

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



ETBU Welcomes a New Class of Tigers

East Texas Baptist University welcomed new students and their families to campus for Tiger Camp, ETBU's Welcome Week, on Wednesday, August 14 and returning students on Saturday, August 17. Faculty, staff, and Tiger athletic teams assembled outside residence halls across campus in the early morning to help new students move in. Each volunteer wore a shirt that said, "Fan the Flame," emphasizing ETBU's commitment to mentorship and spiritual growth.

"To fan the flame, we must teach and equip our students to serve Jesus with a fiery passion," ETBU President Dr. J Blair Blackburn said during his Fall Summit Chapel message to faculty and staff. "When we fan a flame, we give the flame more fuel, more energy. The fire will burn more intensely. Likewise, God's gifts to us must be fueled by His grace through our prayer, faith, obedience, and diligence. We must use these gifts to fan the flame of the students God has set before us. You are the Lord's instruments, His agents to help students know Christ, grow in Christ, and show Christ to those around

East Texas Baptist's legacy remains committed to Christ by meeting students where they are and propelling them to where God has called them to be. By greeting new students and their families at their loaded vehicles on Move-in Day, the East Texas Baptist faculty, staff, and athletes exemplified this legacy, giving new students a positive first experience on the Hill.

"This is the first time I've seen students come in with their parents and having the whole community here to help them," said new Assistant Professor of Communication Studies Dr. Angela Anima-Korang. "I think it really helps them to settle in here because everyone is happy and willing to help. I look forward to acclimating myself to the campus and I'm excited to get to know the students and help them meet their goals."

Incoming freshman and new transfer students checked in to their life on the Hill on Move-in Day. Among those students, feelings of excitement, nervousness, and anticipation were commonly felt.

"I'm excited to start college and meet new friends, but I'm also nervous because it's kind of like starting over," incoming freshman and math major Landry Pedroza said. "I like how Christ-centered it is at ETBU, and I'm looking forward to meeting new people."

Landry and his twin sister and freshman organizational communication major Kathryn, were accompanied by their mother, who, like most parents, expressed her mixed emotions on move-in day.

"I'm excited that Landry and Kathryn will be together and close by, and that they can look out for each other," Kim Pedroza shared. "I'm feeling all the mom emotions, we've been working towards this but it's still hard. I'm excited to see how they will grow into adults and grow in the Christian walk. It's a new phase, but it's the right phase."

To help new Tigers ease their way into college life and connect with other students, these new students participated in Tiger Camp – an ETBU tradition that welcomes incoming freshman and transfer students into the ETBU family where they are given an opportunity to meet campus leaders, staff, professors, and a number of outstanding individuals who share a love for ETBU.

"When I look back at when I was a freshman, the upperclassmen welcomed me in with open arms and made me feel at home," Tiger Camp Leader and senior child development major Gloria Baker said. "I want to be able to do that for this year's incoming students, to let them know that this is their new home away from home and that they are going to thrive. I'm looking forward to seeing how well we all grow as a Tiger family."

All new and returning students kicked off the 2019 Fall semester on Monday, August 19.



ETBU Athletic Trainers Reconnect

ETBU Athletic Training faculty and alumni recently gathered together at the Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association Annual Meeting. Pictured above are Larry Denkins ('08), Heather Gear ('08), ETBU Faculty David Collins & Michael Rich ('12), Brandon Merrill ('08), Former ETBU Faculty Dr. Joanna Soles, Derek Rabalais ('07), Courtney Jenkins ('09), Kerri Kalina ('13), Sami Rios ('16), Bethany Coyne ('14), Allison Jones ('16), Jenny Utterback ('15), Kristopher Picarella ('13), Dana Boyd ('16), and ETBU Head Athletic Trainer Marcus Holliday. These athletic training graduates are providing much needed medical care and attention to student-athletes in school districts across the state.

The Frank S. Groner School of Professional Studies continues to prepare students for entry-level positions in athletic training. ETBU is currently renovating Craig Hall to make room for the growing Frank S. Groner School of Professional Studies. The repurposing of Craig Hall will provide current and future athletic training majors with modern classrooms and labs that will allow students to receive the mastery and practical application of the skills required for the profession. Will you partner with ETBU to provide modern educational and professional training space for the next generation of ETBU Athletic Trainers?

Give to Care for Craig Hall



Miles to Marshall | Homecoming 2019

Reunions, fireworks, Late Night Breakfast, tailgating at the Grove, and Tiger Football can only mean one thing: Homecoming 2019! Join us October 25-26 here on the Hill and reconnect with your fellow Tiger Alumni. Registration is open, and we are looking forward to seeing you and your family this October. Remember, your Home on the Hill is only just a few Miles to Marshall!

