

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



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## **ETBU Women's Basketball wins first ever ASC Championship**

In a fight to finish as the American Southwest Conference tournament champions, the East Texas Baptist University Women's Basketball Team stunned the number one seed University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Crusaders with a game-winning shot by Kim Childress for a 71-70 win. This marks the first ever conference championship in program history as well as the first time Tiger Women's Basketball has advanced to the NCAA Tournament. With the win, ETBU also tied a program record for the most wins in the Division III era with 22 wins so far this season.

Going right back to the place where they won the American Southwest Conference tournament championship, the ETBU Women's Basketball Team will play at the University

of Texas at Dallas (UTD) in Richardson. UTD is the host for the four-team NCAA Regional that includes ETBU, Whitman College, UTD, and Trinity University. ETBU will face Whitman College (22-4) Friday, March 2, at 6:00 p.m. If ETBU wins Friday, the Tigers will play the winner of Trinity and UTD Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

"This is a great experience and a great day that I hope these girls will remember forever as they have earned the right to experience this," Head Coach Rusty Rainbolt said. "Being in this NCAA Regional is amazing and a complete blessing. It is a special time as there are only 64 teams playing from across the country out of over 350 colleges in our division."

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## Four New Members Grace the ETBU Athletics Hall of Fame

East Texas Baptist University inducted four former Tiger players, including a retired ETBU Basketball coach to the Tiger Athletics Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held on Saturday, February 10, to honor Angela Gonzales, Ayrika Henderson, Trey Luster, and Coach Bert West.

### **Angela Gonzales**

Gonzales led the Tigers to four straight Softball American Southwest Conference Championships in 2001-2004. A three-time NFCA All-American, she was named the 2004 NCAA Division III Catcher of the Year as a senior. All-time, Gonzales is seventh in games played (178), sixth in batting average (.380), sixth in at-bats (518), tenth in runs scored (119), fourth in hits (197), third in doubles (43), eighth in triples (6), seventh in home runs (16), third in RBI (162) and ninth in walks (54). Gonzales graduated ETBU in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Education.

### **Ayrika Henderson**

After two seasons of playing softball at Northeast Texas Community College, Henderson arrived to ETBU in the 2008-2009 year and thrived as a pitcher and an outfielder. She led

ETBU to two NCAA Tournaments, a West Region Championship, and ETBU's first ever NCAA National Championship in 2010. As a junior, Henderson led ETBU to a 39-9 record and was voted First Team NFCA All-American, ASC Pitcher of the Year, and ASC Athlete of the Year in 2009. The following year, she led ETBU to the national title. Henderson is currently sixth in innings pitched (282.2), fifth in wins (40), third in strikeouts (306), and third in ERA (1.09). Henderson graduated ETBU in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science.

### **Trey Luster**

Joining ETBU in the 2000-2001 year, Luster was a two-year letterman and starter in football from 2000-2001 and a four-year letterman and starter in baseball from 2002-2005. Luster finished his career ranked in the Top 10 in nine different baseball career offensive categories, including first in runs scored (177) and stolen bases (77), third in hits (200), fourth in doubles (37), fifth in total at-bats (535), sixth in walks (71), seventh in batting average (.374), seventh in RBI (116), and eighth in home runs (24). In 2004, Luster was selected as the American Southwest Conference Player of the Year, as well as being named First Team All-ASC, First Team NCAA All-West Region, and NCAA All-American as an outfielder in 2005. He earned a Bachelor of Science in 2005 from ETBU.

### **Bert West**

Coming to the former ETBC to play basketball under Tiger Athletic Hall of Fame Head Coach R.C Kennedy in 1969, West graduated from ETBC in 1972 with a bachelor's degree. He would then make high school coaching stops throughout Texas and Arkansas before leading Zwolle High School in Louisiana to four straight state basketball championships. West was named ETBU Head Men's Basketball Coach in 1991. In the 1994-1995 season, ETBU would lead the NAIA in scoring with 102.8 points per game while one year later, the Tigers posted a then program-best 28-5 record. West served as ETBU's Head Basketball Coach until 1997, when he accepted a position at Southern Arkansas University. Three years later, West returned to ETBU as head coach where he would remain until his retirement in 2016. In 22 years as ETBU's head coach, West guided the Tigers to a NAIA National Tournament appearance, 10 ASC Tournament trips, a Big State Conference Championship, and a run to the NCAA Elite 8 during the 2014-15 season, which included the University's first ASC regular season and ASC tournament championships. Overall, West registered over 800 total wins, including 315 collegiate wins, of which 303 wins were accomplished at ETBU.

