

Texas Tidbits

December 14, 2006

Posted: 12/01/06

Texas Tidbits

Academy receives donated computer system. San Marcos entrepreneur Pat Price donated a new computer system to [San Marcos Baptist Academy](#) recently. Price, an academy alumnus, serves on the school's fund-raising council. The computer and 17-inch, flat-screen monitor will replace an older system and will be used primarily for video editing purposes.

BUA names search committee. Teo Cisneros, pastor of Templo Jerusalem in Victoria, will chair a presidential search committee for [Baptist University of the Americas](#). BUA trustees named a search committee to nominate an interim president and initiate a nationwide search for a successor to [Albert Reyes](#), who has been named president of Buckner Children & Family Service. Search committee members who will serve with Cisneros are Debbie Ferrier of San Antonio, Francis Barrera of Plainview, John Bobo of Hurst and Doug Diehl of San Antonio. The board also named a council of advisers that includes Baldemar Borrego, president of the Hispanic Baptist Convención; Frank Palos, interim director of Hispanic ministries with the Baptist General Convention of Texas; Robert Rodriguez, BGCT second vice president; Alcides Guajardo, immediate past-president of Convención; Robert Cepeda, chairman of the BGCT Executive Board's missions, evangelism and ministries committee; Alfonso Flores of San Antonio; Keith Bruce, director of BGCT institutional ministries; Irma Alvarado, president of Hispanic Woman's Missionary Union; Rudy

Camacho, a former president of Convención; and Delia Vela, president of the Convención Minister's Wives Conference.

Storylist for 12/04/06 issue

December 14, 2006

Storylist for week of 12/04/06

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- [Wade to release Valley probe to law-enforcement officials](#)
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- [Lutherans offer belated apology to Anabaptists](#)
- [MySpace lets youth ministers peek into teenagers' lives](#)

- [NBC puts seasoning back in Veggies](#)
- [Pro-lifers blast Warren for inviting Obama](#)
- [Fisherman finds letters sent to God](#)
- [Studies shed light on religion's role in American life](#)
- [Poverty trumps hot-button issues with most voters](#)
- [Star Wars Force followers claim more Jedi than Jews in Great Britain](#)



• [Reviewed in this issue:](#) *When a Congregation is Betrayed: Responding to Clergy Misconduct* by Beth Ann Gaede, *The Embrace of a Father* by Wayne Holmes and *The Tender Scar: Life After the Death of a Spouse* by Richard L. Mabry.



- [Classified Ads](#)
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- [EDITORIAL: Wanted: More compelling Christians](#)
- [DOWN HOME: No place like 'home'](#)
- [TOGETHER: From Thanksgiving on to Christmas](#)
- [2nd Opinion: Time to implement year-end tax tips](#)

- [RIGHT or WRONG? Forgiveness vs accountability](#)
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- [BaptistWay Bible Series for December 3: John reminds of Christ's eternal nature](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for December 3: Live out the gift of faith you have been given](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for December 3: Seize the opportunities God provides](#)
- [BaptistWay Bible Series for December 10: Have a little talk with Jesus](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for December 10: Christian hope extends beyond here and now](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for December 10: God offers ways to overcome obstacles](#)

Previously Posted

- [UMHB students challenged to see missions up close](#)
- [Steppin' Out involves Baylor volunteers in service](#)
- [Boomers, Busters see sex differently](#)
- [Church opens its doors to students after school](#)
- [Romanian child-development center fits couple well](#)
- [Wade still has support despite anger, sadness at scandal](#)

- [Court hears arguments on partial-birth abortion ban cases](#)
- [Arkansas OKs bingo despite Baptist opposition](#)
- [Fire destroys encampment auditorium](#)

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Book cancellation shows Baylor troubles not over

December 14, 2006

Updated: 12/15/06

Book cancellation shows Baylor troubles not over

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

WACO—Baylor University reversed plans to publish a book about its recent history—a work critics called a defense of the school's previous administration and defenders called a valuable interpretive analysis of issues facing Christian higher education.

The announcement came one week after former Baylor President [Herb](#)

[Reynolds](#) sent a sharply critical e-mail to the volume's editors, but university officials insisted their concerns predated that decision by at least five months.

	
Schmeltekopf	Hankins

Love given, received at Cornerstone outreach

December 14, 2006

Updated: 12/15/06

Love given, received at Cornerstone outreach

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—The gift of love is lighting up the lives of two Carrollton volunteers, but their gift of time has blessed dozens of other people.

Deidra Stribling and Carl Wafer, who are engaged to be married, volunteer with community outreach programs at [Cornerstone Baptist Church](#), an inner-city Dallas congregation—programs from which they benefited just one year ago.

Carl Wafer
and Deidra
Stribling met
last
Thanksgiving
at a
community
outreach
meal for
needy people
sponsored by
Cornerstone
Baptist
Church in
Dallas. This
year the
couple—who
are engaged
to be
married and
attending
church
regularly
—worked as
volunteers at
the event.

Baylor prof says Schaeffer remained a fundamentalist

December 14, 2006

Updated: 12/15/06

Baylor prof says evangelical godfather Schaefer returned to fundamentalism

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Many evangelical scholars agree [Francis Schaeffer](#) was the single greatest force that propelled evangelicals into political action—ultimately putting George W. Bush in the White House. But some question whether he rightly is described as a fundamentalist.

While some scholars think Schaeffer, the popular author and theologian who helped a generation of evangelicals move toward the public square, left fundamentalism behind during his lifetime, Baylor University professor [Barry Hankins](#) is reticent to concede that point.

