

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



## Spring Commencement

East Texas Baptist University held their Spring Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 6, 2017, in Baker Chapel of the Ornelas Spiritual Life Center, with ETBU President, J.

Blair Blackburn, presiding. ETBU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Thomas Sanders presented the graduating class. One hundred and forty-two students received undergraduate degrees and 23 earned master's degrees, for a total of 165 new ETBU graduates.

Dr. David O. Dykes, the Senior Pastor at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity and presented the charge to the graduates. Dr. Lynn New, Dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences and professor of Psychology, received the Professor with Distinction Award. Dr. New was awarded this recognition for his excellence in service, scholarship, teaching, and integration of faith and learning throughout his tenure at the University for over 30 years. Zachary Ervin, a Bachelor of Science graduate in Business Administration, was announced as the President's Servant Leader Award recipient. This award is given to the graduating student who is the best representation of a Christian leader, scholar, and servant.

Congratulations 2017 graduates!

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## Tiger Family Remembers D.J. & Tre

East Texas Baptist University students, faculty and football players honored the memory of two of their own on Friday, April 28, which marked the one-year anniversary of the two former football players' deaths. ETBU freshmen football players and friends Darrian "D.J." McClintock, Jr., 18, and Norvontre "Tre" Harrison, 19, drowned on April 28, 2016, while swimming in the "clay pits" off Bell Cutoff Road in Marshall. Family members of both McClintock and Harrison were on campus Friday for the memorial service.

"Today we reflect on the lives of two young men, who will always be a part of the fabric of this institution," ETBU President Blair Blackburn said Friday. "Today as we reflect, we are somber, we mourn, we grieve, but we also celebrate their eternal life with Jesus. D.J. and Tre had the living water and now they feast on it in the presence of our Lord Jesus." Blackburn also made a surprise announcement for the family and friends of the two former players. "We will be starting a campaign to raise the money for two bronze, life-size statues of D.J. and Tre that will sit at the top of Ornelas Stadium," Blackburn said. "The two statues will be arm in arm. They met Jesus arm in arm and they will watch over their brothers on the field, arm in arm."

The stadium is also undergoing an update to add new turf and the name of the turf,

provided by Symmetry Turf of Mt. Pleasant, has been renamed Genesis 4:9 by the company. The turf contains 49 ounces of grass and the Bible verse Genesis 4:9 refers to God telling Cain he is his brother's keeper. "The field will say, 'I Am My Brother's Keeper,'" Blackburn said. "That is a reminder to all of us to hold each other accountable in our commitment to Jesus."

Just after a prayer during the memorial ceremony, ETBU football players released 96 blue balloons and 12 gold balloons in honor of D.J. who wore the No. 12 football jersey as a wide receiver and Tre who wore the team's No. 96 jersey as a defensive end.

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## ETBU Men's Soccer Serving in Nicaragua

The ETBU Men's Soccer team has traveled to Nicaragua as part of the Tiger Athletic Mission Experience (TAME) to serve for 10 days. Twenty-five student-athletes, coaches, and staff will serve in various locations during the trip, which will include working in local schools, construction projects, soccer clinics and two games against Nicaraguan soccer clubs. Please keep the ETBU Soccer Team in your prayers as they travel and serve.

You can keep up with the team on their blog at [tigerathleticmissionexperience.tumblr.com](http://tigerathleticmissionexperience.tumblr.com) and on Twitter @ETBU\_Soccer. This is the second TAME trip. The ETBU Softball traveled to Costa Rica in December. Click [here](#) to read about the trip to San Jose. The TAME program will allow each ETBU Tiger athletic team the opportunity to play and serve internationally once every four years.

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# HILLTOP UNIVERSITY

## A SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

### COME EXPERIENCE LIFE ON THE HILL

Join us for Hilltop University, a spiritual retreat for senior adults May 31-June 2, 2017, on the beautiful campus of East Texas Baptist University. Guest speakers and entertainment include: Larnelle Harris, Al Fike, Rev. Rene' Maciel, Shellie O'Neal, The Foto Sisters, and Pastor Sam Dennis. Come with your spouse, friends, family, or Senior Adult group at church. To register or to find out more information go to [www.etbu.edu/sac17](http://www.etbu.edu/sac17) or call 903-923-2068.

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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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Click [here](#) to make an online contribution to support Christ-centered education.

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