

Annuity Board expands service in Texas with three representatives_92203

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Elkins	Harris	Thompson

Annuity Board expands service in Texas with three representatives

DALLAS-The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has tripled its staff devoted to helping Texas Baptist ministers and other clients of its retirement programs.

Previously, one area director related to the 5,700 congregations and 115 associations within the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Now, three area directors will share the responsibility.

Chris Elkins will work with churches and associations in the Panhandle and West Texas. His major cities include Abilene, Lubbock, Amarillo, El Paso, Brownwood and surrounding associations.

Around the State_92203

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Aaron Epps	Tiffany Epps	David Humphrey	Danyel Humphrey
			
Dennis Janz	Jody Janz	Jeremy Taliaferro	Susan Taliaferro

Around the State

♦ Mathematics professor **Marsha Pool** recently was honored with Dallas Baptist Univeristy's highest honor of Master Teacher. Pool is the first person so designated by the university. Also voted professor of the year in 1991, Pool came to the campus in 1966. She is a member of First Church in Duncanville.

Appointments

Four couples with Texas ties were among the 61 missionaries commissioned by the International Mission Board Sept. 7 at Great Hills Church in Austin:

Ballpark preacher for the Fort Worth Cats_92203

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Ballpark preacher for the Fort Worth Cats

By Ken Camp

Texas Baptist Communications

FORT WORTH-Some might say life threw Jim Hollars a curve ball when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. But the church starter-turned-baseball chaplain just saw it as a change-up and adjusted his swing.

Barna probes why many small churches remain small_92203

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Barna probes why many small churches remain small

VENTURA, Calif.-Small churches are small, and big churches are big for a reason, according to pollster George Barna.

There's more at work than location and population growth, two factors often cited as reasons for church growth.

In addition to those factors, Barna said, certain types of people prefer small churches or large churches, and all size churches play a role in doing God's work.

Statement from Duane Brooks on resigning from Baylor board_92203

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Statement from Duane Brooks on resigning from Baylor board

A little over three years ago, I accepted the nomination of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and was elected to the board of regents at

Baylor University. Some months later, my brother David Brooks was chosen by President Robert Sloan to be Baylor's vice president and CFO. I neither participated in the interview process nor voted on his hiring.

When I first learned of President Sloan's intention to hire my brother, I immediately offered to step down from the board to remove any possibility of a conflict of interest. This offer was studied and considered by the Baylor administration and legal counsel. After the review was completed, I was assured by Baylor that my continued service was both desired and proper.

To safeguard against any potential conflicts of interest, Baylor developed very specific and strict guidelines about my participation in board activities. I have never served on any committee or participated in any board activity which directly related to my brother's work. I have voluntarily left board meetings when his salary or job performance was considered and voted upon. On a number of occasions during my tenure, I have renewed my offer to Baylor to resign as a regent in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety. Each time, I was told that my continued participation as a regent was fully acceptable to Baylor and permitted under the bylaws of the Baylor board of regents.

Brooks leaves Baylor board; internal auditor disputes charges of conflicts _92203

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Brooks leaves Baylor board; internal auditor disputes charges of conflicts

By Mark Wingfield

Managing Editor

WACO-Houston pastor Duane Brooks resigned from the Baylor University board of regents Sept. 18, citing concerns raised in a newspaper article about a potential conflict of interest.

Baylor enrollment drops; some measures improve _92203

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Baylor enrollment drops; some measures improve

By Mark Wingfield

Managing Editor

WACO-Fall enrollment at Baylor University is down, but the university

made gains against some key enrollment goals this year.

Baylor board meets behind closed doors for business_92203

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Baylor board meets behind closed doors for business

By Mark Wingfield

Managing Editor

WACO—At the Sept. 12 news conference where Baylor University regents Chairman Drayton McLane announced the board's strong support for President Robert Sloan, he was flanked by 34 of his fellow regents, many of whom stayed afterward to talk with reporters.

Baylor regents affirm Sloan's leadership 31-4_92203

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Baylor regents affirm Sloan's leadership 31-4

By Mark Wingfield

Managing Editor

WACO—Rather than firing President Robert Sloan as five members of the board of regents and the Faculty Senate had asked, the 36-member board passed a vote affirming Sloan's leadership Sept. 12.

Proposed BGCT budget shows 10 percent cut_92203

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Proposed BGCT budget shows 10 percent cut

By Ken Camp

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS-The Baptist General Convention of Texas Administrative Committee has approved a \$45.8 million operating budget recommendation for 2004, a 10 percent decrease from the 2003 budget.

Baptist Briefs_92203

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Baptist Briefs

 **Annuity Board adds Blue Cross.** The Annuity Board has reached an agreement with Highmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield that will give many participants in the Annuity Board's Preferred Provider Organization medical plans access to Blue Cross & Blue Shield PPO networks across the country. Effective Jan. 1, Annuity Board medical plan participants in many states will have a choice of networks. Current Annuity Board participants received information about the new medical plans and networks in mid-September. For more information, call (800) 262-0511.

✖ **ABP honors Wingfield.** The Associated Baptist Press board of directors presented its inaugural "writer's award" Sept. 11 to Mark Wingfield, managing editor of the Baptist Standard. Greg Warner, ABP's executive editor, praised Wingfield as the "most prolific writer" in the network of contributing reporters to the news service. The award commended Wingfield's "skill, courage and tenacity" that have "distinguished him as a champion in the ministry of Christian journalism and the cause of religious freedom."

✖ **Central Seminary president to retire.** Thomas Clifton, president of Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kan., for the past decade, will retire Dec. 31. Clifton is the ninth president of the 102-year-old theological school, which is affiliated with the American Baptist Churches in the USA and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

Texan volunteers livening up some struggling British churches _92203

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Texan volunteers livening up some struggling British churches

By George Henson

Staff Writer

HOUSTON-Texas Baptists are breathing new life into several struggling British Baptist churches, inspired by the calling a retired layman.