

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



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## **ETBU Bass Fishing Ministers in the Amazon**

The East Texas Baptist University Bass Fishing team traveled to Brazil on January 3-12, as a part of the Tiger Athletic Mission Experience (TAME) program. ETBU partnered with Amazon Outreach, an organization that works directly with Brazilian missionaries to spread the Gospel to the people of the Amazon River region.

"The members of the Bass team that traveled with us to Brazil exceeded my expectations throughout the entire trip. Removing technology from our day-to-day lives allowed us to focus on the people of the Amazon and grow spiritually," ETBU Head Bass Fishing Coach

Cameron Burger said. "Each member stepped outside of their comfort zone, whether that was handing out eyeglasses, working in the pharmacy, sharing the Gospel with someone, or giving their testimony."

The boat served as the home for the team, where they ate, slept in hammocks, practiced fishing, and traveled the Rio Negro and Amazon River ministering to nine different villages along the way. The team began each day with worship on the boat with the translators and crew. The student-athletes ministered door-to-door, helped in the medical and dental clinic, assisted with the eye glass ministry, and hosted vacation Bible schools.

"This trip was eye opening, from experiencing another culture to spreading the love of God," ETBU junior Accounting major Jared Penton shared. "It was rewarding to see the different ways in which God was working through the team and the villagers."

ETBU Bass Fishing was able to meet a need of the people by transporting equipment and building a water well in the center of the village of Santa Maria. The group also spent several days assisting with a construction project, which consisted of making concrete mortar and plastering it to a brick structure in the village of Monte Moria'.

The trip to Brazil was the fourth Tiger Athletic Mission Experience. TAME provides ETBU student-athletes the opportunity to use their God-given athletic talents as a platform to connect with people and share the Gospel of Jesus around the world.





## **ETBU Initiates the Tiger Transfer Track Program**

As a part of the Tiger Transfer Track Program, East Texas Baptist University has broadened its reach by signing articulation agreements with nine educational institutions and ministry organizations including the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler (UTHSCT), Kilgore College, Jacksonville College, Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC), Youth with A Mission (YWAM), Panola College, Navarro College, Tyler Junior College (TJC), and Angelina College.

"Transfer students make valuable contributions to the ETBU community. As a community college graduate, I personally know the value of the two-year college experience and how my education prepared me for university study," ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn shared. "We welcome transfer students to come to ETBU to complete their education beyond their community college associate degree and technical occupational training."

As a result of these agreements, students will be prepared to transfer to ETBU in order to complete their bachelor's degree. Each agreement will ensure that eligible students and graduates of the community colleges will be able to seamlessly transfer courses and receive priority for admission and scholarships at ETBU. The University will also offer \$11,000 each year in academic scholarship support to Phi Theta Kappa honor students.

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## **ETBU Hosted Prospective Students for Preview Day**

East Texas Baptist University hosted Preview Day on Monday, January 22. The event is specifically designed for prospective and transfer students and their families. In recognition that a positive first year is integral for educational performance, engagement in the community, and progression toward graduation, ETBU provides various opportunities to learn about its academic programs, residence life, financial aid, and accommodations that are in place for all students to succeed.

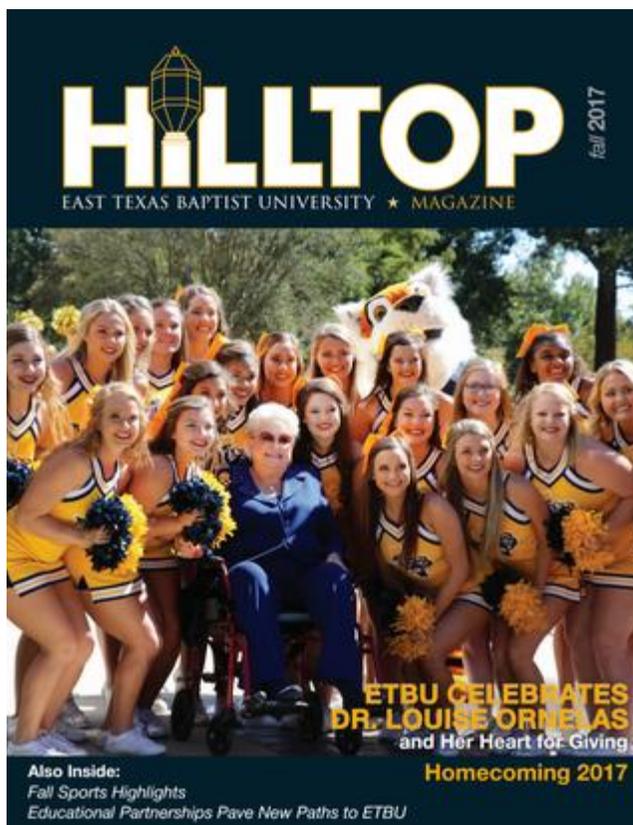
Preview Day consists of Tiger Talk sessions, a campus tour, and a student life panel. Visiting students also have the option to attend a chapel service and classroom lecture. Throughout the event, families meet with current students, faculty and staff, admissions counselors, and advisors to ensure they receive a well-rounded understanding of life on the Hill. During Chapel, Vice President for Advancement Scott Bryant explained the priority of East Texas Baptist.

"I frequently interact with alumni, hearing their stories of how God used ETBU to work in their life," Dr. Bryant said. "I hear that this place is transformational, not only because of the academic programs, but also the spiritual formation that occurs. Our alumni often mention a faculty or staff member that poured into them, changing the trajectory of their life. We want you to know from the beginning, prospective students, that ETBU is focused on and passionate about cultivating and demonstrating Christ-like character."

Beginning with recruitment, the mission of East Texas Baptist University is to holistically encourage and challenge each student. From the moment students step onto campus, they are surrounded with support. With a student-to-faculty ratio of 15:1, every student receives individualized instruction taught through a Christian perspective and various opportunities to apply course content in real-world scenarios. ETBU offers 42 undergraduate and 11 graduate programs, all structured to enable students to embrace and share the Gospel now and in their future vocations.

The ETBU Preview Days for the Spring 2018 semester are scheduled for Monday, February 19 and Monday, April 9. The University will also host a Campus Visit Saturday event on March 24. The Spring 2018 Tiger Day will be held on Saturday, March 3. To learn more about or register for any of these events, visit [www.etbu.edu/visit](http://www.etbu.edu/visit).

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