

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



Tiger Family Rallies Kickoff in Texarkana

Alumni, incoming Tigers, and friends of the University gathered Monday night in Texarkana for our first Tiger Family Rally of the 2019 Summer. Throughout the rest of the summer, we have five more opportunities for ETBU/ETBC alumni to visit with your fellow Tigers. Join us to hear about current activities, and the programs and initiatives of ETBU. Learn more about the future God has planned for the University. Make reservations to be with us for an evening of fellowship and a complimentary dinner with other alumni of East Texas Baptist.

Sunday, June 23 in Tyler at Jalapeno Tree

Monday, June 24 in Houston at Champion Forest Baptist Church - Champions Campus

Catered by Spring Creek BBQ

Tuesday, June 25 in Beaumont at Cafe del Rio

Sunday, June 30 in Dallas at Mi Cocina
Monday, July 1 in Fort Worth at Joe T. Garcia's

All of the Tiger Family Rallies are scheduled from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Call 903.923.2071 to reserve your space or click the button below to register.

Rally Registration





Hilltop University Encourages Senior Adults

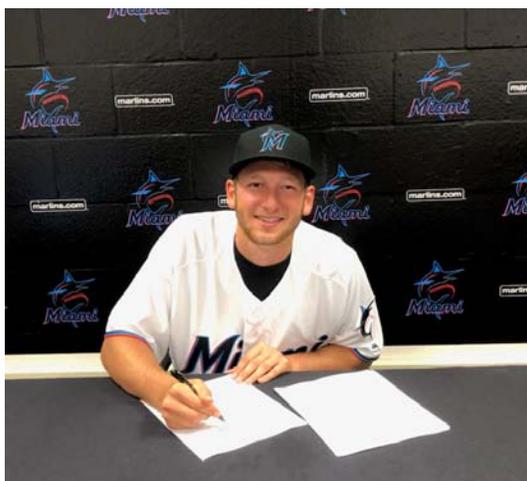
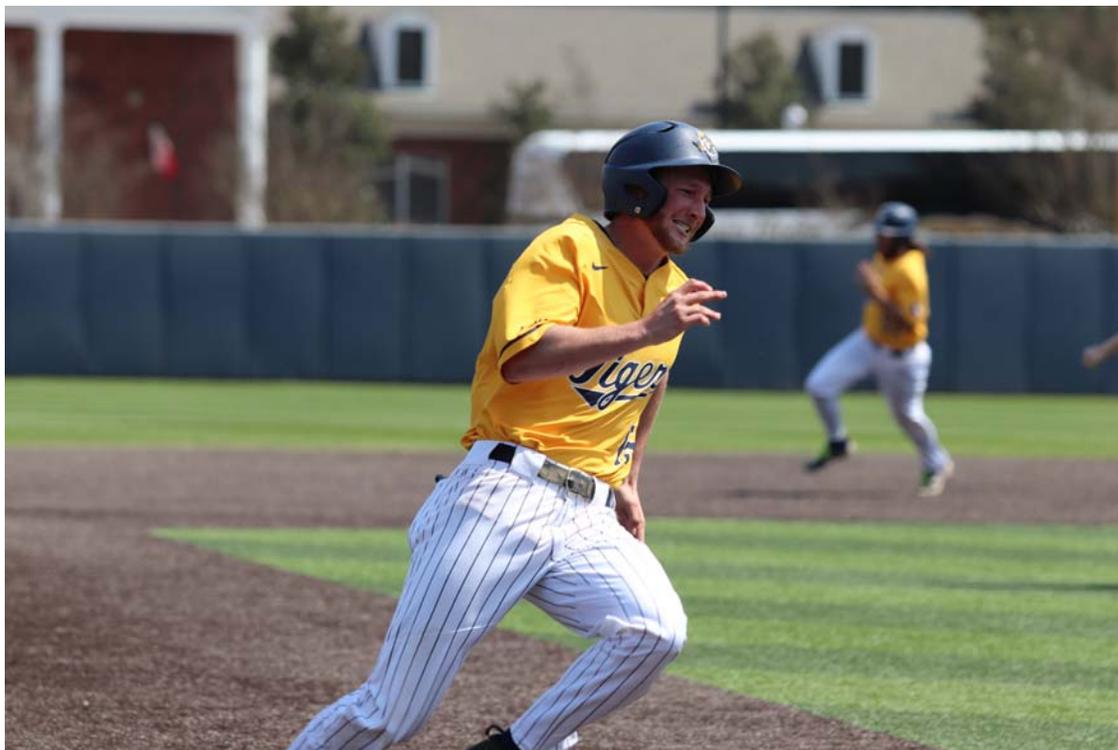
East Texas Baptist University held its annual Hilltop University on Wednesday, May 29 through Friday, May 31. The three-day spiritual retreat offered more than 170 boomers and senior adults the opportunity to experience life as an ETBU student on campus through the study of God's Word, corporate worship, joyful entertainment, and fellowship with friends.

