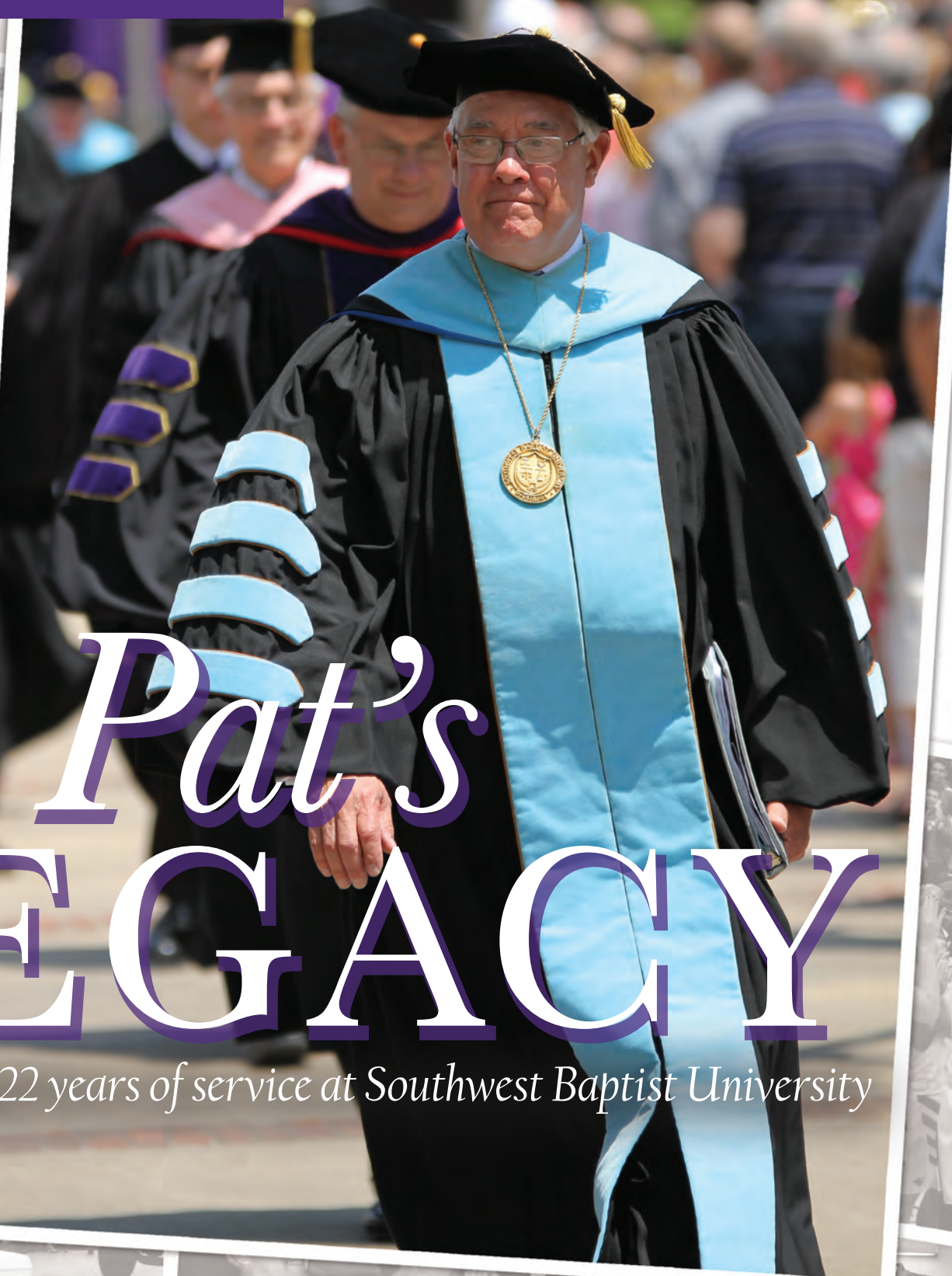


SUMMER 2018

SBUlife

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



C. Pat's LEGACY

Remembering 22 years of service at Southwest Baptist University



SBUlife

ALUMNI MAGAZINE
SUMMER 2018

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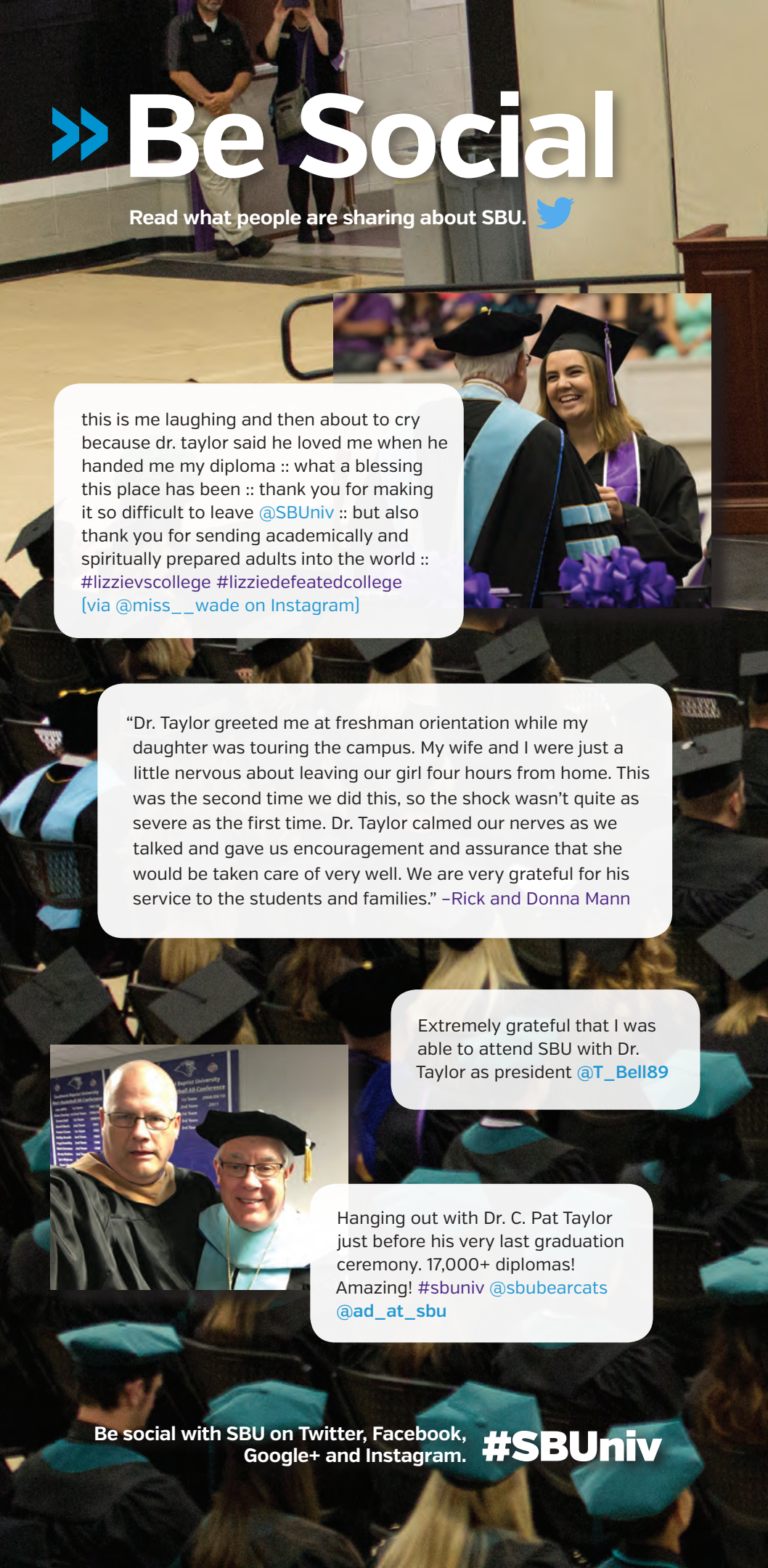
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» Be Social