[Register Now](#)



Leon Carter ('80) Named Trial Lawyer of the Year by Dallas Bar Association

Leon Carter ('80) was recently named the Dallas Bar Association's 2019 Trial Lawyer of the Year. Carter has been a fixture of the Dallas trial bar for three decades. After beginning his law career as an assistant attorney general, and later an assistant district attorney, Carter became partner in litigation at Jackson Walker in Dallas. He ultimately founded his own firm, merged with another, and later founded his current firm, now known as Carter Arnett.

Carter has tried more than 100 jury cases at the state and federal level. He handles plaintiff and defense matters in exceptionally diverse practice areas ranging from commercial litigation to product liability, to First Amendment, antitrust, and employment. Carter's client base has run the gamut from AT&T, to Exxon Mobil, to the City of Dallas, to Parkland Hospital. Carter is a member of the International Society of Barristers, the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the Litigation Counsel of America. He has served as an adjunct professor at SMU's Dedman School of Law and The University of Texas at Arlington.

Carter is a Carthage native, who earned his Bachelor of Arts in history from ETBC in

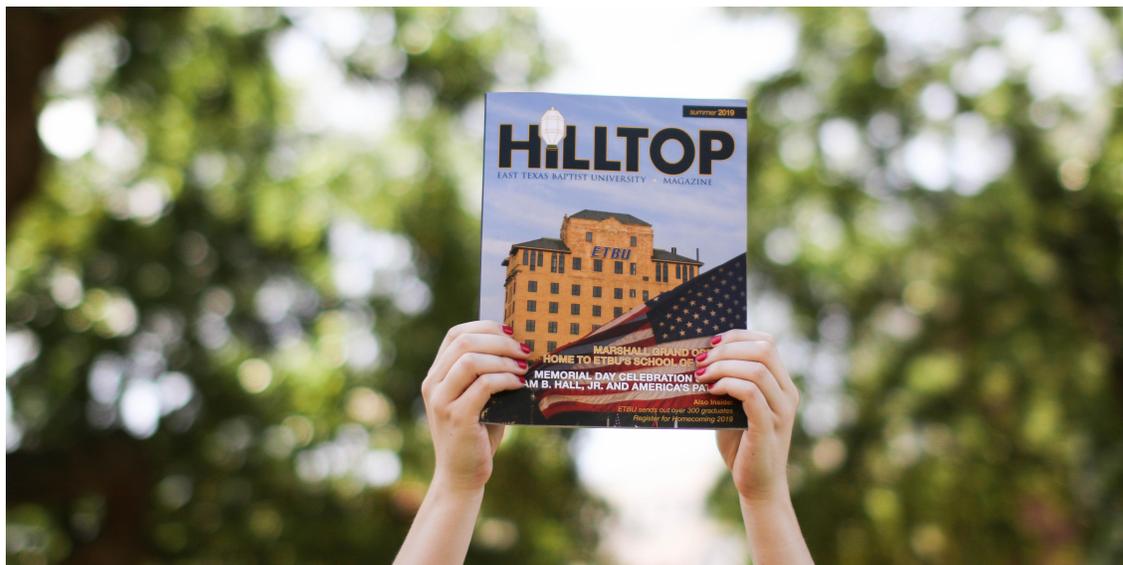
Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in 1986. To read more about Carter's award click [here](#).



The Great East Texas Hymn Sing

Join us for the Great East Texas Hymn Sing Friday, September 13, at 1:00 p.m. in Baker Chapel of the Rogers Spiritual Life Center. Enjoy two hours of singing the great hymns of our faith with fellow believers and church choirs. There will be a reception immediately following the Hymn Sing in the Edwards Conference Center. For more information, call 903.923.2071 or email advancement@etbu.edu. We look forward to seeing you there!

[Learn More](#)



Read the Newest Edition of Hilltop Magazine

visit ETBU.edu/hilltop. If you did not receive a copy in the mail, make sure to update your information by clicking [here](#).

ETBU in the News

ETBU Alumnus named 2020 Louisiana Teacher of the Year

Chris Dier ('10) was named the Louisiana State Teacher of the Year. Dier teaches History and Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography at Chalmette High School in Chalmette, Louisiana. [Read more.](#)



ETBU Tiger Spirit Teams Serve in Japan

Spreading the Gospel through the universal language of sports, the East Texas Baptist University Tiger Spirit Teams (Cheer and Pom), and Acrobatics and Tumbling traveled to Japan from Thursday, August 1 through Saturday, August 10 as part of the Tiger Athletic Mission Experience (TAME) program.



Tiger athletes and staff partnered with the International Sports Federation (ISF) in evangelism and ministry in the city of Yokohama, Japan. The trip to Japan marked ETBU's 11th sports mission experience and the third trip with ISF – an organization that seeks to change the world through sports. [Read more.](#)



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Pray for 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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