

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



Lauren McCollum receives the 2018 Senior Girl Call-Out award

Lauren McCollum was recognized on Friday, April 20 during the East Texas Baptist University 71st annual Senior Girl Call-Out, ETBU's longest standing tradition. Selected by a faculty and staff vote, the individual "called out" each year is distinguished for her exemplary Christian character, social consciousness, personal poise, academic achievement, and spiritual vision.

"The most rewarding aspect of participating was having my grandmother, Martha Hedgecock Rich ('63), witness it. She accepted Christ, earned her degree, and met her husband (the late John Rich, '61) on the Hill over 50 years ago. From a young age, I have loved ETBU because of my grandmother's stories, and I am proud to share this honor with her," McCollum said. "My time at the University has been unforgettable. It is a unique place where each student is valued and supported. Although my time here is almost over, I know that it will always be home."

A Nursing major from Midlothian, McCollum actively served on and off campus throughout her time at ETBU. Her involvement with the Theta Alpha Kappa Honors Society, Honors Program, and Texas Nursing Student Association enriched her academic development. McCollum found her ministry to students in her

positions as a Resident Assistant in Linebery Hall, Leadership Fellow, on the Chapel Worship Team, and ETBU Women's Ministry Worship Team. A member of First Baptist Church Marshall, McCollum volunteered on the praise team, college and young adult ministry team, children's ministry team, and search committees.

"It has been a blessing to watch Lauren learn, grow, and mature during the last four years at ETBU," Assistant Provost Emily Prevost shared. "Senior Girl Call-Out is an encouragement for all of us to finish strong the race before us, not grow weary in doing good, and celebrate the work of God in our lives. The tradition also reminds us that we have a responsibility to pass on what we have learned to those who come after us."

Twenty-nine young women participated in the event alongside their "little sisters," underclassmen chosen by the seniors. During the ceremony, each senior girl passed on to her little sister the symbols of the ideals and traditions of the University - the grace of the myrtle, the strength of the oak, and the ever verdant life of the pine.



ETBU and Wiley College perform *Jubilate Deo*

East Texas Baptist University united with Wiley College for *Jubilate Deo* on Friday, April 13. The concert featured a full orchestra and choirs from both institutions. Sponsored by Central Perks, Jack Cargill, Jucy's Hamburgers, Judge Richard and Christina Anderson, and Marshall News Messenger, the event emphasized the importance of community.

"Performing with Wiley College made Marshall seem more like home to me," ETBU freshman Molly Brinkley shared. "The unity brought about encouraged me. I enjoyed the opportunity to build relationships with the group. It was an honor to perform with Wiley and I look forward to the next combined event."

Conducted by ETBU Director of Choir Activities Justin Hodges and Wiley College Choir Director Stephen L. Hayes, *Jubilate Deo* featured the music of Roland Carter and Dan Forrest.

"Performing *Jubilate Deo* with the ETBU Choir enabled both groups to come together as Christian institutions and sing for the Lord," Wiley College senior Emanuel Echols commented. "Although performed

alongside the ETBU Choir three years ago, this experience was much different. I learned how essential community is in standing for a cause with support and love. My faith has been strengthened, because I was a part of the united effort to spread the Word of God through song."

The two institutions have joined together for performances in the past, collaborating with Marshall Community Chorus, Greggton United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church of Marshall, Central Baptist Church of Marshall, and First Baptist Church of Longview for a performance of Handel's Messiah in December 2012. The two choirs also combined for a performance of *Freedom Rings, A Celebration of America* with the Longview Symphony in 2015. Most recently, ETBU and Wiley College have also worked together alongside Panola College and Texas State Technical College in support of expanding railroad transportation for residents and businesses in the I-20 corridor.



ETBU senior Kayla Barrentine crowned as Miss ETBU 2018

Senior Music Education major Kayla Barrentine of Canton was crowned as the 62nd Miss ETBU on Saturday, April 7. Barrentine, an active member of the ETBU community as a member of concert choir, Tiger Marching Band, National Association for Music Educators, Association for Texas Professional Educators, and the Baptist Student Ministry, was selected from eight contestants as Miss ETBU 2018 at the annual scholarship pageant sponsored by ETBU's Student Government Association. As Miss ETBU, she receives a generous academic scholarship as well as the opportunity to represent the University throughout the community and region.

"I have been in love with ETBU since I first visited during my sophomore year in high school," Barrentine shared. "During the campus tour, I heard about Miss ETBU and her responsibility to the community. I am honored to have the opportunity to represent East Texas Baptist. The role will enable me to serve Marshall and the surrounding area and apply my abilities as a public speaker and performer."

Alongside her participation in the campus community, Barrentine has been recognized for her work as a

Resident Assistant in University Apartments (UA) at ETBU and as an outstanding student by the University Singers. During her time at ETBU, she has made both the President's List and Dean's List for academics. As a member of Central Baptist Church in Marshall, she serves with the choir, praise team, Hearts of the Hungry Ministry, and children's ministry. Miss ETBU 2017 Taylor Rowlands, assisted by ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn, passed the crown and encouragement to Barrentine during the ceremony on April 7.

Gabrielle Henley of Fort Worth was voted Miss Congeniality, the contestant who earned the respect and admiration of her peers and deemed the most congenial, charismatic, and inspirational participant. Henley is a sophomore English Education major involved in ETBU Women's Soccer as well as Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

ETBU sophomore Raven Williams of Conroe received First Runner-Up and junior Hayley Rowlands of Houston was named Second Runner-Up. The Best Talent Award was given to junior Ashley Simmons of Texarkana for her spoken word performance of *If I Were a Poet*. The piece, written by Simmons, recounts her healing process from her father's passing and how she came to rely on the heavenly Father.

EXPERIENCE LIFE ON THE HILL



HILLTOP UNIVERSITY

A SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR BOOMERS AND SENIOR ADULTS
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Come enjoy the beautiful campus of ETBU for a spiritually renewing conference for Boomers and Senior Adults. Guest speakers include Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Director, Dr. David Hardage, South Main Baptist Church in Pasadena Senior Pastor, Dr. Ron Lyles, and ETBU Retired Professor of Religion, Dr. Bob Utley. Worship will be led by the Foto Sisters, Scot Cameron, and Dove award winners, The Isaacs.

Conference events include corporate worship, preaching, Bible Studies, concerts, breakout sessions, and dessert fellowships. The cost for participants wanting on-campus accommodations is \$209. For commuters or those staying off campus, the cost is \$150. The fee includes seven meals, concert tickets, and admittance to all conference events. Enjoy on-campus housing in ETBU's beautiful Centennial Hall and meals in ETBU's Dining Hall. Learn more and register at www.etbu.edu/sac18. For more information, contact the Office of Advancement at hilltopu@etbu.edu or 903.923.2068.



Help us connect with ETBU or ETBC Tigers!

We are looking for our 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 Lost Alumni](#)

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For more information please call:

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