Read what people are sharing about SBU. 



this is me laughing and then about to cry because dr. taylor said he loved me when he handed me my diploma :: what a blessing this place has been :: thank you for making it so difficult to leave @SBUuniv :: but also thank you for sending academically and spiritually prepared adults into the world :: #lizzievscollege #lizziedefeatedcollege [via @miss__wade on Instagram]

"Dr. Taylor greeted me at freshman orientation while my daughter was touring the campus. My wife and I were just a little nervous about leaving our girl four hours from home. This was the second time we did this, so the shock wasn't quite as severe as the first time. Dr. Taylor calmed our nerves as we talked and gave us encouragement and assurance that she would be taken care of very well. We are very grateful for his service to the students and families." -Rick and Donna Mann

Extremely grateful that I was able to attend SBU with Dr. Taylor as president @T_Bell89



Hanging out with Dr. C. Pat Taylor just before his very last graduation ceremony. 17,000+ diplomas! Amazing! #sbuniv @sbubearcats @ad_at_sbu

Be social with SBU on Twitter, Facebook, Google+ and Instagram. **#SBUuniv**

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“Thank you C Pat for the legacy you have made throughout the years at SBU. I don’t think there’s a better college president in the country. You have set the bar high. Good luck in your retirement.”

– Paula Swenson

“C. Pat went fishing in the water fountain on campus with my friends and me. We didn’t catch much. But it made a great video for a project.” – Miranda Allison '17

“I can truly never say enough thank you’s to Southwest Baptist University and to Dr. Taylor for the tremendous impact they have had in my life. I’m unbelievably thankful for Dr. Taylor’s 22 years of service and dedication to SBU.” – Aaron Sloan '16, '17



Our #BearcatChat Executive Director, Caleb Rutledge represented Infuse at the Trustees Meeting on Tuesday, and got a photo with our second favorite person (second only to Jesus) Dr. Taylor! *insert CPat chant*

[via @sbu_infuse on Instagram]

*Southwest Baptist
University is a
Christ-centered, caring
academic community
preparing students to
be servant leaders in a
global society.*



LETTER FROM THE **EDITOR**

Dear alumni and friends,

Ever since Dr. C. Pat Taylor made his retirement announcement on Jan. 26, the SBULife staff has been brainstorming and solidifying plans for this very special issue of SBULife. We have enjoyed sorting through pictures, recalling our own C. Pat memories, visiting with some of you about your C. Pat experiences and reading your submitted C. Pat stories.

Dr. Taylor has a long list of notable accomplishments during his time at SBU, and you will read about those throughout this issue. Those of you who have had the opportunity to meet him – and that is a very large number of you – made it abundantly clear that he impacted your lives on a very personal level. He knows your name. He knows your story. He knows you.

University presidents are busy people, but Dr. Taylor made it a priority to make individuals feel “known” and welcome. He and his late wife, Judy, began the presidency by reaching out to all constituencies to hear their perspectives about SBU. This set the foundation for Dr. Taylor to become the longest-serving president in SBU’s 140-year history. It set the foundation for a 22-year legacy that will be remembered even longer.

I was a student when Dr. Taylor began his presidency. I was working part time in the editorial department at the Bolivar Herald-Free Press (BH-FP), and I remember the excitement in the newsroom when we learned that a new president had been announced.

Throughout my 16 years working at the BH-FP, I penned many stories about the happenings at SBU and watched as Dr. Taylor and Judy endeared themselves to the SBU and Bolivar communities. They were passionate about the impact of Christian higher education, especially at SBU.

It is an honor for me now to be working with Dr. Taylor as he wraps up his presidency at SBU. During my 5 ½ years as an employee at SBU, he has believed in me and encouraged me as I have embarked on a new career.

You have your own C. Pat stories, some of which you shared with us. As you read this issue of SBULife, I hope that you will be reminded of how Dr. Taylor has influenced your life but also the kind of influence that you can have for others.

If you are available, please join us in Bolivar between 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 4, to say your farewells to Dr. Taylor before he heads off to the beaches of Florida. He would be honored by your presence.

Charlotte Marsch '97

Director Marketing and Communications

Executive Editor, SBULife

A photograph of Dr. C. Pat Taylor, an older man with white hair and glasses, wearing a purple checkered shirt and khaki pants. He is standing at a podium, holding a microphone in his left hand and gesturing with his right hand. The background is slightly blurred, showing a brick wall and a purple sign with white paw prints. A white text box is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

*Dr. Taylor leaves a legacy of **MISSION** and **KINDNESS***

BY CHARLOTTE HIGHSMITH MARSCH '97

Dr. C. Pat Taylor's era of presidential leadership at Southwest Baptist University comes to a close with his retirement on Aug. 31. Students, alumni, donors and other friends of the University agree that his leadership has had a profound impact on the University – and will continue to impact future generations of students at SBU.

Dr. Taylor himself regards his greatest accomplishment as SBU President being the number of diplomas he has handed to graduates, an impressive 17,594.



602%
endowment growth

1996: \$4.6 million
2018: \$32.3 million

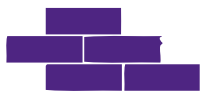


181%
budget growth

1996: \$22 million
2018: \$62 million



\$60 million
in construction projects



\$13.8 million

Largest construction project,
the Meyer Wellness and
Sports Center



\$124 million

Funds raised by SBU

A 'HEART FOR STUDENTS'

Students and alumni, however, might argue that the greatest part of his legacy is his heart for students. This may be most apparent during graduation, when C. Pat – as he is known by students – calls each student by name as he hands out diplomas.

“December 16, he shook my hand at graduation and knew exactly who I was and my story,” Tyler Hernandez '16 wrote on Facebook. “I truly knew that he cared for each and every one of his students and supported me and my journey at SBU.”

His connections with students went beyond names. He enjoyed learning students' stories and encouraging them along their college journeys.