"I am thankful for the faithful generations of graduates and supporters, who have made ETBU what it is today," ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn said. "As you consistently exhibit faithfulness in your families, communities, churches, and careers, we are encouraged to follow your example of glorifying God. We are honored to host such spiritual leaders, whose legacy inspires others to focus on the Lord. I hope you experience the Christ-centered environment and transformational community of ETBU during Hilltop U. I pray your time on the Hill leaves you encouraged and equipped to continue living faithfully to Jesus."

During the conference, LifeWay Christian Resources President Emeritus Jimmy Draper served as the keynote speaker while Dr. John Hatch ('67) taught the Bible study sessions. Dr. Draper was the President and C.E.O. at LifeWay for 15 years and still actively preaches today. Dr. Hatch has served in ministry for over 50 years, and is currently serving as Interim Pastor at New Life Baptist Church in Longview. In their sessions, both speakers urged attendees to rely on the hope and strength of Christ.

From Bible studies and breakout sessions to dessert fellowships and entertainment, the retreat challenged and encouraged participants in their walk with Christ. The Foto Sisters, a classically trained sibling trio, led worship during each session. The conference also featured a concert with Legacy Five, a four-part harmony Southern Gospel quintet. Filled with alumni, former faculty and staff, and friends of the University, Hilltop U reminded the campus community of what it means to be a part of the Tiger Family.

"I began working at ETBU in 1950 and taught here for 37 years. I met my wife on campus and the president at the time, Dr. H.D. Bruce, married us in Earl Bruce Hall. Two of our children graduated from ETBU. The Hill was our home, and I come back every chance I get," Dr. Ben Condray shared. "My wife and I helped start Hilltop University. At one of the first conferences, we were official greeters. I enjoy being on campus, seeing how it has grown and developed. There is a spirit on this campus, a fellowship among the administration, faculty, and students. I still keep up with my students; one of them was at this conference! People love this University."



Casey Combs ('18) Selected in the MLB Draft

For the third time in University history, an East Texas Baptist University Baseball player has been selected in the Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft. Joining the ranks of Tim Brown ('80, New York Mets) and Tyler Bates ('16, Los Angeles Angels), Casey Combs ('18) was picked as #801 in the 27th round by the Miami Marlins. Combs was the fourth NCAA Division III athlete chosen in the draft and only one of nine overall.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for Casey. I am extremely proud of the determination he put towards being the best player, leader, teammate, and man he could be for this team," Tiger Baseball Head Coach Jared Hood shared. "His growth and maturity

on and off the field is a true testament of his character and accomplishments. I am thankful that God placed this young man into my life and used this game so that we could grow together. I am very proud of Casey."

Combs leads ETBU as one of the most decorated players in program history. He was named to two All-American First Teams (D3baseball.com, ABCA), West Region Player of the Year (D3baseball.com, ABCA), American Southwest Conference (ASC) Player of the Year, and the CoSIDA Academic All-American Third Team. Combs also earned a place on the All-ASC First Team and D3baseball.com "Team of the Week" and was awarded the ASC Hitter of the Week twice.



ETBU, Hawaii Baptist Academy Partner to Prepare Christian Servant Leaders

East Texas Baptist University broadened its reach through a Christian Education Partnership Agreement with Hawaii Baptist Academy (HBA). This agreement, signed at the

HBA Stan Sagert High School campus in Honolulu, Hawaii on Thursday, May 30 by ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn and HBA President Ron Shiira, ensures a smooth transition for HBA students to pursue a quality, Christian education at ETBU.

