

Around the State: ETBU recognizes Laurie Smith; Werlin Lecture slated at Baylor

June 20, 2018

East Texas Baptist University named **Laurie Smith** the university's 2018 Professor with Distinction. The award recognizes professors for excellence in service, scholarship, teaching, and integration of faith and learning. Smith, professor of sociology, received a \$1,500 honorarium to be used for professional development and personal enrichment. In 1994, Smith initiated a course on "Death and Dying." Seven years later, after her son, Andrew, died of SIDS, it became a platform for Smith to talk about how her faith sustained her through her grief. "I openly talk about how the experience affected me and my family, and emphasize how the Lord guided me through the dark and difficult period after Andrew's death," Smith said. "I'm doing what God designed for me to do. It is not a job. It is a joy." Smith has worked at ETBU 27 years and is interim dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences, as well as chair of the ETBU Department of Behavioral Science. She is a member of First Baptist Church in Hallsville.

Award-winning author **Donna M. Johnson** will present the 2018 Werlin Lecture at Baylor University. She will discuss her 2011 memoir, *Holy Ghost Girl*, which explored her childhood experiences on the "sawdust trail" with Brother David Terrell, a big-tent preacher during the 1960s and 1970s. Her presentation will be at 2 p.m. June 22 in Room 100 of the Castellaw Communications Center. The Werlin Lecture is free and open to the public as part of the 2018 Press Women of Texas Conference.

Larry Locke, associate dean of the McLane College of Business at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, has been accepted into the Fulbright

Specialist Roster. This group of educators and professionals from the United States engage in exchanges with host institutions around the world. Locke served at LCC International University in Lithuania, working with the university to develop a new International Business Law curriculum. Locke holds degrees from Harvard Law School, Harvard Business School and Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. He has been teaching at UMHB since 2010.

Dallas Baptist University named **Barbara Hudson** Staff Member of the Year. Hudson celebrated 20 years of service in the DBU financial aid office.

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor announced its new residence hall for freshmen will be named Lord Hall, in honor of **Griff and Kathy Lord, Michael and Sharon Lord Daggett**, and their families. Sharon Lord Daggett established the Ida Myrtle Roberts Manning Endowed Scholarship in 1996 in memory of her grandmother. The Lord and Daggett families have made frequent personal gifts to UMHB through the years, along with grants from a family foundation. The 46,000-square-foot Lord Hall is under construction on the north side of the campus. The three-story facility will offer dormitory-style housing for up to 214 students. Plans call for Lord Hall to be completed this summer and ready for use when the fall semester begins in August.

Retirement

Robert Prothro after 11 years as pastor at Port Caddo Baptist Church in Marshall and 42 years in full-time pastoral ministry. He is available for supply. Contact (903) 926-2955.