“Dr. Taylor doesn't see us as statistics for his annual board report. We are names he made a priority to learn, faces he is overjoyed to see and stories he shares with a proud smile,” wrote Meg Goodman '14. “Because we matter to God, we also matter to Dr. Taylor, and he makes that apparent in how he has lived out his faith, served his community and led SBU.”

Even 20 years later, students still remember the times when Dr. Taylor put students first.

“My most treasured, touching memory that makes Dr. C. Pat Taylor stand out from the rest, is that even as a busy college president, he took the time to call me personally, at home, when my father passed away while I was a student at SBU, back in 1998,” Sabina Chapman wrote. “That has a lasting impact on me to this day.”

Looking to the future, students will long remember how Dr. Taylor made connections with them.

“Dr. Taylor's era as president will be defined by his heart for students and his passion for higher education, which made him the perfect fit for SBU,” wrote Tiana Brownen '18, recipient of the Life Beautiful Award during May commencement. “He truly cared about the students on campus and made conscious efforts to reach out and connect with the student body. He often ate lunch with students in the cafeteria, had conversations about students' experiences and academic plans and even remembered students' names, hometowns and majors. Dr. Taylor's era will be

remembered for the relationships that he built during his time here.”

A 'CONCRETE' LEGACY

Other pieces of Dr. Taylor's legacy are a little more “concrete.”

When announcing his retirement to faculty and staff, Dr. Taylor told a story about a conversation with Judy during the early years of his presidency. One of his first projects was raising money to pave the gravel parking lots on campus. When he asked Judy what his legacy would be at that point in his presidency, she told him would always be known as “the concrete guy.”

Dr. David W. Whitlock, president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla., gives credence to this portion of Dr. Taylor's legacy.

“I learned to never build a gravel parking lot where a concrete parking lot is needed,” he wrote. “Dr. Taylor is a concrete president. He's solid.”

Whitlock spent nearly 10 years working with Dr. Taylor at SBU, when Whitlock served as dean of the College of Business and Computer Science and as associate provost.

“I learned much about Christian higher education administration including lessons on raising friends instead of funds, keeping your word even to your own hurt [Psalm 15], integrating faith and discipline, and the importance of hiring for mission. Mission—always be about the mission,” Whitlock wrote. “I also learned practical lessons about being ready with charts showing campus master plans, charts showing floor plans, and pictures showing artist renderings of new buildings.”

A MASTER FUNDRAISER

When Dr. Taylor began his presidency in October 1996, he had a strong background in academics and other areas of Christian higher education. He lacked experience in fundraising, but he was confident that he would be successful in raising money for the University.

Graham Williams '54, chairman of the search committee that brought Dr. Taylor to SBU, recalls Dr. Taylor's commitment to being successful with fundraising.

“He said, ‘Fundraising is my weakest point, but I worked for and learned from the best

(referring to Dr. Bob Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University),” Williams said. “Pat did a tremendous job with fundraising.”

Students noticed his fundraising efforts, too, as they often were direct beneficiaries of the projects.

“I was fortunate to work in Dr. Taylor’s office as a student at SBU, and I witnessed the diligent effort he put toward university development,” wrote Dr. Brandon Griffin ’11. “In a short amount of time, I saw him raise money to renovate the chapel, acquire endowed professorships, boost private scholarships and ensure that students had access to valuable resources such as the Meyer Wellness Center.”

His fundraising success is evident by the numbers: 602 percent endowment growth, \$60 million in construction projects, and \$124 million raised by SBU under his leadership.

A MAN ON A MISSION

Another one of Dr. Taylor’s first goals after becoming president was to establish a concise, one-sentence mission statement to replace the mission statement that filled a page and a half in the course catalog. It took several months to develop the

carefully worded mission statement that continues to guide the University: Southwest Baptist University is a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society.

“An organization adopts many ideologies and characteristics from its leader,” wrote Reece Tabor ’18. “Since Dr. Taylor so passionately desired to guide the University under the direction of the mission statement, every major decision was viewed through that lens. Therefore, he has fundamentally altered the University at every single level.”

As Dr. Taylor interacted with students, they took notice of his leadership style and skills.

“Dr. Taylor led with vision, a collaborative spirit and humility,” Griffin wrote. “He taught me and many others to do similarly. I am confident that the leaders he supported at SBU will continue to serve the university well. However, I wish to point out that his legacy of leadership extends past the boundaries of SBU, as many students in whom Dr. Taylor invested may continue to rely upon his teachings as they lead in their families, workplaces and religious/spiritual communities no matter where they are.” ■

Verses read at Dr. Taylor’s inauguration in April 1997

“On that day, I made a commitment to do my best to live by these verses.”

— Dr. C. Pat Taylor

ROMANS 12:9-18

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; no lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer. Committed to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Bless these who persecute you, and curse not. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another, do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.



▲ Student Association president, Jessica Tankersley '18, prepares Dr. Taylor for retirement with a Florida gift basket from the student body.

▶ President C. Pat and First Lady Judy Taylor on inauguration day, April 25, 1997.



On a mission (statement)

BY DENISE ELSON TUCKER '89

Almost anywhere you see “Southwest Baptist University” – on SBU letterhead, on its website, in course catalogs or even on the inside cover of this magazine – you also will see its mission statement:

“Southwest Baptist University is a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society.”

This mission statement is, and has been, the framework by which the University conducts business, educates students and represents itself in a “global society.” It also was the mission of Dr. C. Pat Taylor, president of SBU since 1996, to replace the previous SBU mission statement that filled a page and a half in the course catalog.

“A mission statement should define the organization in which it stands for, and I really think that SBU nailed that,” said Jamison Whitehill, a 2018 computer information systems graduate. “When they wrote the mission statement, obviously, they spent a long time on it, but I think it’s really true. I think SBU lives up to their mission statement and that’s kind of unique.”

Establishing that concise, one-sentence mission statement has been another jewel in Dr. Taylor’s legacy, in addition to clearly defining what SBU is all about.

“Dr. Taylor portrayed a passion for the mission of SBU to be ‘a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society,’” said Jared Webster '04, '10, '18. “There was no doubt in my mind he wanted us to be leaders wherever we went after college, while having at our core a strong faith in Jesus Christ and his principles guiding our lives.”



C. Pat through the years: **TIMELINE OF PRESIDENCY**

1996

Dr. C. Pat Taylor began his tenure as SBU’s 24th president on Oct. 21, 1996, and the university community celebrated his inauguration on April 25, 1997.

1997

SBU adopted a new mission statement on May 23, 1997: “Southwest Baptist University is a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society.”

1998

SBU received approval from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and permission from the Higher Learning Commission to offer the Master of Science in Education Administration degree. The first classes began in spring of 1998.

CHRIST-CENTERED

Being a Christ-centered institution is at the very core of SBU, which was founded as Southwest Baptist College in 1878 by James R. Maupin and Abner S. Ingman in Lebanon, Mo., and backed by a strong Baptist heritage.

