

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





## **ETBU confers 160 graduates during Spring 2018 Commencement**

East Texas Baptist University held its Spring 2018 Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn presided over the ceremony as 138 students received undergraduate degrees and 22 received graduate degrees, for a total of 160 graduates.

“The earning of your degree is a remarkable achievement, but the journey of life-long learning and discovery by the renewing of your minds and transforming of your hearts does not end here,” Dr. Blackburn said. “You will commence – you will begin anew – from here to pursue your vocational and spiritual callings for the cause of Christ. As a distinctively Christ-centered University, we are dedicated to producing graduates, who will transform the world by serving and ministering to people with the spirit of Christ in and through them for the glory of God. Our family of faculty, staff, trustees, students, alumni, and you, new graduates, are to be beacons for this generation.”

Reverend James Webb gave the keynote address to the graduates of the Schools of Business, Communication and Performing Arts, Education, and Religion at the morning ceremony. Webb is Senior Pastor at Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church in Marshall and also serves as Secretary for the ETBU Board of Trustees. Webb encouraged and motivated the graduates to pursue greatness.

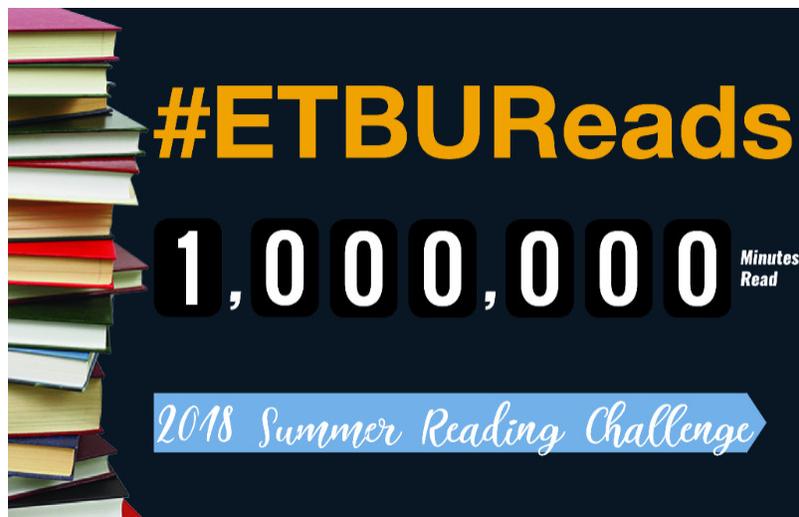
“The true definition of greatness, found in Matthew 23:11, is attainable through servanthood and measured in Christ,” Webb shared. “Anyone can be great because everyone can serve. Regardless of the road you take or the delays, discouragements, and disappointments you face along the way, I challenge you to be great as you navigate through the journey of life.”

At the service, Chair of the Department of Behavioral Science Laurie Smith was recognized for her excellence in service, scholarship, teaching, and integration of faith and learning with the Professor with Distinction Award. Halee Vasquez, a Bachelor of Arts graduate in Speech Communication, received the President’s Award for being the best student representation of a Christian leader, scholar, and servant. Jim Teague ('68), Chief

Executive Officer of Enterprise Products, received an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Humanities for his business leadership and service to God and humanity.

The afternoon ceremony speaker, Dr. Danny Reeves, charged the graduates of the Schools of Humanities, Natural and Social Sciences, Nursing, and Professional Studies to press on through adversity. Dr. Reeves, President of Texas Baptists (Baptist General Convention of Texas) and Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in Corsicana, taught from Numbers 13 with special emphasis on reliance on God's strength.

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ETBU's Mamye Jarrett Library invites you to join the first ever #ETBUReads Summer Reading Challenge as we strive to read 1,000,000 minutes as a Tiger Family. We want everyone, from children to senior adults, reading with us this summer! Each participant who logs at least 1,000 minutes of reading will be entered into our prize drawing at the end of the summer. As a bonus, if we reach our community goal of 1,000,000, Beanstack.org will donate \$1,000 to the ETBU Library!

