

Around the State

January 20, 2006

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East Texas Baptist University has announced the winners of the 36th annual Era Miller Writing Contest.

Pictured are (front row, left to right) Daniel Amy, first place, prose; Jennifer Vik, third place, prose; Michael Shewmaker, first place, poetry; (second row, left to right) Daniel Ford, third place, poetry; Christine Mancuso, second place, poetry; faculty sponsor Sarah Watson; and Blake Harris, second place, prose. The contest is sponsored by the school's English honor society.

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✘ **Mark Hayes** will present a concert at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor at 11 a.m. Jan. 25. Hayes will lead a class on improvisation, arranging and composing from 8:15 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

✘ The Texas Historical Commission has placed a Texas historical marker on the Luther Memorial at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. The arches that make up the Luther Memorial mark the former site of Luther Hall, the university's first building, constructed in 1886 and destroyed by fire in 1929. A dedication ceremony for the historical marker will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 1.

✘ The Center for Cultural and Language Studies at Baptist University of the Americas will host the spring session of Spanish language and culture immersion classes Feb. 6-10. Classes balance classroom instruction and conversational interaction with BUA students from Latin America. Field trips and worship in a Spanish prayer service with an area congregation also are part of the program. Cost is \$250 for the week, which includes all expenses except housing. Texas Baptists are eligible for a \$100 scholarship provided through the Mary Hill Davis Offering. For more information, call (800) 721-1396.

✘ Iglesia Cristiana in McKinney, Primera Iglesia in Plano, Collin Association and other partners are presenting "Survey of Immigration Laws for Ministry" Feb. 27-28 at the Southfork Hotel in Plano. A fee of \$275 covers the conference, materials, lodging for one night and meals. The training will include "Immigration Ministry in our Hispanic Churches," "The Importance of Interviewing," "Family and Religious Visas" and other topics. The seminars will be conducted in English. Registration must be

made by Jan. 28. For more information, call (469) 450-5251.

✘ Baylor University senior **Jamie Gianoutsos** has been selected a 2006 Marshall Scholar, one of 42 university students in America to receive the award. The scholarships were established in 1953 as Britain's expression of thanks to the United States for Marshall Aid following World War II. The scholarship will allow Gianoutsos to fund her studies for two or three years at a British university. She plans to study at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

✘ The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor awarded 170 baccalaureate degrees and 19 master's degrees to students at its December commencement. **Faith Syphrett** of Pasadena was recognized for having the highest grade-point average, **Kacy Chandler** of Lipan received the Loyalty Cup as the student most representative of the ideals, tradition and spirit of the university, and **Jonathan Ray** of Round Rock received the President's Award for meritorious service.

✘ Dallas Baptist University awarded degrees to 254 undergraduate students and 143 graduate students during its winter commencement ceremony. In addition, **Charles Ku** was presented an honorary doctor of humanities degree, and **C.H. Murphy Jr.** was presented an honorary doctor of divinity degree.

✘ The Baptist General Convention of Texas church library convention will be held March 9-11 at Tallowood Church in Houston. Jean and Robert Flynn, both published authors, will be the featured speakers. Topics to be covered include archival restoration, preservation and conservation methods; book repair; and classification and cataloging. Registration prior to Feb 10 is \$55. For more information, call (972) 331-2235.

✘ **Eric Farmer** of Rowlett has been named by the Missouri Baptist

Foundation to its Academy of Junior Achievement for his service on several mission trips. The Missouri Baptist University senior is a member of Trinity Life Church in Garland.

☒ **Jeff Smith** has been named vice president and general counsel by the Baptist Foundation of Texas. He previously served the foundation as trust counsel.

☒ Two Texas couples have been commissioned as missionaries by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. **Jason and Cheryl Dietz** will serve in western Europe as church starters. He previously served as a North American Mission Board summer missionary in Reno, Nev., youth minister at Olsen Park Church in Amarillo, minister of youth and education at North Irving Church in Irving and as minister of youth and education at First Church in Sweetwater. They have four children—**Jonah**, 7; **Ashlyn**, 5; **Caedon**, 3; and **Logan**, 11 months. **Rod and Kendra Lindsey** also will serve in western Europe as church starters. He has been minister of music and education at First Church in LaMarque since 1995. They have four children—**Samuel**, 9; **Ellison**, 7; **Magness**, 2; and **Marin**, eight months.

☒ **Ronald Womack** has been named executive director of the National Association of Church Design Builders. He previously was director of facilities at First Church in Dallas and director of property operations at Prestonwood Church in Plano. He also served three churches as pastor during a 14-year period.

Anniversaries

☒ **Benito Hinojosa**, 30th, as pastor of Iglesia Alfa y Omega in Plainview, Dec. 4.

