

UPDATES FROM THE HILL
TIGER PRIDE
EAST TEXAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



President Blair Blackburn visiting with alumni & friends at the recent dinner in Austin.

ETBU Alumni & Friends Dinners Across Texas

East Texas Baptist University is hosting Alumni & Friends dinners in various cities this Summer. Participants have the opportunity to meet ETBU President Blair Blackburn, Vice President Scott Bryant, and other ETBU leaders. We have enjoyed a great time visiting with members of the ETBU family in San Antonio, Austin, Arlington, and Dallas and look forward to our upcoming events in Houston next week. Make reservations to join us for a free fajita buffet dinner today.

Monday, July 17 in Houston (North) @ Pappasito's, I-45 & Airtex Dr.
Tuesday, July 18 in Houston (South) @ Pappasito's, I-610 & Kirby Dr.

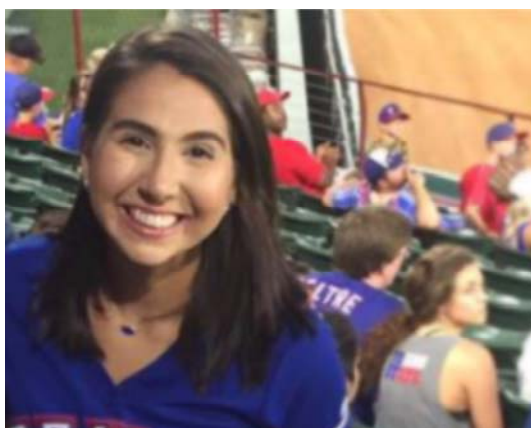
Each dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. For reservations email Minda Purdie at mpurdie@etbu.edu or call Minda at 903.923.2071. We look forward to connecting with Tiger Alumni and friends of ETBU!

ETBU Announces Addition of Acrobatics and Tumbling Team for 2018-2019

East Texas Baptist University recently became the second college in Texas and the 20th college in the nation to offer competitive team acrobatics and tumbling as an athletic program for students. The ETBU Acrobatics and Tumbling Team will consist of 20 to 30 female students who excel in strength, flexibility, balance, and power. Coach Farrah Dunaway has begun recruiting for the team's 2018-2019 inaugural season.

With the addition of the new, competitive sport, the school will become an attractive prospect for female student athletes who want to continue competing in acrobatics and tumbling. "We will be able to draw more female athletes to campus," Dunaway said. "This will allow them to experience a Christ-centered education while competing in collegiate sports."

The idea for the program came from ETBU Director of Athletics Ryan Erwin. "The sport has been gaining a lot of popularity over the past few years, and we are always looking for ways to expand the campus life experience options for our students," Erwin said. "We will host tryouts throughout the fall and spring semesters this school year to prepare for competition in 2018-19."



Student Spotlight

If you go to a Texas Rangers game this summer be on the lookout for ETBU student Halie Smith. Halie is a senior theatre performance major from Forney, and is spending her summer as a Texas Ranger Six Shooter at Globe Life Park. The Texas Rangers Six

Shooters help entertain and inspire the crowd throughout the game. Six Shooters launch t-shirts into the crowd, dance on the dugout during the 7th inning stretch, lead the singing of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," make balloon animals for children, wave flags after home runs, and assist with promotions including the dot race and the steal-a-base promotion.

Halie was one of over 200 applicants for the job and is thrilled to be part of the twenty-person Six Shooter team. "I love being a Six Shooter and being part of the Texas Rangers organization. It is not only a fun to interact with the fans, but we also get to promote volunteer work in the community and assist with charitable events." Halie was fortunate to assist with the Texas Ranger Triple Play event that raised more than \$675,000 dollars for the Texas Rangers Foundation that works to improve the lives of children in need within the community.

What great experience for this Tiger theatre major. Way to go Halie!



The Traveling Tigers will take two trips in 2017. ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn & First Lady Michelle Blackburn will host a trip to Colonial Williamsburg and The Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia, October 4-8. The trip includes visits to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, the home of James and Dolly Madison, and the University of Virginia. To learn more about Colonial Williamsburg go to www.colonialwilliamsburg.com.



November 29-December 3, ETBU First Lady Michelle Blackburn will lead a trip to New York City. This trip includes lodging at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square, tickets to *Waitress* the musical on Broadway, and the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes. It is a fabulous opportunity to see New York City during the Christmas season.



For more information about the Traveling Tigers trips, contact the Office of Advancement at 903.923.2071 or travelingtigers@etbu.edu. Space is limited, so don't delay!

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.

For more information please call:

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