To Register:

1. Visit <http://etbu.beanstack.org> to sign up.
1. Log your minutes spent reading on the [etbu.beanstack.org](http://etbu.beanstack.org) website or download the app (search "beanstack" in the Google Play or Apple Itunes store) beginning May 14 through August 10.
1. Any books count as reading – fiction, nonfiction, audiobooks, children's books, graphic novels.

Interested in extra chances to win the prize drawing? There are bonus activity challenges and addition reading goals that you can complete. Read books, win prizes, and help your ETBU Library this summer!

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EXPERIENCE LIFE ON THE HILL



## HILLTOP UNIVERSITY

A SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR BOOMERS AND SENIOR ADULTS  
EAST TEXAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY ★ MARSHALL, TEXAS

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 David Hardage, South Main Baptist Church in Pasadena Senior Pastor Ron Lyles, and ETBU Retired Professor of Religion 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](http://www.etbu.edu/sac18). For more information, contact the Office of Advancement at [hilltopu@etbu.edu](mailto:hilltopu@etbu.edu) or 903.923.2068.





## **ETBU Welcomes Emily Roberson as the New Director of Alumni Relations**

East Texas Baptist University is pleased to announce Emily Roberson as the new Director of Alumni Relations. She will spearhead the University's efforts to engage, support, and involve ETBU's alumni across the world. Roberson will officially start on June 4, 2018.

"Alumni relations is a crucial area as we work to remain connected with our former students" said Vice President for Advancement Scott Bryant. "I am thrilled to have Emily join our team as her background in marketing will help us communicate effectively using the various platforms in use today. Our alumni are doing great things and Emily is looking forward to sharing the stories of our alumni with the University family."

At ETBU, Roberson will be responsible for managing alumni communications, planning special events, and interacting with alumni and friends of the University.

Roberson, an East Texas native and the daughter of two ETBU alumni, began her professional career on the Hill as a transfer recruiter before eventually becoming the Director of Marketing.

"I chose to begin my career at ETBU because I believe so deeply in the Christ-centered mission and vision of the institution, and I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to return home to the Hill," Roberson said. "I look forward to connecting with and serving all of our alumni."

Before returning to ETBU, Roberson served as the Communications Director at New Beginnings Baptist Church in Longview. Roberson is a graduate of Baylor University and holds a B.A. in Journalism, Public Relations and New Media, and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Strategic Communication from Texas Tech University.

Assistant Vice President for Advancement Allison Peteet will assume additional administrative leadership responsibilities and will guide the grant writing efforts of the University. For more information about the Office of Alumni Relations, visit [etbu.edu/alumni](http://etbu.edu/alumni).

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## **ETBU fishing team gives back to the community**

Sharing their love of fishing, the East Texas Baptist University bass fishing team recently helped with the annual "Fishing for the Future" event held at Pirkey Power Plant in Hallsville.

This event is hosted by the Harrison County Game Wardens, AEP/SWEPCO, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Texas A&M Forestry.

The event had about 150 special needs students and adults from East Texas school districts and the ARC of Harrison County. ETBU's bass fishing team helped the students bait their hooks and reel in fish.

"We really enjoyed helping with this event and sharing our love of fishing with other people. Our anglers did a great job serving at this event showing how much fun it is to fish. Our program at ETBU is more than just about fishing but making Fishers of Men and today they showed the love of Jesus at this event," said head coach Cameron Burger.

ETBU started their bass fishing program last year and already has qualified anglers for the national tournaments producing two All-Americans.

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## Help us connect with Former 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 Alumni Search](#)

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## Support Christ-Centered Higher Education at ETBU

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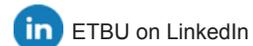
Stay in touch and share your news with your ETBU Family. Send your career accomplishments and family updates to [alumni@etbu.edu](mailto:alumni@etbu.edu) or click [here](#) to update your information.

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**For more information please call:**

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