

Around the State: U.S. News recognizes Texas Baptist schools; ETBU students pray during See You at the Pole

October 4, 2016

U.S. News & World Report ranked several Texas Baptist universities in their annual listing of best schools. Among national universities, Baylor University ranked No. 71 and Dallas Baptist University ranked No. 214. In the regional universities category, western division, Hardin-Simmons University ranked No. 33, the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor ranked No. 52 and Houston Baptist University ranked No. 76. In the regional colleges category, western division, Howard Payne University ranked No. 7 and East Texas Baptist University ranked No. 10. The magazine also highlighted several of the universities in specific categories, such as “best value” and “best for veterans.”

The American College of Surgeons will present the ACS/Pfizer Surgical Humanitarian Award to **Rebekah Naylor** of Fort Worth, who served 35 years as a Southern Baptist medical missionary. Naylor will receive the award at an Oct. 18 ceremony in Washington, D.C., during the ACS Clinical Congress 2016. The organization specifically noted her work in improving and expanding Bangalore Baptist Hospital in Karnataka, India. After returning to the United States from India, she led in founding Mercy Clinic, a free clinic for the underserved and uninsured population in south Fort Worth.

About 100 East Texas Baptist University students gathered outdoors to pray for each other, their families, their community, the nation and the

world at 7 a.m. Sept. 28 as a part of See You at the Pole. The international student-led prayer initiative started more than 25 years ago with 10 students who met to pray for their school in Burleson. In recent years, millions across the world have prayed on school and college campuses on the fourth Wednesday of September.

- ☒ Laura Brandenburg Wayland Baptist University named **Laura Brandenburg** dean of the School of Languages and Literature, filling the post vacated by **Cindy McClenagan**, Wayland's new vice president of academic affairs. Brandenburg has taught in Wayland's School of Languages and Literature six years. She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Angelo State University. She holds two degrees from Texas Tech University—a master of arts degree in English and a Ph.D. in technical communication.
- ☒ William Bates The Howard Payne University Alumni Choir will perform the premiere of alumnus **William Bates'** setting of "O Sing to the Lord a New Song" in a concert at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 29 in HPU's Grace Chapel. Bates, a professor of organ and music history whose teaching career spans 46 years, composed the piece in honor of the Howard Payne music faculty of the class of 1966. The concert also will feature the HPU Concert Choir under the direction of **Christopher Rosborough**. Choir alumni who wish to participate should gather for rehearsal from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. For more information about the alumni choir, click [here](#).
- ☒ **Marzena Marroquin** **Marzena Marroquin**, a sophomore business administration major from New Braunfels, received the J. Mart Findlater Scholarship from the Howard Payne University New Braunfels Center—the first scholarship presented by HPU in New Braunfels.

Anniversaries

Falls Baptist Association celebrated its 125th anniversary at its annual

meeting, Oct. 2, at First Baptist Church in Marlin. **Alan LeFever**, director of the Texas Baptist Historical Collection, was the guest speaker.

Retirement

Colorado Baptist Association will honor **Anthony “Casey” DuBose** and his wife, Rae Jean, at a retirement reception from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Nov. 6, at College Heights Baptist Church in Wharton. DuBose will retire Dec. 31 after 10 years as director of missions/executive director of the association.