“Historically, this institution was founded and sustained by the favor of God,” said Dr. Julie Bryant '97, associate professor of education at SBU. “Currently, professors infuse their faith into all we teach our students as we help to equip them for their calling. We also pray for God's continued blessings and favor as HE carries SBU into the future. All the success we have or will have is ONLY because we operate with Christ in the center of all we do.”

The impact of that approach manifests itself in the lives of students, faculty and staff, alumni and beyond:

- “SBU has impacted my life in unimaginable ways since I have been here. The people are so intentional in trying to make you feel at home and bringing you closer to Christ. Since I've been at SBU, I have grown so much in my faith and most of it was because of the people who provided the best environment for my growth.” – Joao Vitor Almeida, 2018-19 Mr. Southwest
- “By serving with the SBU Center for Global Connections, I have witnessed students putting aside their own self-interests by giving up their time, finances and comfort zones to focus on being Christ to others through an SBU mission. Participants return sharing amazing stories of how they witnessed the Lord change many lives, and specifically, state how their own life has been changed academically, socially, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Students return with a greater sense of the needs of others and gain a desire to be more spiritually minded and disciplined.” – Diana Gallamore '91, director for the Center for Global Connections
- “In a day when many historically faith-based institutions are shedding their biblical foundations, SBU remains unapologetically Christian. We are not just faith-based, we are faith-driven. SBU is a place I'm more than proud to promote to parents because I know their students will be in an environment that celebrates and challenges their faith.” – Ryan Palmer '96, SBU Trustee, senior pastor of South Haven Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.

CARING ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

While SBU exists to educate and prepare students, it also is a community – a family – and one that looks after and cares for each other – another key component of its mission.

Ashley Dinwiddie, executive coordinator and director of major events, was overwhelmed by the response of the SBU community at the time of Dr. Taylor's wife, Judy's, passing in March 2016.

“The Taylor family was amazed by the outpouring of love in numerous ways: phone calls, cards, meals, attending the funeral, monetary gifts in Judy's honor, and others,” Dinwiddie said. “Not only did Dr. Taylor receive these gifts in the few weeks after Judy's passing, but in the many months afterwards.

“I was impressed and proud of my SBU family in how they supported Dr. Taylor and his daughters during that difficult time. It was moving to see how the mission statement that he helped create was put into action for him personally.”

PREPARING STUDENTS TO BE SERVANT LEADERS

The last segment of the mission statement is the ultimate purpose of SBU's mission – “to prepare students to be servant leaders in a global society.”

“Our job as faculty is to prepare our students for their calling,” Bryant said. “God has called these young men and women to not just be mere teachers, nurses, businessmen, scientists, or the like. Rather, He calls them to rise up and be more. They are called to be leaders in their chosen disciplines, and we know from Scripture that truly the greatest among us are those leaders who humble themselves to serve others with a heart for God.”

SBU faculty have received confirmation of that preparation.

“I received a call from an administrator in Bentonville, Ark., who had recently hired one of our graduates,” said Dr. Allison Langford, associate provost for teaching and learning. “This administrator asked me if this student was an exception to the rule or whether we had other graduates like her; because if we did, then the administrator wanted more SBU grads.

“I was able to say with confidence that there are many other graduates like the one he had hired. The graduate stood out to him because of her integrity, academic preparedness and work ethic. Mission complete.” ■

2000

The University Library launched a web-based catalog on Sept. 11, 2000, as a charter member of Missouri Bibliographic Information User System (MOBIUS), a statewide consortium of academic institutions, which allows users to have access to more than 17 million books from Missouri college and university libraries and supplies the circulation, reserves, cataloging, acquisition and user systems to be performed in the web environment.

A group of SBU graduate students and faculty traveled to San Andres, Colombia, on July 7-17, 2000, to assist Christian University, a non-degree granting university, which had contacted SBU requesting educational assistance. SBU students taught 60 Colombian faculty, practicing teachers and students the basics of teaching.

The Roy Blunt Service and Leadership Training Program was approved by the Board of Trustees on Feb. 13, 2001, to include the following four components: completion of approved volunteer service, demonstrated leadership activities, an Introduction to Leadership course and a writing component on servant leadership.

2001

Q&A *with* *C. Pat Taylor*

BY DENISE ELSON TUCKER '89

In each issue of SBULife magazine, we interview one of our staff members so you can meet the people who help make SBU a Christ-centered, caring academic community.

Dr. C. Pat Taylor, who has served as SBU's president since Oct. 21, 1996, is set to retire as of Aug. 31, 2018. He is the longest-serving president in the University's 140-year history.

What was your first priority when you came to SBU as president?

When Judy and I came here, there were three things that jumped out at us:

1. We did not see any purple, anywhere, and we came from a green-and-gold culture at OBU (Oklahoma Baptist University). So we started working to get purple going; we got purple clothes and I got a purple car – a 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix.
2. Landscaping. There was just no landscaping on this campus when we came. Judy had never really done any serious gardening before; I had always done the yard work. She never thought she had a green thumb, but she learned. And she went to work on landscaping.
3. And, the biggest thing of all – gravel parking lots. We had 11 gravel parking lots on campus, and it just did not convey the image that we wanted for our university. We started working on concrete [parking lots].



2001

SBU developed a formal agreement with Roraima, Brazil, to develop a model school and establish an English language institute. From January 2001 through July 2002, SBU conducted five English language institutes in Brazil.

2002

On Sept. 17, 2002, SBU kicked off a year-long celebration of the quasiquicentennial, 125th anniversary of the founding of the university with a formal chapel and an old-time chuck wagon picnic on the forum, complete with regional music and period costumes. SBU first opened its doors on Sept. 17, 1878. The year of celebration culminated with a special chapel and the burial of a time capsule on Sept. 17, 2003, in the lobby of the Jester Learning and Performance Center.

SBU's new University Success Center (USC) program was announced in Spring 2002, incorporating the first-year seminar courses, the freshmen advising center, and the freshmen intervention program. The Career Planning and Placement Office joined the USC in Spring 2005. The USC is now prominently located in the east wing of the Mabee Chapel.

When you came to SBU, what concerned you the most about being a university president?

Fundraising – I had never done any fundraising. I told the search committee that I'd never asked anybody for money. I thought I could do it, but I wasn't sure. Six months into the job I knew two things: I enjoyed fundraising and because I enjoyed it, I was pretty good at it. As far as curriculum and relationships, I knew how to do that. I had been a provost, so I knew how it worked inside. I was more concerned about the external and raising money.

What has been the biggest surprise you have encountered as SBU president?

How much I love it. I loved Union. I loved OBU. I loved Belmont before, but Judy and I just fell in love with this place early on. And, my longevity. We didn't think about it; we just came to work every day, and came to work with a positive attitude. I never doubted my work ethic; I grew up on a farm and learned to milk cows and slop the hogs and gather the eggs.

What has changed the least at SBU during the past 22 years?