“I am grateful for the presidential leadership of Ron Shiira in developing this Christian education partnership between ETBU and HBA,” Dr. Blackburn said. “With such commitment, HBA students will receive an accessible and affordable pathway to earn a Christ-centered higher education from East Texas Baptist following their college preparatory studies at HBA. Together, our institutions are able to better train and equip students, who will substantially contribute to our communities, humanity, and the Kingdom of God.”

Hawaii Baptist Academy is a private, Christian, college-preparatory school located in Honolulu. Established in 1949 by Southern Baptist missionaries, HBA now has over 1,000 students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12 and more than 100 students make a decision to follow Jesus each year.

A graduate of HBA, President Shiira accepted Christ in high school and learned how to have a growing relationship with Jesus through his HBA teachers. Shiira continues to lead HBA in the pursuit of academic excellence and remains rooted in faith at Hawaii Baptist Academy.

“An education with a biblical foundation is the best gift a child can receive,” Shiira shared. “Through this partnership with ETBU, we are pleased that our students will continue to have their values and world views shaped by Christian educators, which will ultimately impact the next generation of leaders of His Kingdom.”

Given the commonality in the missions of ETBU and HBA to integrate Christ-centered faith with learning in order to produce servant leaders, the institutions agree to develop a seamless matriculation process for HBA students. Eligible graduates will receive priority for admission and scholarships at ETBU.

Dr. Blackburn was led to partner with Hawaii Baptist Academy due to the generosity of alumna Esther Ando ('46). Ando was a Japanese-American student, who arrived on campus in 1942 during the beginning days of World War II. As a student, Ms. Ando was treated with love and respect by the faculty, staff, and her classmates. Her time on the Hill protected her from the hostility faced by many individuals of Japanese descent. In 2015, as an expression of her thanks for the outstanding experience she enjoyed as a student, Ms. Ando established an endowed scholarship that supports ETBU students of Japanese heritage. The love and care Ms. Ando received as a student in the 1940's led to the establishment of the Esther Ando Endowed Scholarship more than 70 years later. If you would like to start an endowed scholarship, please contact Vice President for Advancement Dr. Scott Bryant (sbryant@etbu.edu).



Spotlight on Scholarships: Emily Hicks

A Christ-centered education would not be as accessible and affordable for students at ETBU if it were not for student scholarship support. Due to the generosity of ETBU alumni and donors, students such as junior Child Development major Emily Hicks have the opportunity to learn, grow, and be mentored here on the Hill.

"The majority of my family attended ETBU, and I hoped that one day I could attend the University as well," Emily said. "Scholarships have made that dream a reality. I am grateful for the people, who sacrifice financially to provide a Christ-centered education. Their generosity inspires me to give back when I'm able so other students will one day know what it's like to be a student here on the Hill."

If you are interested in learning how to contribute to student scholarships, please email advancement@etbu.edu.

ETBU in the News

ETBU Honors Legacy of Sam B. Hall, Jr. and Armed Forces

ETBU hosted the 24th annual tribute to Sam B. Hall, Jr. on Monday, May 27 at the historic Harrison County Courthouse Square in downtown Marshall.

[Read more.](#)



History and Business

Students Travel to Vietnam

The East Texas Baptist University Fred Hale School of Business and Department of History and Political Science traveled to Vietnam on Sunday, May 12 through Sunday, June 2. [Read more.](#)



Biology Students Travel to China

The East Texas Baptist University School of Natural and Social Sciences traveled to China as a part of the Global Study and Serve Program from Monday, May 13 through Thursday, May 30. Led by ETBU Department of Biology and Chemistry Chair and Professor of Biology Roy Darville, the class visited Hong Kong, Guangzhou, and Beijing. [Read more.](#)



Students Follow Jesus' Footsteps in Israel

The East Texas Baptist University School of Christian Studies traveled to Israel on Monday, May 13 through Saturday, May 25. Led by ETBU

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Thomas Sanders, the group of 32 students, faculty, and staff walked where Jesus walked. [Read more.](#)



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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 or click [here](#) to update your information.

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