



# CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

ETBU Operational Plans

**ETBU**

## ETBU's Response to COVID-19

At the present time, ETBU has moved all classes online with the current plan of resuming on campus instruction Monday, April 6. Please pray for our students and faculty as they engage in online instruction. Pray that our Tigers will have the diligence and discipline needed to complete their class assignments and perform well on learning assessments. Pray for the eradication of this virus and for the health and welfare of our ETBU community, our city, state, and nation. **If anyone in the ETBU Family needs assistance or help during this crisis, do not hesitate to contact us at [alumni@etbu.edu](mailto:alumni@etbu.edu). The East Texas Baptist Alumni office will find someone in the ETBU Family to help.**

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## ETBU Teams up with Northeast Texas Habitat For Humanity for Blitz Build

In support of East Texas Baptist University's Neighborhood Renewal Initiative, ETBU partnered with Northeast Texas Habitat for Humanity to execute ETBU's first Blitz Build in Marshall during Spring Break 2020 (March 9 –13). Tiger students, staff, faculty, and University family volunteered their time and labor throughout the week to make a difference in the life of a local family.

"I was thrilled about the opportunity our students, faculty, and staff had to participate in the blessing of a home that God provided for a family in Marshall through this Habitat Blitz Build," Dean of Spiritual Life Scott Stevens said. "I am thankful for those who sacrificed part of their spring break to live out their faith and be the hands and feet of Jesus as they serve our community." [Read more.](#) Watch a timelapse of the project [here.](#)

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## Students Spend Their Spring Break Serving in South Padre

During Spring Break 2020 the ETBU Baptist Student Ministry took 19 students to South Padre Island for a week of evangelism with Texas BSM's annual Beach Reach Ministry ([beachreachspi.org](http://beachreachspi.org)). The primary method of engagement for this week was servanthood evangelism. Our students served spring breakers in the name of Jesus, with the possibility that they might be able to share the gospel with them. The two primary ways students sought to do this was by offering free van rides on the island and free pancakes at various times throughout the day and night.

"At Beach Reach, our ETBU students joined the other 600 Texas BSM students to give 12,264 safe van rides and 3,548 pancake breakfasts," Director of Baptist Student Ministry David Griffin said. "Those points of service afforded us the opportunity to pray with 5,871 individuals and share the gospel with 4,810. Through that, we saw 34 spring breakers recommit their lives to Christ and 70 place their faith in Christ!"

Praise God for His protection of these ETBU Tiger Spring Break missionaries as all are in good health and progressing with online classes.

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## **Get to Know Alumna Carla (Smith) Pyle ('01)**

Every Tuesday, Carla Pyle ('01) spends her morning praying with people in an Indiana courthouse before they attend court for the day. She and a group of volunteers provide Bibles as well as information on local churches and resources for those in need.

"As an attorney, you spend a lot of time in courtrooms," Pyle said. "In 2015, I was able to help bring a chapter of Courtside Ministries to the Lake County, Indiana Courthouse where I primarily practice law."

This is just one example of how Carla Pyle shares the light of Christ through her vocational calling. For over 14 years, Pyle has worked as an attorney at Rubino, Ruman, Crosmer & Polen, LLC in Dyer, Indiana.

"Currently, my practice concentrates on business law, representing business clients on employment matters, contracts, and the ins-and-outs of business operations," Pyle said. "However, my position at the firm has allowed me opportunities to provide legal representation without charge to many of our area churches, ministries, and ministry staff members."

Pyle attributes her time at ETBU for teaching her to seek the truth no matter where it leads

her.

"The education I received at ETBU shaped my worldview in a way that has helped me weather every season of my life," Pyle said. "I had professors that challenged me to dig into why I believed what I believed. In my youth, it had not occurred to me that I could be wrong. Dr. John Harris and Dr. Jerry Summers were both incredibly influential in helping me to really get to the foundation of my beliefs." [Read more.](#)

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## ***The Addams Family* Set Record Attendance During Recent Run**

The East Texas Baptist University School of Communication and Performing Arts' special musical performance of *The Addams Family*, which was staged at the new Memorial City Hall Performance Center in downtown Marshall, boasted a university record attendance of over 1,700 patrons. ETBU students and faculty members in the cast and crew began rehearsing in October to bring the full-fledged musical production to the stage, which included eye-catching scenery, exquisite costumes, and original choreography combined with a spectacular, Tony Award-nominated score. To see more pictures from the musical click [here](#).

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## **ETBU in the News**

**Softball Ends Season as No. 1 Team in the Nation**

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Prior to the cancellation of NCAA competition, the ETBU Tiger Softball team moved to #1 in the latest national poll. This is the first time for the program to be ranked No.1 since winning the national championship in 2010. This also marks the 94th straight week ETBU has been ranked. [Read more.](#)



### **Local Experts Give Knowledge, Advice on Coronavirus Effect in East Texas**

With concerns circling the nation about the coronavirus outbreak, KETK and FOX51 presented a one-hour special program with in-depth information from local experts including ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn. [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](mailto:alumni@etbu.edu) or click [here](#) to update your information.

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