The people. We've always had great kids here. We've always had a great faculty and a great staff that are committed to our mission here. Technology has revolutionized how we do business, but the bottom line is the people really don't change.

What is your favorite SBU memory?

Let me rephrase that question: What is the most significant memory I have?

It was March 30, 2016 – Judy's funeral. On March 29, we had her visitation in the Sells building and had 980 people show up. I shook every hand. At the funeral the next day, we had approximately 1,300 people there and it was a beautiful service. So I have great clarity in my mind on what the most significant event in my 22 years, personally.

What are you going to do with your purple wardrobe? What about the purple Santa suit?

I had a living estate sale and sold a lot of them. I counted up 137 ties and 98 of them are purple. And, of course, I'll be wearing purple in Florida, so my blood won't turn any other color than purple. (The purple Santa suit) I'm going to give it to Ed Walton, dean of University Libraries, for the archives. And, I cannot find Judy's purple Santa suit; she had a Santa suit, too. I found her hat, but I'm not sure what happened to (her suit).

How many miles have you put on the purple truck?

From the time I leave, it will probably be around 120,000 miles I've put on it. An interesting statistic – I have driven to the moon and back to the earth and I'm headed back to the moon again in my miles. But, you don't raise money sending emails or writing letters, or even phone calls. You raise money face-to-face, and that's my style.

How will people be able to stay in touch with you?

I'll be coming back. I am changing my phone

number, but probably email – I'll keep the same email address – will be the best way. And I'll be coming back to visit. I've invested 22 years of my life here and I'm not going to just go away and stay away.

What words of wisdom do you have for the next president of SBU?

Be a good listener. Always remember that you work for the Board of Trustees. They are your bosses and it's your responsibility. We presidents are very independent. I would advise the new president to never forget that even though you'll have this independence, don't take yourself too seriously. And remember, it's all about the kids. Our calling is to serve God and we serve God by serving our students. My last advice is your job as president is to help create an environment and a climate whereby the faculty and staff can do their jobs.

With SBU in your rearview mirror, and as you're pulling away from campus, what is your final message?

I'm going to Florida!

I've given 22 years of my life here. I've worked hard. I don't have any regrets. I wanted to build a new student union. I'm sorry I didn't get that done. As far as regrets, I don't really have any. I know I did the best I could with whatever information I had. My thought as I'm pulling out is I will be praying for the new president. I will be praying for our faculty, for our staff, for our cabinet, for our students – they'll always be in my heart and my mind – but I'm going to Florida. ■

2004

The innovative Darrell R. Strait Center for the Integration of Science and Christian Faith began its academic program in Fall 2004.

2005

An updated Honors Program with an intercultural component, a spiritual component and a servant leadership component began in Fall 2005.

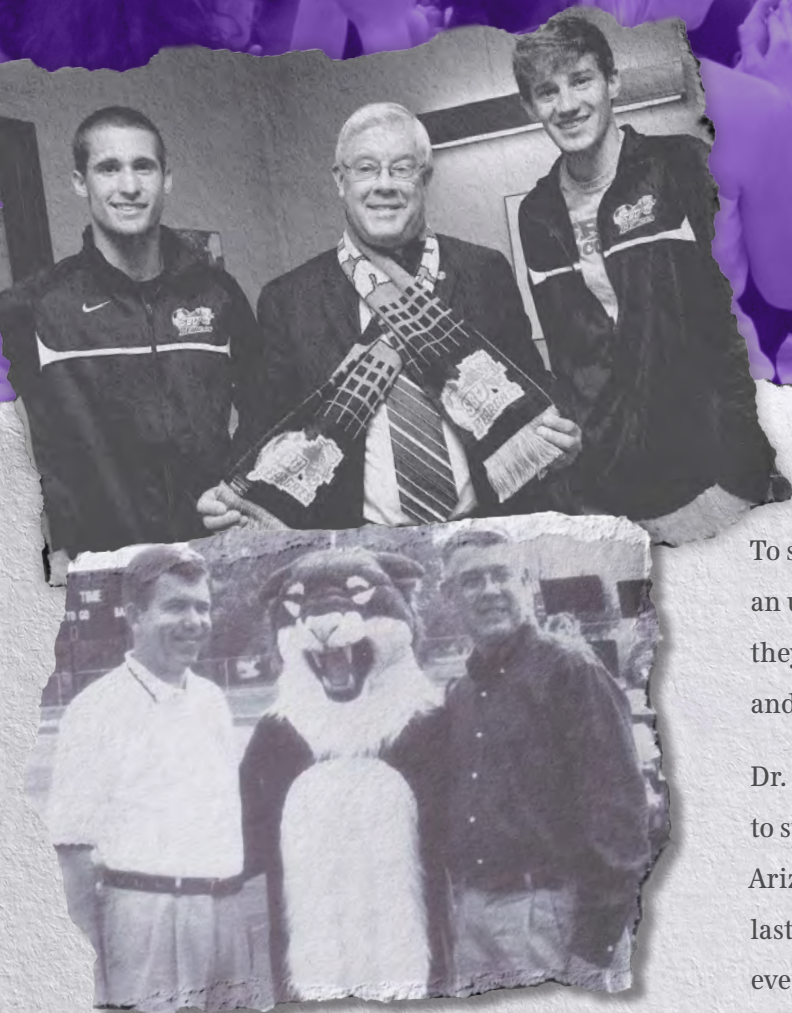
SBU was notified Feb. 25, 2005, of permission from the Higher Learning Commission to offer its first doctorate.

The graduate program in physical therapy was granted the maximum 10-year re-accreditation until Dec. 31, 2013, by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

During the Summer of 2005, Phase I of My Wireless SBU was put into place on the Bolivar campus. Initially, wireless access will be available in the library, public areas located in all academic buildings, the student union, wellness center, in some classrooms, in computer labs, and in administrative/faculty office areas. Additional phases will be installed in the future.

THE ULTIMATE BEARCAT FAN

BY DENISE ELSON TUCKER '89



To say that Dr. Taylor is an avid fan of Bearcat Athletics would be an understatement. From players to coaches to athletic directors, they can testify to what Bearcat Athletics have meant to Dr. Taylor and what he has meant in return.

Dr. Taylor has made several trips for SBU games, tournaments, etc., to support the Bearcats and was preparing to travel to Surprise, Ariz., for the women's tennis team's national tournament - "my last SBU athletic event as president, and my last home athletic event in baseball is (May 5)" - during production of SBULife.

2005

The Partners in Excellence campaign, which started in 1999 and ended in December 2005, raised more than \$62.4 million including funding of 13 major building projects. Endowment funds at SBU also have reached an all-time high of \$16.2 million, including both restricted and unrestricted funds.

2006

SBU received an award from NAMB in May 2006: "Southwest Baptist University is first among the colleges and universities throughout the nation that the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board (NAMB) is honoring for the number of student missionaries mobilized during 2005. According to NAMB officials, SBU is ranked first in the nation for mobilizing student missionaries to serve in North America."

