

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



## **ETBU Hockey Team Serves in Slovakia**

The ETBU Hockey Team traveled to Slovakia from Wednesday, January 2 through Saturday, January 12 as a part of the Tiger Athletic Mission Experience (TAME) program. Led by Head Coach Alain Savage, ETBU Vice President for Athletics Ryan Erwin, and Director of the Great Commission Center and Global Education Lisa Seeley, the group of

22 partnered with International Sports Federation (ISF) to minister to the people of Slovakia.

“We were thrilled to have the opportunity to serve in Slovakia and excited for what the Lord had in store not only for the people we encountered, but also for our Tiger Hockey players,” Erwin shared. “We are appreciative of the support we received to make the trip possible, both financially and prayerfully. It was rewarding to watch our team use their God-given talents to share their faith.”

From serving at one of the largest homeless shelters in the country in Depaul to a private safe house for the elderly in the home of a community member, the ETBU Hockey players gained a new perspective.

“We had the privilege of connecting with a few residents, hearing their stories and the instrumental role God has played in their lives,” ETBU senior Michael Garvie shared. “One takeaway I had was a response from one of the older residents to our question, ‘Who is Jesus to you?’ He responded, ‘My faith is everything to me. Without it, I would not have any of this and would not be here.’ This came from a man without money, a job, and with challenging health issues. The contrast provided from witnessing how genuinely rich these people were in their faith was uplifting and humbling.” Garvie continued, “Overall, the trip has been a unique platform to serve those in need and play the game we love. It was amazing to share the Word of God and act as a vessel for His endless love and care.”

During the nine-day trip, the Tigers competed against a local junior team, a semi-pro adult team, and the 2018 European University Hockey League champion. Following each game, the ETBU Hockey Team distributed Bibles to the opposing team members. The teams also spent time in fellowship and serving alongside one another.

The trip to Slovakia was the eighth Tiger Athletic Mission Experience, which provides student-athletes the opportunity to use their God-given talents as a platform to connect with people and share the Gospel of Jesus. ETBU Women’s Soccer Head Coach Kristin Cox will be taking her team to Costa Rica in early March. To stay updated with upcoming TAME trips, follow the blog at [tigerathleticmissionexperience.tumblr.com](http://tigerathleticmissionexperience.tumblr.com).





## **CARE for Craig Hall**

As a testament to Dr. Robert E. Craig's legacy of leadership, the University plans to renovate Craig Hall for use by ETBU's largest academic school, the Frank S. Groner School of Professional Studies. This facility will house all undergraduate and graduate programs in kinesiology, clinical lab sciences, and adult studies. In addition, graduate assistants, who serve students by coaching, leadership, and discipleship to students, will receive their training from the Christian faculty working and teaching in Craig Hall. Enhancements to this time-honored facility will include new labs and instructional space to give theoretical instruction, practical real-world experience, as well as research into the science and application of kinesiology.

**Fundraising for the CARE for Craig Hall campaign recently surpassed \$100,000!** A contribution of any size will help provide our current and future students with the modern educational space needed to develop skills for their callings. Our goal is to complete a \$500,000 renovation of this time-honored facility. Please partner with us to honor Dr. Craig and provide ETBU students with a 21st-century learning environment.

**CARE for Craig Hall**

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## Miles to Marshall

Toby and Tabby have headed out on an adventure to visit as many Tiger Alumni as they can before Homecoming 2019! See how many miles Toby and Tabby travel this year by following the ETBU Alumni social media accounts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). You can also follow their journey by searching the hashtag #MilesToMarshall.

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### WORSHIP AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT FEATURING



The Foto Sisters



Legacy Five



Dr. Jimmy Draper

# Registration for Hilltop University is Now Open

Hilltop University, a spiritual retreat for Boomers and Senior Adults, will be held Wednesday, May 29 through Friday, May 31, at East Texas Baptist University. Conference events include corporate worship, preaching, Bible studies, concerts, breakout sessions, and dessert fellowships. During your stay, enjoy our on-campus housing in a spectacular residence facility and delicious meals in ETBU's Dining Hall.

This year's worship and musical entertainment will include:

- Dr. Jimmy Draper, Lifeway President Emeritus
- Legacy Five
- Foto Sisters
- Shellie O'Neal

Register before Friday, March 15 to receive reduced pricing! Click [here](#) to view event details.

**Register Now**

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## **Get to Know Alumna Laura Sammons ('98)**

Laura Hopkins Sammons has been a choir teacher, attorney, and member of the United States Air Force. Laura credits ETBU for giving her a firm foundation to stand on wherever the Lord calls her to serve.

"Beginning life on my own at ETBU, apart from the influence of parents and home, helped me to establish a right and true foundation that has been a bedrock for me," Laura said. "No matter how many times I have left the safety of the harbor in my life, that foundation never wavered. Without that right start, I believe life would have been much more of a challenge."

Before Laura's diverse career began, she arrived on the Hill with her sights set on law school. However, her desire to share the gift of music with others led her to major in Music Education. After graduation, she began her teaching career in San Antonio. The strong military presence in the city eventually compelled her to begin seeking a commission as an Officer in the United States Air Force.

"The Air Force was a completely new and exciting adventure," Laura said. "I began my Air Force career as a Squadron Section Commander at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. I loved life on the flight line and serving my country in this position. However, late in my second year of service, I was given the opportunity to combine my ETBU music training and my Air Force career when I was selected as the Tour Director and a singer and dancer for a 32-member team of Expeditionary Entertainers, who served as Ambassadors throughout the United States and around the world."

While she was on tour, Laura applied for the Air Force Funded Legal Education Program. A few months later, she was accepted and began studying at the College of William and Mary School of Law. Upon graduation, she was moved to Cannon Air Force Base where she served as a JAP Attorney. Now a civilian, Laura practices as a Commercial Litigation and Arbitration Attorney.

"My greatest professional achievements have not been the awards or decorations I earned in the Air Force or the accolades I received in my civilian positions, but the pride that came from serving my country and the fulfillment from protecting an innocent life by helping them get justice for the pain they had suffered at the hands of another," Laura said. "My path has been eclectic, but God has directed my steps every step of the way."

According to Laura, her start at ETBU prepared her for her vocational calling.

"Were it not for that time of growth and challenge at ETBU, I don't believe I would be where I am today," Laura said. "There have been missteps, heartbreaks, and dark times. But the foundation of faith built up during my time on the Hill was the rock in the storm that always helped me see the hand of God."

Laura and her husband, Nick, live outside Houston with their six children.

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## 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 120 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**

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## **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

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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  
Vice President for Advancement  
903.923.2069 | [sbryant@etbu.edu](mailto:sbryant@etbu.edu)

Allison Peteet ('99)  
Assistant Vice President for Advancement  
903.923.2072 | [apeteet@etbu.edu](mailto:apeteet@etbu.edu)

Emily Roberson  
Director of Alumni Relations and Advancement Communication  
903.923.2043 | [eroberson@etbu.edu](mailto:eroberson@etbu.edu)

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**Our mailing address is:**

One Tiger Drive  
Marshall, TX 75670

[www.etbu.edu](http://www.etbu.edu)

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