Pieces coming together for McAllen church

December 14, 2006

Updated: 12/15/06

Pieces coming together for McAllen church

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

MCALLEN—Pastor Thomas Whitehouse views life like a jigsaw puzzle.

“Individually, (the pieces) may be all jaggedy, but together they are beautiful,” he said.

Bone marrow donation provides the gift of life

December 14, 2006

Updated: 12/15/06

Bone marrow donor Jennifer Hammons teaches a class at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.
(UMHB Photo)

Bone marrow donation provides the gift of life

By Jennifer Sicking

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

BELTON—One person's whim became another family's answer to prayer when Jennifer Hammons gave a little of herself to an unknown girl an ocean away.

Hammons, a University of Mary Hardin-Baylor graduate and adjunct teacher, became a bone marrow donor.

Wreaths help single mothers

turn their cottages into homes

December 14, 2006

Updated: 12/15/06

A Family
Care
resident
shows off
her
wreath
during
the Texas
Baptist
Children's
Home
annual
wreath
party..

Wreaths help single mothers turn their cottages into homes

By Miranda Bradley

Children at Heart Foundation

ROUND ROCK—For single mothers in [Texas Baptist Children's Home](#) Family Care program, a Christmas wreath represents more than a seasonal decoration. It's a vehicle to help them reclaim their identities.

For the past nine years, the Family Care program has provided an opportunity for single mothers to express their creativity. During its annual wreath-making party, the program provides dinner, childcare and a variety of bows, ornaments, trinkets and baubles to adorn each evergreen ornament.

Federal authorities receive Valley report

December 14, 2006

Updated: 12/15/06

Federal authorities receive Valley report

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Director Charles Wade has turned over to federal authorities the full report—including supporting evidence—compiled by a team that investigated misappropriated church starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley.

Wade notified members of the BGCT Executive Board by e-mail Dec. 11.

• [See complete list of Valley funds scandal articles](#)

Around the State

December 14, 2006

Posted: 12/15/06

Around the State

- Registration for spring classes at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor will be held Jan. 8 and 9. Classes begin Jan. 10. Registration time is based on students' last names. For more information, call (254) 295-4510.
- The B.H. Carroll Theological Institute will hold its winter colloquy Jan. 15-16 at First Church in Arlington. The theme will be "The Moral Maze." David Cook of Wheaton College will be the keynote speaker. For more information, call (817) 274-4284.
- A statewide senior adult camp will be held April 23-26 at Alto Frio Encampment in Leakey. Paul Powell will be the preacher, D.L. Lowrie will lead the Bible study, and Dale Durham and Ginger McKay will lead the music. Call (830) 232-5271 to make reservations or to receive more information.

East Texas Baptist University recently unveiled the “Scarborough/Linebery Cross.” The cross from the original Scarborough Chapel spire now is incorporated into a memorial to the late Evelyn Scarborough Linebery, a longtime benefactor of the school who died in 2001.

- Students from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Hardin-Simmons University and Howard Payne University competed with students from 18 universities in an ethics match held in Dallas. Four students from UMHB—Lauren Graber, Danny Jeanes, Elaine Lipscomb and Ray Wilson—won first place in their division. The HSU squad—Samuel Argumaniz, Robert Hatcher and Sarah Osborn—earned a fourth place standing. The HPU students—Amanda Whisler, Shanna McCalum, Ronald Duvall and Brett Campbell—ranked in the top half of the schools competing. The competition consisted of five rounds in which two teams met before a moderator and three judges—all of whom are business leaders. The questions in the final round were about a CEO who lied on his resume about college degrees and outsourcing business and closing U.S. facilities because of rising costs. Students from UMHB received the first place trophy and a \$1,000 grant to continue discussions of ethics with business leaders in their local community. Members of the HSU team

received a \$500 grant.

Anniversaries

Baptist Briefs

December 14, 2006

Posted: 12/15/06

Baptist Briefs

Arizona Baptists take steps to split gifts 50/50 with SBC. Messengers to the [Arizona Southern Baptist Convention](#)'s Nov. 14-15 annual meeting unanimously adopted a missions funding growth plan to increase the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts forwarded to the SBC for national and international missions and ministries. The eventual goal is to divide undesignated Cooperative Program mission gifts 50/50 with SBC causes. Currently, 75 percent of the undesignated receipts are used in Arizona and 25 percent forwarded to the SBC. Arizona messengers adopted a \$3.4 million Cooperative Program budget and a \$3.8 million state convention operating budget for 2007. Next year's Cooperative Program budget is a 1.8 percent increase over the present budget, and the operating budget is down from \$4 million.

BWA mission advancement director named. Alan Stanford, [Baptist World Alliance](#) regional secretary for North America, has been appointed

BWA director of mission advancement. He succeeds Ron Harris, who now works as a consultant with BWA. Stanford is pastor of First Baptist Church Clarendon in Arlington, Va., and previously served the BWA as director of promotion and development.

2nd Opinion: Getting lost in Christmas

December 14, 2006

Posted: 12/15/06

2nd Opinion: Getting lost in Christmas

By BO Baker

Most of you know Christmas is my favorite time of the year. Of course, I know that scores and scores of you find the season harsh, upsetting, stressed and tear-stained, making it easy to get lost in Christmas.

Consider the truly poor who tuck their pride away long enough to accept a basket of Christmas love so their wide-eyed children can have a taste of what most of us have as normal daily fare. O yes, one can get lost in Christmas!

Face those who carry grownup grief into Christmas morning or watch with

eyes of compassion as more and more of our young soldiers darken by their deaths the hearts of their parents, marriage partners and their little children—children too young to understand why those around them are crying, wondering who and what is in that flag-draped case. Indeed, one can get lost in Christmas!