SBU successfully achieved a continued 10-year accreditation status from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges & Schools, according to notification received from HLC in Fall 2006. Also, a requested "Change of Affiliation Status" to remove restrictions on undergraduate offerings at the Salem and Mountain View campuses was approved; this allows these sites the ability to pursue additional degree programs.

The following are some examples of the impact Dr. Taylor has had on those involved with Bearcat Athletics, whether on the field or on the court as a player or a coach (or both), or behind the scenes:

JOHN BRYANT

SBU tennis coach 1966-present

Tennis was not on Dr. Taylor's radar when he became president. Our introduction was throwing a tennis ball over a Shell station in Eureka, Mo., when our bus failed after a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game at 3 a.m., waiting for Bob Glidwell to bring the other SBU bus. Last May, in 104-degree Phoenix weather, watching the Bearcats lose to the national champions, Dr. Taylor said, "Next year at nationals in Orlando, my phone won't be on so I can do more coaching."

JIM MIDDLETON

SBU women's basketball coach 1994-2008

SBU athletic director 2001-2005

Dr. Taylor is one of the most competitive administrators I know. One of his famous athletic lines is, "I am with you, win or tie." When you're the coach and your President tells you that line, well, you better bring your "A game."

I appreciated his efforts in spearheading the Jane and Ken Meyer Wellness and Sports Center. At the time, I was athletic director. Because of the relationship and efforts of Dr. Taylor with the Meyers, the lead gift was given to begin fundraising and ultimate construction of this wonderful facility.

Finally, I would like to simply say "thank you." I certainly am fortunate to have worked for a president who understood the importance athletics plays in a University setting.

NICK SMART

SBU football player 2004-2007

From the moment I stepped foot on the

SBU campus in the fall of 2004, Dr. Taylor was always in my corner. He knew my name (and my parents') before we ever met. He welcomed myself and all the other freshman athletes to his home, and would greet me before and after games. He was an encourager, a supporter and someone I considered to be my fan; not just on the field, but off; not just when we won, but when we lost. When we talked, it was not just about football, but about how I was doing with my classwork, and what life looked like after college. He genuinely cared. I ALWAYS appreciated this.

I'll be forever grateful for my time at SBU. I met a lot of great people, many of whom I still stay in touch with and consider lifelong friends. These are people I know I could call and they would do anything for me ... and one of them just happens to be the president.

MEGAN LINK

SBU women's soccer player (goal keeper) 2009-2012

SBU women's soccer head coach 2015-present

During my time as a player, President Taylor used to always come to my games with his two dogs, Bearcat and SBU, and he would always say hello to my parents and their dogs. It was really nice to have his support during my four-year playing career at SBU. As a coach, every time I run into President Taylor, he always expresses his strong faith in me as a coach and leader here at SBU. His continuous support provided me with fuel to work hard for this women's soccer program and the university.

KELSEY KEIZER

SBU women's basketball head coach 2014-present

President Taylor has played a major role in my time at SBU. He has always been a staple at our basketball games and became a prominent figure in our team locker room after big wins. I will never forget when he joined our team celebration at Washburn after we advanced to the conference tournament semifinals in Kansas City.

After other big wins, President Taylor would celebrate with the team with a stat sheet in hand. His favorite statistic to point out was free-throw shooting, and our team paid attention. This season, we led the nation in free-throw shooting percentage. It was a sweet way to honor President Taylor in his last season with the Bearcats.

DR. KEVIN SCHRIVER

SBU Dean of the College of Education and Social Sciences

SBU's NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative

As many people know, Dr. Taylor has a gift of recall, whether that be for names, figures, or certainly in his discipline of history. But he also prides himself in knowing a bunch of trivia about sports. He has a passion for baseball and basketball, in particular, and so many of his key trivia questions come from those areas.

At NCAA conventions, I'll always remember him showing up at my panel discussions for the NCAA Division II groups. He liked to be right there getting to know the people of Division II. His leadership in the MIAA was also invaluable. He was

2007

The first Staff Council at SBU was formed in February 2007 for the purpose of promoting communication between staff employees and the administration; providing input to the administration on issues affecting staff; and supporting and developing activities which serve SBU and the community.

In April 2007, SBU is voted as one of the top 20 "Best Places to Work in 417-land" in "417" magazine. In the category of more than 250 employees, SBU was an honorable mention selection.

The \$1.5 million renovation of the 22,000-square-foot Jim Mellers Center is completed in August 2007.

SBU's Mountain View campus announces that, effective in the 2008 fall semester, the following degree programs will be available at the Mountain View Center: bachelor of science in criminal justice, B.S. in psychology and B.S. in sociology.

2008



always purposefully knowledgeable, and wanted SBU to be either represented well or in a position to respond well.

SHARI (GRADY) VAKA

SBU women's basketball player 1996-2000

Dr. Taylor loved coming to watch the women's basketball team play. He loved to watch us win and even more, he enjoyed telling us how we could improve after each game. He was our biggest fan!

MIKE PITTS

SBU athletic director 2009-present

Some of my best memories have been at road games with Dr. Taylor. He's such a great story-teller that he makes the trip go by so quickly. He loves the Bearcats! Dr. Taylor has this amazing ability to know stats and standings – but he also knows the stories of our student-athletes. Bearcat sports is more than just sports to him. It's how he connects with hundreds of SBU students in a very meaningful way.

FANNI VARGA

SBU women's tennis player 2011-2015

SBU men's and women's tennis head coach 2017-present

When I was a player, Dr. Taylor traveled to Orlando to the NCAA nationals. On the first day of matches, he watched us play from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. (rain suspended play four times). He then watched our men's team play from 11:30 p.m. until 3 a.m., and was there the next morning at 8 to watch the women again. Almost nothing could stop him from supporting all the Bearcat teams; his dedication gave us extra motivation.

JIM GRABOWSKI

SBU men's basketball player 2005-2008

As a former Bearcat, I always appreciated the support of our awesome fans at games. But there was, and is, no bigger Bearcat fan than Dr. Taylor. It was always encouraging knowing he would be at a game to cheer us on and maybe [definitely] help out the refs,

here and there.

I was always impressed with Dr. Taylor's attention to detail. He knew our team and my individual stats better than I did. He also knew every single scenario that needed to play out when it came to the last couple of games of the regular season to determine tournament seeding.

ZACH FOWLER

SBU sports information graduate assistant 2013-2015

My favorite memory with Dr. Taylor has to be the time he joined me in the radio booth to call a football game. SBU was playing at Missouri S&T on a cold, rainy day in Rolla. SBU was down 35-16 at halftime and Dr. Taylor kept saying, "Zach, this game isn't over." SBU outscored S&T 30-7 to win 46-42. Dr. Taylor is the biggest Bearcat fan I know, and he has impacted so many students in his 22 years. Thanks, Dr. Taylor for being a great example to the students at SBU. ■

2010

In June 2010, SBU renames its University Success Center after Ed and Theo Clark. The University Success Center, located in Mabee Chapel on the Bolivar campus, is a department that serves all first-year students to help them transition from high school to university life. Dr. Clark began SBU's accounting department and later served as chief financial officer at the University. Theo served the University as dean of women.

