

UPDATES FROM THE HILL
TIGER PRIDE
EAST TEXAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



ETBU University Singers travel to Peru for the Global Study and Serve Program

The East Texas Baptist University Music Department traveled to Peru as a part of the Global Study and Serve Program on Monday, July 2 through Monday, July 9. Led by ETBU Board of Trustees Chair and Wiseman Ministries Development Director Cary Hilliard, Dean of the School of Performing Arts and Communication Tom Webster, and First Baptist Church-Longview Children's Minister Angela Webster, the University Singers performed and ministered at public schools, community centers, and medical facilities.

"The Holy Spirit continuously caused wondrous events to occur and prayers to be answered throughout our trip," Dr. Webster said. "We witnessed the people around us, in such a dry and poor place, come to know the spring of living water that is Jesus Christ."

The ETBU team partnered with Camino de Vida (Way of Life), a multi-site church that has actively served in the capital city of Lima, Peru for the past 29 years. Students joined the church in its active outreach efforts to deliver more than 2,000 bread rolls and 55 gallons of coffee to guards, patients, and their family members at a local hospital. The group also distributed Spanish Bibles and assembled wheelchairs for 40 disabled individuals in need.

"I was moved by the opportunity to serve a man as we fitted him for a wheelchair," Dr. Hilliard commented. "His gratitude was evident as he smiled from ear to ear and continually said, 'Gracias, gloria a Dios!' As I lifted him into his new wheelchair, I could not help but think of the many times God has lifted us as we walk with Him by faith." Dr. Hilliard continued, "During my 28 years of ministry, I have been to Peru many times and have led over 20 mission trips around the world. However, I can tell you that this team made an immediate impact and supported the ongoing leadership better than I have witnessed before. Our ETBU students are rising leaders."

Casa Gracia (Grace House), also a ministry of Camino De Vida, is a shelter for young women, who have been physically and emotionally abused. The ETBU team handed out necklaces with crosses for each of the women as a reminder of Jesus' unconditional and transformational love. ETBU sophomore Haley Harmening shared about the life that Christ provides with the group.

"My joy was renewed during our time in Peru. The Lord knocked down any barriers in the way of His people accepting the message He had for them," Harmening expressed. "It was clear that God was moving, and it was humbling to be a part of. God exceeded my expectations."

ETBU students also volunteered at public elementary schools, an orphanage for special needs children, and a nursing home. At each site, the team shared their testimonies, led worship songs, and taught stories on creation, God's love, and salvation through Christ.

"It was a blessing to see God work both in the lives of children and the elderly alike," ETBU sophomore Hannah Rosser said. "The people of Peru have been receptive of God's

presence and have wanted to learn about Him and praise Him. I pray that the memory of this experience continues to remind them and our team of God's faithfulness."



ETBU Nursing student spends the summer learning from the best at the Mayo Clinic

From the moment she drew her first breath, McKayla Hayes, a senior Nursing student here at ETBU, has undergone six heart surgeries for a congenital birth defect called Pulmonary Valve Stenosis, a condition that's inspired her to work in the medical field.

This summer McKayla is interning at the Mayo Clinic working alongside nurses and doctors as well as performing tasks that are within the scope of practices in the operating room. McKayla said she's gained so much knowledge from watching the surgeries and learning from nurses and doctors.

"With this externship, I am learning from the best," McKayla said. "The Mayo Clinic is the No.1 hospital in the country. They focus on providing the best care to their patients and the patient's family, and that is something I am going to take with me no matter where I am working."

After graduation next May, McKayla plans to work in pediatric nursing.

"Working in pediatrics is more than just working with the children, you are also there for the parents. You will be there to celebrate with the parents and patients, as well be there to comfort the family when they receive not so fortunate news," McKayla said.

To read more about McKayla story, [click here](#).



Get to know Alumnus Chad Reeves

When Chad Reeves ('91) and his wife, Rachael, moved to Longview, they were looking to open a coffee shop. God gave them a snow cone stand instead.

"When Rachael and I moved to East Texas, it was a huge leap of faith," Chad said. "We had a place to live, but neither of us had jobs. We knew we wanted to do something that created community, but we were quickly priced out of traditional brick and mortar options. One night Rachael saw a family selling their snow cone business on Craigslist and our wheels started turning from there."

The couple slightly modified the business and decided to sell handcrafted snow cones with fresh fruit syrups using no dyes or corn syrup out of a vintage Airstream trailer.

The week Shivers was due to open in 2015, Chad and Rachael decided to give away free snow cones for their grand opening. The couple wasn't expecting to serve more than 40 customers.

"The first day we were open I brought a book," Chad said. "It was pouring rain and I thought we would be lucky to have 10 customers. Then, droves of people started showing up with their umbrellas. We ended up serving 400 people and sold out in 2.5 hours. We couldn't believe it."

Shivers now has three locations and roughly 30 employees. Even though it's far from a coffee shop, the Reeves' snow cone stand has become everything they had hoped it would be.

"This place almost has shalom over it," Chad said. "We hear stories all the time of people coming here after losing a parent or needing a respite from whatever they are experiencing. Those are the stories that keep me going when owning a small business feels daunting. I have to remember what God is doing through Shivers."

Chad equates the atmosphere at Shivers to what he experienced during his time at ETBU.

"For me, ETBU felt a lot like how Shivers feels for other people now," Chad said. "ETBU was a haven for me. I was surrounded by people, who believed what I believed, wanted what was best for me, and cared about what was going on in my life. It was an incredibly formative time in my life."

During his time at ETBU, God used the people at ETBU to grow Chad's faith.

"ETBU was a safe place for me to ask hard questions and figure out what I believe," Chad said. "I was allowed to wrestle with God, so when it came time for me to leave I felt confident that I could tackle whatever God called me to."

To learn more about Shivers Natural Snow, [click here](#).





Alumni and incoming Tigers enjoy area rallies

Earlier this month, we had the pleasure of connecting with many alumni, incoming Tigers, and friends of the University at our Tiger Rallies in Tyler, Shreveport, and Lufkin. It was a joy to share the vision of ETBU and see so many new and familiar faces. Be on the lookout for dates and locations of our future Tiger Family Rallies.



The first 30 alumni to visit our booth at the BGCT Annual Meeting in Arlington on Monday, July 30, will receive a free ETBU alumni t-shirt. The exhibit hall opens at 8:00 a.m. We can't wait to see you there!



Tigers Forever | Save the date for Homecoming 2018

Reunions, Fireworks, Late Night Breakfast, Tailgating, and Tiger Football can only mean one thing: Homecoming 2018! Join us October 26-27 here on the Hill and reconnect with your fellow Tiger Alumni. Registration is open, and we are looking forward to seeing you and your family this October.

[Register Now](#)



Help us connect with ETBU or ETBC Tigers

We are looking for our Tiger 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: Project Locate.](#)

Support Christ-Centered Higher Education at ETBU

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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