

UPDATES FROM THE HILL
TIGER PRIDE
EAST TEXAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



ETBU 2017 Fall Commencement

East Texas Baptist University held its Fall Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, December 9 with ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn presiding over the ceremony as 82 students received undergraduate degrees and 23 received graduate degrees, for a total of 105 graduates. ETBU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Thomas Sanders, assisted by the academic deans, presented the graduating class.

"This is the largest Fall Commencement in the history of East Texas Baptist University," Dr. Sanders said. "ETBU first awarded associate degrees in 1919 and bachelor's degrees in 1945. Commencement has always been a special time in the life of the University. It is an event that celebrates the relationship between students, staff, and faculty."

Mr. Ray Martinez III, President of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas

(ICUT), gave a charge to the graduating class as keynote speaker. "As you set out, remember the inner virtues you have cultivated here at this Christ-centered institution. Go forth and live the life that God has planned for you without fear." Samantha Busby, a Bachelor of Arts graduate in International Studies, was announced as the President's Award recipient. This award is given to the graduating student who is the best representation of a Christian leader, scholar, and servant.

"Congratulations on the completion of your educational journey," Dr. Blackburn shared. "The earning of your degree is a remarkable achievement, but the path of learning and discovery does not end with the awarding of your degrees. Romans 12:1-2 calls you to be transformed by the continual renewing of your minds -- the ongoing pursuit of God's truths manifested in how you live a holy and pleasing life to God -- and with this transformation of mind and heart you can discern God's will for your days ahead."



Tiger Baseball On Mission in the Dominican Republic

The ETBU Baseball Team is currently in the Dominican Republic as part of the Tiger Athletic Mission Experience (TAME) program. Sixty-three student-athletes, coaches, staff, and administrators are engaged in neighborhood renewal with home improvements and baseball clinics for children. The Tigers are also playing four games against two Minor League Baseball (MLB affiliate) winter league teams and two Dominican national teams.

Members of the Tiger Baseball Team have the opportunity to share their testimony and fellowship with members of the other teams following each game. Please keep the Tiger Baseball team in your prayers this week, as they boldly proclaim Christ and strive to spread the love of Christ with the people of the Dominican Republic through their God-given talents and abilities.

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. The trip to Dominican Republic is the third Tiger Athletic Mission Experience trip. Tiger Bass Fishing will travel to Brazil in January, and the ETBU Volleyball team is traveling to Serbia in March.



ETBU to Honor Legacy of 1912 Society

Membership in the Legacy of 1912 Society is reserved for individuals and families who have decided to continue their legacy of generosity beyond their lifetime. The Society comprises ETBU alumni and friends, who through thoughtful estate planning and deferred giving, ensure that resources will be available to support ETBU 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.

In 2018, the University will establish a wall of recognition displaying the names of individuals and families who have named East Texas Baptist as a beneficiary in their estate planning. Planned gifts include wills, annuities, trusts, and life insurance policies. If

you have included ETBU in your planned giving, please inform the Office of Advancement to ensure that your name is included on the Legacy of 1912 Society display. Fill out the [estate gift form](#) and email it to Vice President for Advancement Scott Bryant, sbryant@etbu.edu.

The students, faculty, and staff of East Texas Baptist University are deeply grateful for the support of the members of the Legacy of 1912 Society whose planned giving will impact future generations of Christian servant leaders at ETBU.

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