2011

In August 2010, SBU purchases the former Consumer's building in Bolivar with the help of a major gift from the Warren B. Davis family, the previous property owners. The 40,000-square-foot building will be named the Warren B. Davis Family Physical Therapy Center and will house the University's doctoral program in physical therapy.

March 2011, SBU announces a new degree opportunity beginning in the fall 2011 semester, with a bachelor of social work [BSW] degree program.



Stories of C. Pat

After nearly 22 years in a job, an impact is bound to be made on those around you – lives touched, relationships built and memories made. That is especially true in the life and career of Dr. C. Pat Taylor, president of Southwest Baptist University.

During his time at SBU, Dr. Taylor has handed out 17,594 diplomas, but in addition to that he has impacted lives well beyond graduation day. That is evident in the outpouring of affection from alumni, parents of alumni and future alumni, faculty and staff through emails, Facebook and Instagram posts.

Whether you know him as Dr. Taylor, C.Pat, colleague or friend, there is no denying his leadership has been consistent, fair and genuine. The following stories and memories reflect these qualities.

2012

In January 2012, SBU's Department of Computer and Information Sciences (CIS) announces the approval of a new major leading to a bachelor's degree in web systems and design.

2013

On May 3, 2013, SBU breaks ground for the new Enviroturf synthetic turf that replaced the grass football field at SBU's Plaster Stadium at a cost of \$1.5 million. The synthetic turf significantly reduces maintenance costs by eliminating the need for grass seed, fertilizer and water, as well as the time involved with maintaining a natural grass field. The new track surface allows SBU to host track and field meets, which the University has not been able to do for more than a decade.

2014

At the culmination of a four-year accreditation process, Southwest Baptist University's Bachelor of Social Work program receives initial accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education in June 2014.



"During the night of Mud Tug 2016, of all places, C.Pat and I exchanged our favorite Homecoming week memories. I remember feeling so delighted that, first of all, he was present among the crowd at a late hour cheering on all the students, and that he took the time to just chat with me like we were old friends. His heart for SBU is so awesome!" **-NOELLA MAIS '17**



"Seeing him as I walked to work in the administration building and around campus, I always felt known." **-CHRISTINA ABBOTT '15**

"I met C.Pat at my Fall Visit Day as a high school senior. It was raining outside, and C.Pat let me and my dad ride to the cafeteria with him!" **-EMMA RICHARDSON '18**

"A couple of years ago, I was playing in a golf tournament with Dr. Taylor and his phone rang. The person on the other end was telling him a couple of football players were in an accident. Dr. Taylor began to pray and broke into tears. He truly loves every student." **-BRANDON JACKLEY '98**

"I have great memories of Pat and Judy bringing their dog, Ricky, and their convertible to campus and going for walks on summer evenings. The campus was quiet and my husband and I were running Plaster Lodge, so we would see them frequently. We enjoyed visiting with them, particularly since Pat would take us through his vision for the campus – from building projects to landscaping to renovations – and I learned a lot from him that I use regularly in my career. It has been amazing to watch his vision for the University come to fruition. I can attest that the SBU campus is more beautiful because of Judy's service as First Lady and love for beauty. As for Ricky ... I never quite got the attachment to the dog. That Dr. Taylor would go through the Dairy Queen drive-through and share an ice cream cone with the dog is something that baffles me still!" **-TERRI COX FALLIN**



"Most everyone is aware of the keen memory Dr. Taylor has for names. We are not the exception. In May 2000, our daughter Dawn was graduating. At the time, we had three children attending SBU. During a graduation reception held at the president's home, Dr. Taylor began going around the room introducing everyone, thanking them for coming. When he came to my wife and I he introduced us as, 'Robb and Denise Hodson, they are suffering from mal-tuition.' I have never forgotten it. **-DR. ROBB HODSON '78**

2015

In June 2015, SBU's Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences announces the offering of two new degrees beginning with the Fall 2015 semester: A bachelor of science in health science (BSHS) and an associate of applied science (AAS).

2016

In the Summer of 2016, SBU's Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences completes work on the 15,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art training center – "a miniature hospital" – at 1265 E. Lark St., in Springfield. The building, which was purchased for \$1.5 million in April 2015, includes a simulation lab with seven private rooms, seven learning resource center rooms, a labor and delivery room and a nurses' station.

In August 2016, Southwest Baptist University becomes one of 15 colleges and universities in the nation to offer esports as a varsity athletics program, with scholarships available for the 2016 fall semester. As a varsity program, SBU is a charter member of the Collegiate eSports Association (CESPA), a new organization founded and initially funded by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

"In 2006, I was the Campus Activities Chair for SGA. Dr. Taylor held our off-campus house pet cat, Deeder, and was part of a film shown at Chapel to publicize for the Assassins game played by the student body." **-RYAN BROWN '07**

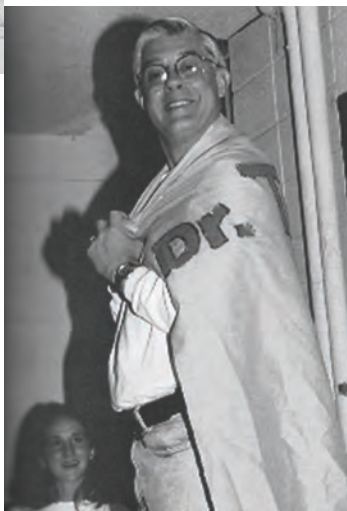
"When we brought my granddaughter for freshman Welcome Week almost four years ago, Dr. Taylor gave out his own personal cell phone number to the parents for emergency situations. How approachable is that? We felt like we were leaving her in wonderful hands and it has only gotten better each year." **-CHERYL GRANT RAWLINGS**

"I remember wearing a 'C. Pat is my homeboy' shirt as a kid and I felt so honored to get a picture with him. He thought it was a hysterical shirt. I also remember sending him some purple cufflinks I thought he might like and come to find out they arrived on his desk the same day Judy died. He told me he would always have a special place for those cufflinks." **-JEFF ROBIDOU '13**



"My favorite memory of Dr. Taylor is working in his office for over four years as a student. Through these years, I got to know him and SBU so well. He and Judy were like second-parents to me while in college. I watched their dog(s)/home in college when they were away, and I have so many memories of those times. Dr. Taylor always talks about how, when they would get back home, they would have a clean fridge and pantry. I am kind of a neat freak." **-ANGELA BROWN-PETERSON '07, '08**

"C.Pat and Judy gave my husband and me our first wedding present when we got engaged. They got us a picture frame and I was so disappointed when it accidentally broke years later." **-KATELYN BARTLETT '12**



"Dr. Taylor has become one of the top people I look up to and inspire to be. When I was a freshman track athlete he and his wife wanted to shake every athlete's hand and know us. He also looks out for the students who can't afford SBU. He is always looking for ways to improve scholarships and find donors. Dr. Taylor is everything I want to be as a leader and more." **-NATHANIEL SAWYER '18**



2017

On Oct. 6, 2016, SBU holds a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Judy Taylor Physical Therapy Garden and the Warren B. Davis Family Physical Therapy Center Faculty Practice at the facility at 2103 S. Springfield Ave. The 2,700-square-foot Faculty Practice is a student-learning lab that utilizes select patients from the surrounding community, incorporates high-level care for patients and provides invaluable learning experiences for students.

