Saturday, October 21. Membership in the ETBU Founders Society is reserved for those who have contributed at least \$100,000 to the University throughout their lifetime.

"East Texas Baptist University has benefited from the generosity of individuals, families, churches, and foundations who believe in the mission of the institution," Vice President for Advancement Scott Bryant said. "God continues to call individuals to partner with Him in what He is doing at East Texas Baptist University. We are grateful for individuals and couples that follow God's call and invest in Christ-centered education."

In recognition of their membership in the P. G. Whaley Bronze Circle of the ETBU Founders Society, ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn presented bronze medallions to the Footes and Mr. Hamilton on October 14, and Dr. Bryant presented a bronze medallion to Mr. and Mrs. Cornish on October 21. The presentations at the Tiger Football games gave the entire ETBU community the opportunity to express their gratitude to these faithful supporters.

"The Tiger Family is grateful to all of the individuals who have contributed to the University out of love for the Lord and for East Texas Baptist," Dr. Blackburn said. "Over the years, these supporters have sacrificially given of their resources and time to help build our beautiful campus. They have faithfully supported ETBU students and the University's Kingdom mission. We celebrate Billy, Winky, Jerry, Hal, and Joyce for their unwavering commitment to advance God's vision for ETBU."



ETBU provides relief for Hurricane Harvey victims

East Texas Baptist University sent more than 40 students, faculty, and staff to Southeast Texas to partner with First Baptist Church - Nederland, Texas Baptist Men, and Baptist Men of North Carolina in the disaster relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Harvey. The team left on Wednesday, October 4, and returned Sunday, October 8, spending their days working to repair homes in the area.

"Our teams were able to stand in the gap and make a difference in the midst of turmoil," ETBU Director of the Great Commission Center Lisa Seeley shared. "The students consistently handled difficult situations with grace and kindness as they ministered to the people impacted by Hurricane Harvey in the Nederland and Port Arthur area."

The group separated into three teams to serve 11 specific families in the region. They spent their time removing sheetrock, flooring, interior wood, and personal possessions from homes of families affected by the recent flooding. Through this trip, the team saw the effects of the hurricane, heard the stories of neighboring Texans, and offered spiritual and physical support.

"I was humbled by the experience," ETBU Tiger Baseball player Dylan Sumpter confessed. "I was grateful to have the opportunity to talk, mourn, and pray with the families. We were all working for a purpose, with a common goal to reflect Christ. I enjoyed working alongside my teammates and getting to know them on a deeper level."

In addition, the Tiger Bass Fishing and Men's Basketball teams spent two weekends during the month of September mudding out homes in Lumberton, and Port Arthur. "Our students are called to serve. That is part of our mission at ETBU," Dr. Blackburn said. "We want

students to understand that it is their responsibility and calling from God to be servant leaders. These mission trips are an opportunity for them to put into practice what they have been taught here at ETBU by sharing the love of God and the hope of the Gospel with those who are suffering from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey."

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For more information please call:

Dr. Scott Bryant
Vice President for Advancement
903.923.2069 | sbryant@etbu.edu

Allison Peteet ('99)
Assistant Vice President for Advancement | Director of Alumni Relations
903.923.2072 | apeteet@etbu.edu



ETBU Alums on Facebook



Twitter



ETBU Website

Our mailing address is:

One Tiger Drive
Marshall, TX 75670
www.etbu.edu

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