

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

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## **2018 Legacy of 1912 Society Luncheon**

We had the privilege of welcoming ETBC and ETBU retirees, Legacy of 1912 Society Members, and Endowed Scholarship Donors on November 5 for Chapel and the Legacy of 1912 Society Luncheon. Retired Religion Professor Bob Utley was our chapel speaker for the day. Our honorees joined us for a luncheon where we presented Mary Dean Morriss with the 2018 Legacy Award. Mrs. Morriss' generosity can be seen all over campus, including Dean Healthplex, Mabee Housing Complex, and Ornelas Residential Center. It is because of the generosity of donors like Mrs. Morriss and so many of you that ETBU is able to continue to be a beacon for Christ-centered higher education.

The Legacy of 1912 Society comprises alumni and friends, who through thoughtful estate planning and other forms of planned giving, ensure that resources will be available to

support ETBU and generations of Tigers far into the future. The Legacy of 1912 Society is named in honor of the year the charter was signed establishing a Christian college in Marshall, Texas. The impact of planned gifts, including wills, annuities, trusts, and insurance policies, on the University's history and future, is immeasurable.

Members of the Legacy of 1912 Society are honored by the University on a donor recognition wall located outside of Baker Chapel in the foyer of the Ornelas Spiritual Life Center. If you have decided to include ETBU in your planned giving, click [here](#) to notify the University, so you can be recognized as a member of the Legacy of 1912 Society.

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## **CARE for Craig Hall**

As a testament to Dr. Robert E. Craig's legacy, the University will be renovating 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. Programs like athletic training not only provide curricular experiences for our students, they also provide clinicals that support the nearly 40% of the student body, who are student-athletes involved in ETBU's 16 NCAA Division III and five club sports. In addition, graduate assistants, who provide 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 provide for theoretical instruction, practical hands-on experience, as well as research into the science and application of kinesiology.

Your support will provide our current and future students with the modern educational

space needed to develop skills for their callings. Please partner with us to honor Dr. Craig and provide ETBU students with an updated educational space.

## CARE for Craig Hall

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## Inaugural Ring Blessing

East Texas Baptist University honored 88 graduating seniors with an official ETBU Class Ring during the 2018 Ring Blessing on Wednesday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m. in Baker Chapel of the Ornelas Spiritual Life Center. The inaugural ceremony was designed to celebrate the accomplishments of students and connect generations of alumni. As a token of appreciation to graduating seniors, this graduation ring symbolizes the University's blessing over students as they commence from ETBU to pursue their vocational callings.

"These rings serve as a reminder of what God has called us to do as Christian believers and a University Family," ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn challenged at the Ring Blessing Chapel service. "I am honored to be a part of this new tradition that connects all ETBU graduates from generation to generation. Every student earning his or her bachelor's degree will receive this symbol as a part of their Christ-centered education at ETBU. The ring represents the culmination of what God has done in your lives during your time at the institution and how He is working through ETBU. We challenge you to use the ring to reflect the Light of Christ."

Inspired by Deuteronomy 6, the Class Ring allows ETBU alumni to carry and display the love of Christ. Each ring features the seal of East Texas Baptist, surrounded by the cornerstones of the University – *Veritas*, *Mores*, and *Scientia*, which translate from Latin to Truth, Character, and Knowledge. Inscribed in the ring are significant icons of ETBU and the Christian faith, such as historic Marshall Hall and the Light on the Hill, Max Greiner's Divine Servant Statue, and the Bible. These symbols are meant to remind alumni of God's Word and their transformational experience at East Texas Baptist University.

"Upon our graduation this December, we will forever be a part of the Christ-centered legacy of ETBU. We stand as an ambassador for Christ and our Alma Mater," ETBU senior Victoria Gutierrez shared. "At ETBU, I found a personal relationship with Christ. My faith

became my own, and I have become a stronger young woman than I ever thought I could be. I look forward to using my ring as a prompt to initiate conversations and build relationships. It is amazing how something so small could hold such significance. I am grateful for a physical reminder that, as Tigers, we are all connected for one purpose.”

Texas Baptists (BGCT) Urban Missions and Partnerships Director Tom Howe served as the keynote speaker for the ceremony. Howe, a minister for over 27 years in Texas and Alabama churches, is a 1993 alumnus of ETBU. Howe holds a Master of Divinity from Samford University and a Doctor of Ministry from Southwestern Seminary as well. During the Ring Blessing, he reminded students of God’s promise in Jeremiah 29:11.

“God has a calling on your life,” Howe said. “While some of you may believe that God does not care about you or that you are disqualified from service, let me assure you that God has a plan and purpose for you. As the next generation’s emerging leaders, you are going to make a difference in the world. Do not side-step or ignore your God-given calling. Be a part of His Kingdom work.”

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## **Get to Know Alumna Melissa Haas ('01)**

As an undergraduate student at ETBU, Melissa (Mohon) Haas thought she might go to medical school. Today, instead of helping the citizens of Texas through medicine, she does so through forensic science.

"When I started at ETBU, I considered going to medical school, but my father was a state trooper for many years so law enforcement was a natural choice for me. I have loved every minute of my career as a forensic scientist."

Melissa serves as a Laboratory Section Supervisor III for the DNA Section of the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory. In her role, she manages individuals who process criminal cases for DNA analysis.

"I have been very fortunate to be able to advance my career and move into a management position," Melissa said. "I find my job to be very fulfilling and rewarding. I am honored to be able to help the people of Texas in a unique way."

Before her career as a forensic scientist, Melissa graduated from ETBU with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Biology and a minor in Chemistry in 2001. She was also a member of the ETBU Tiger Softball Team and was inducted into the Tiger Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012. Her husband, Nathan ('02) was a member of the Tiger Baseball Team.

"Being at ETBU just felt right," Melissa said. "My time on the Hill shaped me into the person that I am today, and I cherish every friendship I made during my time as a student. It was inspiring to learn from Dr. Cone and Dr. Darville, and I could not be more grateful for their influence on my life."

Melissa and Nathan live in Forney with their two daughters.

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## Give Differently this Christmas Season

Don't forget about [#GivingTuesday](#), following Black Friday and Cyber Monday! On November 27, we invite you to partner with East Texas Baptist University to help us fulfill our Christ-centered mission. Whether you decide to give to student scholarships, the Blue & Gold Fund, CARE for Craig Hall or Tiger Athletic Mission Experiences, every dollar helps ETBU advance the Kingdom of God. Mark your calendars and partner with us this Christmas season. Bookmark [ETBU.edu/give](http://ETBU.edu/give) to give differently this [#GivingTuesday](#).



## 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

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### **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**

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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:**

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