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## **ETBU Neighborhood Renewal Initiative receives donations from Texas Baptist Missions Foundation and Richard and Christina Anderson**

East Texas Baptist University was provided with a grant of \$20,000 from the Texas Baptist Missions Foundation, the largest one-time donation given by the organization to ETBU for its Neighborhood Renewal Initiative, on Wednesday, January 31. Vice President for Texas Baptist Missions Foundation and Vice President for the Baptist World Alliance Jerry Carlisle and President for Texas Baptist Missions Foundation Bill Arnold presented the contribution during the University's chapel service. Teaching on Hebrews 12:1-3, Dr. Carlisle encouraged students to become who they were created to be.

At the beginning of his remarks, Dr. Carlisle shared about the partnership between Texas Baptist Missions Foundation and the ETBU Neighborhood Renewal Initiative. The foundation also donated \$10,000 in support of the program last year, enabling the ETBU Construction Department to secure supplies to restore dilapidated homes of low income families in Marshall.

"With a vision to promote economic growth in Marshall and to develop students into servant leaders, East Texas Baptist partners with the City of Marshall, the Christian Life Commission, and the Texas Baptist Missions Foundation," ETBU Director of Construction Management Program Cameron Burger commented. "It is our role as a Christian institution to be involved in transforming the community. We strive to show the city that we are called to love and help those in need."

Judge Richard and Christina Anderson also donated \$9,500 to the Neighborhood Renewal Initiative to acquire a cargo trailer for securing and hauling construction tools and equipment. ETBU has benefited from the generosity of the Andersons, along with Jerry and Judy Cargill with the donation of the historic Marshall Grand to the University. The Anderson and Cargill donation of this facility has opened the door for the move of the School of Nursing to ETBU's new downtown campus in the Marshall Grand.



"We celebrate the opportunity to partner with the Texas Baptist Missions Foundation and the Andersons as we seek to renew neighborhoods in Marshall through home restoration and future construction of quality housing for families in need of assistance," ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn expressed. "ETBU will continue its Neighborhood Renewal Initiative work this spring in partnership with the City of Marshall Community Block Development Grant program, Habitat for Humanity Brush with Kindness, Critical Home Repair, and Veterans' Home assistance programs."

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## **ETBU receives generous endowment gifts for scholarships**

East Texas Baptist University was provided with \$200,000 from the James A. "Buddy" Davidson Foundation to initiate the James A. "Buddy" Davidson Endowed Ministry Scholarship.

"Dr. Scott Bryant and I celebrate with our campus community this extraordinary gift to assist students called to vocational ministry," ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn shared. "God continues to bring us the blessing of support for scholarships, programs, and facilities for the advancement of our Christ-centered mission to faithfully serve the Lord."

Another significant endowment gift enabled the University to create the Johnny Eugene Mosley Endowed Scholarship. With a desire to help students of strong Christian character and leadership who are in financial need, Mr. Mosley contributed \$100,000 to launch the endowment. Mr. Mosley graduated from ETBC in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

"We are grateful for donors and foundations, who provide scholarship support to students through endowed scholarship funds. The principal of the gifts will be invested and the income produced will be distributed as scholarships for ETBU students for generations to come," ETBU Vice President for Advancement Scott Bryant said. "As ETBU continues to enroll more students, additional scholarship support is needed to help meet the financial needs that exist."

For more than 100 years, East Texas Baptist has been educating generations of Christian servant leaders. Over 1,500 Tigers are studying at ETBU, volunteering in the community, and entering their careers on a mission to emulate Christ.

"I have received three ministry scholarships from the University. It is encouraging that multiple donors are willing to invest in my education," ETBU senior Religion major and BSM Intern Austin Damron expressed. "My experience in the School of Christian Studies has been life-changing. I discerned a calling to youth ministry when I was a senior in high school, and it has been confirmed during my time here. I believe that ETBU has effectively prepared me to serve and lead others in my future vocation."

To learn more about investing in the lives of ETBU students, visit [www.etbu.edu/give](http://www.etbu.edu/give).



## Help us find our missing ETBU or ETBC Tigers!

We are looking for our lost alumni and need your help. Please look at the link below to see who we are trying to locate. We want to keep all of our alumni informed about the exciting things happening on the Hill! If you see a friend or former Tiger classmate on the list, encourage them to submit their current contact information. Please help spread the word on social media as well.

[ETBU Lost Alumni](#)

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## Support Christ-Centered Higher Education at ETBU

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Stay in touch and share your news with your ETBU Family. Send your career accomplishments and family updates to [alumni@etbu.edu](mailto:alumni@etbu.edu) or click [here](#) to update your information.

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**For more information please call:**

Dr. Scott Bryant

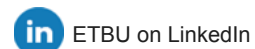
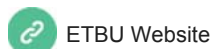
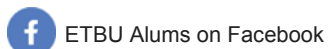
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