

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



Tigers Forever | Homecoming Chapel 2018

The Tigers Forever Homecoming Chapel service was particularly meaningful as a new class of Golden Blazers were recognized and awards were presented to outstanding Alumni and supporters of the institution.

“For more than 100 years, the ETBU community has celebrated the tradition of Homecoming to remember and rejoice in how God has moved and continues to work through East Texas Baptist,” ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn said. “The Golden Blazers, Alumni Award recipients, and Golden Lightkeepers exemplify the mission of ETBU by investing their lives and resources to enriching the experience at the University.”

Since the Golden Blazer program's inception in 2010, 85 individuals have been recognized for their commitment to and support of the University. These Golden Blazer ambassadors have provided a minimum of \$10,000 of financial support and countless volunteer hours to their alma mater. The 2018 Golden Blazers are Don Anthis ('67), Dr. Hollie Atkinson ('59), Vince and Susan (Brooks) Blankenship ('85, '85), Dr. Brian and Paula (Matkin) Nichols ('73, '72), Martha "Marty" (Hedgecock) Rich ('63), and Dr. Will and Ruthie (Meeks) Walker ('03, '02).

The Homecoming chapel service also announced the winners of the 2018 Alumni Awards. Ruth Rhodes ('73) received the Unsung Hero Award; Dr. Jim Webb, the Blue and Gold Award; Todd Kaunitz ('03), the Young Alumnus Award; Scott Surratt ('90), the Alumni Achievement Award; Dr. Annemarie Whaley ('86), the J. Wesley Smith Achievement Award; and Dr. Charles and Mrs. Joann Whiteside, the W.T. Tardy Service Award.

"ETBU has shaped me in three major ways: educationally, relationally, and spiritually," Kaunitz shared. "During my time at the University, I fell in love with the study and preaching of God's Word through professors such as Bob Utley and Donald Potts. The quality of teaching is second to none. I cannot imagine my life without the friendships established here. I surrendered my life to ministry in this chapel, and it changed me forever. This institution has impacted me in more ways than I can describe, and I would not be where I am today without its influence. I could not be more proud to be an alumnus."

Alumnus Dr. William Everett ('57) received the Golden Lightkeeper Award. The award is bestowed upon alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more and demonstrate continuing achievement in their vocation, church, and community. Dr. Everett was presented with a crystal commemorative award to honor his support and exemplification of the mission of ETBU.

"Whenever ETBU crosses my mind, I am blessing and praising God," Dr. Everett said. "I thank Him for our ETBU leadership and the progress that is being accomplished here. It is a blessing to see and be a part of the heritage of one of the best Christian universities in this world. Thank God for it, all praises be to it, and I thank the Lord for the privilege of receiving such an honor. From the depth of my heart, I thank you. May the Lord continue to keep his richest benediction, leadership, guidance, and constant care upon East Texas Baptist, that it may be a light that shines brightly and continues to bring many to Jesus and train many for Christian service."



Tigers Forever | Golden Lightkeeper Luncheon

Homecoming 2018 marked the 50 year reunion of the Class of 1968. The members present were honored at the Golden Lightkeeper Luncheon following chapel and were presented Golden Lightkeeper medallions by President J. Blair Blackburn and Miss ETBU Kayla Barrentine. The Golden Lightkeepers uphold the University's longstanding tradition of witnessing as a light for Christ. The medallions recognize their continued legacy as representatives of Christ and the institution. The 50 year honor class received their medallions to symbolize their continued legacy as representatives of both Christ and the institution. The program for the lunch also included remarks from Dr. Blackburn, a student testimony from senior Religion major Ryan Higgs of Henderson, and two performances from the *Hilltop Singers*.



Tigers Forever | Friday Night Events

On Friday evening, hundreds of alumni and friends visited campus for the Perkins Family and Friends Reunion Concert in Baker Chapel, Late Night Breakfast in Bennett Student Commons, and the Tiger Pep Rally and Fireworks at Ornelas Stadium. Four generations of the Perkins family led a night of praise and worship. The Perkins family includes over ten members, who are alumni of the institution and five of them are currently serving in music ministry. With ETBU faculty serving as hosts, the Late Night Breakfast allowed alumni and current students the opportunity to enjoy a night of fellowship. The Tiger Pep Rally included the announcement of the Duke and Duchess of each class; Tiger Cheer, Tiger Pom, and the ETBU Marching Band; and concluded with Fireworks.



Tigers Forever | The Grove & Game

ETBU Alumni and students gathered at The Grove for the Tiger Family Carnival and Tailgating prior to the Homecoming football game. Children enjoyed the inflatables and bounce houses and Tiger fans of all ages enjoyed the Texas Tiger tattoos. The Tigers

hosted Sul Ross State University and went on to defeat the Lobos 60-14. During halftime, the homecoming court was announced and seniors Collin Perkins and Caroline Lowe were named Homecoming King and Queen.



Tigers Forever | Tiger Tales

Homecoming 2018 marked the inaugural Tiger Tales Story Time for children in the Jarrett Library. Children of Alumni enjoyed listening to Tiger themed stories, coloring Tiger masks, and taking pictures with Tabby.



ETBU Cub and Tiger Cub Club

The Alumni Office is excited to offer the ETBU Cub and Tiger Club programs to the children and grandchildren in the ETBU family. The programs nurture and develop participants' connection to the University in hope that one day, they will enroll as an ETBU Tiger.

The **ETBU Cub Club** is for infants to children seven years old. The **ETBU Tiger Club** is for those between the ages of eight and 18. Every year the participants receive a birthday card from the University and will receive age-appropriate ETBU gifts on select birthdays. The cost for the program is a one-time fee of \$25 per participant. Enroll your children or grandchildren today!

ETBU Cub and Tiger Cub Club



Mark Your Milestone Brick Campaign

The Office of Advancement invites former students to commemorate their time at ETBC or ETBU with a personalized brick for \$100 each. Every personalized brick will be placed outside the Ornelas Student Center in the Quad. As there are only 145 remaining available spaces, don't hesitate to mark your milestone with an engraved brick.

Engraved bricks can also be purchased as a gift to honor graduates, fellow classmates, professors, coaches, or family members.

Your \$100 donation will serve as a lasting reminder of your contribution to support the continued growth of the University. The Mark Your Milestone brick campaign provides an affordable and concrete way for all alumni to extend their ETBU legacy. Click below to order your brick today.

Mark Your Milestone

Purchase Your ETBU Alumni T-shirt



New ETBU Alumni t-shirts are now available online! Shirts are available for \$20. The cost of the shirt is \$10, and the balance will be a tax-deductible gift to support the ETBU Blue and Gold Fund. Blue and Gold funds are used to provide support throughout the University, such as financial assistance for students, lab and classroom equipment, and campus improvements. Click the link below to purchase your Tiger Alumni t-shirt.

Buy Now



Help Us Connect with ETBU or ETBC Tigers

We are looking for our Tiger 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 college 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 Alumni: Project Locate.](#)

Support Christ-Centered Higher Education at ETBU

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

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