- ❑ **Travis Hart**, 20th, as pastor of First Church in Plainview, Jan. 8.
- ❑ **Sam Underwood**, 15th, as pastor of First Church in Farmers Branch, Jan. 8.
- ❑ **Danny Wendt**, fifth, as pastor of First Church in Hempstead, Jan. 28.
- ❑ Trinity Church in Muleshoe, 50th, Jan. 29. A noon meal will be provided. Guest speakers will include **Gene Meacham**, Caprock Plains Area director of missions; **Chris Liebrum**, special assistant to the executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and former pastors **Robert Brown** and **Dale Berry**. Former music director **Marvin Lewis** and former pianist **Maudie Mudford** will lead worship. Lunch reservations are requested. Call (806) 272-3301. **Bennie Wright** is pastor.
- ❑ **Bill Laughlin**, 25th, as minister of music at First Church in Goldthwaite, Jan. 29.
- ❑ **Joe Srygley**, 30th, as pastor of First Church in Atlanta, Feb. 19. A reception will be held at 6 p.m.
- ❑ Parkview Church in Arlington, 50th, Feb. 26. **Benjamin Cole** is pastor.
- ❑ The Heights Church in Richardson, 50th, March 5. Former pastors **Charles Vanderslice**, **Earl Craig** and **Phil Lineberger** will participate in the morning service. **The Martins** will sing in concert at 6 p.m. For more information, call (972) 238-7243. **Gary Singleton** is pastor.

Retiring

- ❑ **Robert Helsley**, as pastor of First Church in Electra, Jan. 27. He has

served the church two and a half years, and has been in ministry 38 years. Other churches he has served include First Church in Blanket, Addison Church in Addison, First Church in Anna, First Church in Wheeler and Waller Street Church in McKinney.

☒ **Merle Hilbrich**, as music associate and organist at Trinity Church in San Antonio, after 23 years of service to the church. She has been active in church music ministry 60 years. Other churches she served include First Church in Refugio, First Church in Alpine, Bethany Church in Dallas, Calvary Church in McAllen, and First Church and Parkdale Church in Corpus Christi.

Deaths

☒ **Brittanie Brown**, 19, Dec. 12 in an automobile accident east of College Station. A freshman at Sam Houston State University, she was returning to school after a weekend home. She was active in Baptist Student Ministries and would have gone on a mission trip to Asia with Go Now Missions over Christmas break. She was a member of First Church in Elgin. She is survived by her parents, Rodney and Robyn Brown; sister, Destiny; and brother, Colton.

☒ **Bob McConnell**, 75, Dec. 27 in McKinney. He served churches in Texas, Tennessee and Louisiana 52 years in music ministry. Following retirement, he was a member of Cotton-wood Creek Church in Allen. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Wanda; son, Robin; sisters, Betty Barrett, Neva Groves and Janis Hodges; and brother, Alton.

☒ **Harry Babbitt**, 54, Jan. 2 in Amarillo. He was pastoral care leader at Paramount Church in Amarillo at the time of his death. He previously served as minister of education at Ash Creek Church in Azle, and he was pastor at Norman-dale Church in White Settlement and South Georgia

Church in Amarillo. He also taught theology at Amarillo College two years and served on the executive board of the Amarillo Area Association. He was preceded in death by his brother, Jerry. He is survived by his wife, Sheliah; sons, Aaron, Trevor and Jarrod; parents Clifford and Thelma Babbitt; and brothers, Garry and Kerry.

✘ **Trevelyn Ray**, 68, Jan. 10 in Houston. She was the wife of Gerald Ray and served with him 25 years as minister of music and assistant. They served Sagamore Hill Church in Fort Worth 16 years. She is survived by her husband; daughters, Kerry Ray and Kristy Parrott; and three grandchildren.

Events

✘ First Church in Ladonia will hold a stew supper and silent auction as fundraiser from 5 p.m to 9 p.m. Feb. 4. The event is to aid a family in the church whose home burned on Jan. 13. For more information, call (903) 918-7358 or (903) 367-7242.

✘ Taylor's Valley Church in Temple will host a grief ministry seminar Feb. 4 from 7:30 a.m. until noon. The seminar, also sponsored by Bell Association and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, will feature **Paul Powell**, who will discuss how to respond to a death call and how to approach the funeral message. **Davis Harper**, an experienced funeral director, will help pastors see the funeral director's side of the partnership. **Rodney Kruse**, a hospice chaplain, will explain the grief cycle and what mourners need from ministers, churches and friends. For more information, call (254) 939-0503. **Jeff Loudin** is pastor.

✘ The women's ministry of First Church in Center will hold its annual Joy Seekers Conference Feb. 24-25. Speakers will be **Pam McCune** and **Kim Wier**. **Grateful Heart** will lead the praise time. The conference fee is \$20

if registered by Feb. 15. For more information, call (936) 598-5605.

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.