

Around the State: Buckner secures North Houston property for campus

February 7, 2024

Buckner Children and Family Services completed the purchase of a \$5.2 million property in North Houston. Relocation of the Buckner Family Hope Center at Aldine to the new campus is planned for late summer or fall of 2024. The new location provides spacious, updated facilities for Family Hope Center programs, having outgrown the property where it has resided nearly 30 years. The 6.88-acre site in North Houston includes 37,000 square feet of classroom space, a gymnasium, and undeveloped land providing space for additional facilities and programs. It is situated within the Aldine Independent School District, near the border with the Houston Independent School District.



Jodi Grimes

The Dallas Baptist University faculty council selected **Jodi Grimes** as the 2023 Piper Outstanding Professor. In addition to teaching undergraduate courses in literature, composition and rhetoric, Grimes serves as chair of the [English department](#) and as a co-sponsor for the DBU chapter of Sigma

Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. “The study of language and literature is significant,” Grimes said. “God speaks the world into existence in Genesis 1, and John 1:14 tells us that God incarnate, Jesus, is the Word. As an orator and storyteller, through his sermons and parables, Jesus himself was involved in linguistic and literary creation.” Grimes holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Arlington and a Master of Arts degree and Ph.D. from the University of North Texas. She and her husband, Phillip, have two sons, Andrew and Wesley.



“All Things New” was the theme of the recent Spiritual Renewal 2024 event at East Texas Baptist University. (ETBU Photo)

“All Things New” was the theme of the recent Spiritual Renewal 2024 event at East Texas Baptist University. **Lance Shumake**, teaching pastor at Crosspoint Community Church in Rockwall, was the featured speaker. **David Berryhill**, music minister at First Baptist Church in Kilgore, led worship alongside ETBU’s student worship band.

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor is hosting special events on campus this month in celebration of Black History Month. “Deadly Sins,” a play by UMHB professor **Kerry-Ann Zamore**, will be performed at 7 p.m. on Feb. 9 and at 3 p.m. on Feb. 10. Prior to the matinée performance, UMHB’s Kingdom Diversity Office will host a panel discussion with the actors and playwright beginning at 1 p.m. The Kingdom Diversity Office also will host

a musical celebration, "The Evolution of Black Music in America," on Feb. 29 at 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"Traditions Ignite" is the theme for Wayland Baptist University's 2024 Homecoming celebration. Alumnus **Jeremy Bryant**, the voice of Angelo State University athletics for 19 years and six-time recipient of the Lone Star Conference Broadcaster of the Year award, will be featured speaker in the homecoming chapel at 11 a.m. Feb. 9 in Harral Auditorium. During the chapel service, honor classes will be recognized, and the homecoming king and queen candidate will be introduced. A ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the opening of the Mabee Laboratory Science Building is scheduled at 1 p.m. on Feb. 9. For more information on other events, including the Legacy League Luncheon, the Blue and Gold Banquet, class reunions and several athletic competitions, [click here](#).

A significant gift from a private donor will enable Houston Christian University to provide full tuition for new qualifying freshmen and transfer students pursuing STEM-related degrees beginning in the fall 2024 semester. The donor will provide funding through the [Grace Hopper Scholarship](#) to support students preparing for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. "We are deeply grateful for the support of this generous donor in supporting the Grace Hopper Scholarships at HCU. These generous awards for qualified engineering students will open up new career opportunities for young people who would otherwise be unable to enter these exciting fields," HCU President Robert Sloan said. "This financial support will dramatically increase the number of students we are able to enroll in engineering at HCU and will benefit greatly not only the students and their families for years to come, but also the City of Houston and the workforce needs we have in this great city." For more information about the scholarship and who is qualified to receive it, [click here](#).