In April 2017, the SBU Board of Trustees approves entering into a loan for the purpose of funding part of the renovations planned for Beasley Hall. Fundraising efforts that started in the fall will continue for funding as much of the project as possible. In 2015, the University implemented a plan that included the renovation of Landen Hall in 2015, Leslie Hall and Plaster Guest Lodge in 2016 and Beasley Hall in 2017.

On Sept. 7, 2017, SBU dedicates the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science and re-dedicated the Gene Taylor National Free Enterprise Center in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The fundraising campaign included 176 donors, for a total of \$3,224,226, toward the project. The renovation increases the building's space by 43 percent, making it a 37,690-square-foot facility. The new wing was made possible by a generous gift from Jill McCloud, in honor of her late husband, Tom.



“He came the year I graduated, so I didn’t have [a story], but on a campus visit last month with my son, I saw him outside the dining hall. He was headed inside on a cold, rainy day when he stopped, backed up two steps and picked up a piece of trash from the sidewalk to place into the can outside the door. That told me everything I needed to know about him as a man and leader. The president of the University wasn’t above getting his hands dirty.” **-SCOTT HAMILTON '95**

“This year, I watched Dr. Taylor get off the Homecoming float he was on during the Homecoming parade, wave to the crowd in front of him, then jog off a bit and start taking pictures of another float. As soon as he was finished, he returned to the crowd he had previously waved at, and began shaking each of their hands and thanked them for coming to the parade. He then explained that there was a mom who could not come to the parade, and he had promised to take pictures of her daughter in the parade, if he could. That is the heart of a true servant leader and an incredible university president! #SBU has been blessed beyond measure by Dr. Taylor.” **-JENNIFER MALONEY**

“I have to say, working with Dr. Taylor in his office on a daily basis has been such a blessing. I’ve gotten to see how much he truly loves this university and, specifically, the students. I’ve had many fun times including driving his purple truck to get gas and seeing his excitement as he hands me a million-dollar check for the University. Dr. Taylor is a compassionate and driven person whose mission these past 22 years was to see SBU and the students impact God’s Kingdom.

“One specific story I’d share is when I had the honor of presenting Dr. Taylor with a plaque for his 20 years of service after Spirit Chapel. The entire chapel was filled with students roaring with SBU spirit for Homecoming. As I read heartfelt sentiments from students and alumni about Dr. Taylor’s impact on their lives, a growing ‘C. Pat’ chant filled the building. Dr. Taylor, teary-eyed, graciously accepted the award and still continues to serve the University with integrity, grace, and compassion.” **-EMILY MUNSELL '18**



“Dr. C. Pat Taylor is a president like no other I have ever met. I have nothing but the greatest respect for him. He serves others by meeting us where we are and in our time of need. One of my first favorite memories of him is when he dressed up as Santa Claus around Christmas time and came into the cafeteria to humor us college students. He also was decked out in purple [car, suit, you name it] all the time. Thank you, Dearly Beloved President Dr. C. Pat Taylor, for all you have done and continue to do to serve all students, past, present and future. We wish you Christ’s best as you journey on to whatever He has for you next in life.” **-SABRINA CHAPMAN**

2018

In January 2018, SBU President Dr. C. Pat Taylor informs the SBU community of his plans to retire Aug. 31, 2018, after nearly 22 years as the University’s president. Taylor assumed his duties as the University’s 24th president on Oct. 21, 1996, and is the longest-serving president in the University’s 140-year history. The C. Pat Taylor Annual Scholarship Fund was established in February 2018.

In March 2018, SBU begins accepting applications for the first nursing cohort of 24 in the Don and Carrie Babb Department of Nursing on the Bolivar campus. Classes are scheduled to begin Spring 2019. On Feb. 28, the Missouri State Board of Nursing granted initial approval for the pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing program on the Bolivar campus, contingent upon an approved site visit that is scheduled for Fall 2018.

In the Summer of 2018, SBU closes out the C. Pat Taylor era just as it began – with concrete. A \$500,000 gift made it possible to complete street, parking lot and sidewalk repairs across the Bolivar campus.

17,594



No matter the year, no matter the occasion, when Dr. C. Pat Taylor reflects on his legacy as president of SBU, the one thing he cites as his biggest accomplishment is handing out now 17,594 diplomas.

“When you think about it, what’s our purpose,” Dr. Taylor said. “What has God called us to do here – to educate and to help kids reach that ultimate educational objective and, obviously, that’s graduation. Graduation Day is my favorite day of the year, and I’ve only dropped one diploma.”

The SBULife staff caught up with both the first and the final

SBU graduate to receive a diploma from Dr. Taylor.

The first, Albert Castleberry Jr., who played football during his time at SBU, received his bachelor of science in business administration in December 1996 – Dr. Taylor’s first commencement as SBU president. The final, Jared Webster, who also, ironically, played football at SBU, received three diplomas from Dr. Taylor – the last one being a doctorate in educational leadership on May 19, 2018.

Castleberry and Webster shared their thoughts on what Dr. Taylor and SBU meant to them.



No. 1

DECEMBER 20, 1996

ALBERT CASTLEBERRY JR., B.S. Business Administration

“Even though I spent only a semester with Dr. Taylor, one of the first things he did was reach out to me and ask me about the state of the athletic program. He shared his vision about getting students prepared for life after college. He wanted to know my future plans and what could the University do to help students in the future.

“What he did not know is that during my 4½ years there, I never

once spoke to, or was invited to meet with any university president. Whether he meant to or not, he made me feel important and that my voice counted. To sum up my experience with Dr. Taylor, I would say that he exposed me to inclusive leadership, which is instilled in me today; a practice that has helped me be successful in my business career.”



No. 17,594

MAY 19, 2018

JARED WEBSTER, Ed. D. Education Leadership

“It was my honor and privilege to be the 17,594th person to receive a diploma from the hands of Dr. C. Pat Taylor, making me the last SBU graduate to receive a diploma from him. In doing so, it led me to reflect on my time at SBU and memories of Dr. Taylor. This started with my freshman year of college in August 2000 when I traveled to Dr. Taylor’s house as part of the football team. While it was a nice house to a young country boy, what stood out most to me was the welcoming environment created by Dr. Taylor and his lovely wife, Judy. To a scared freshman hundreds of miles from home, it was comforting to know the president of the university was so down-to-earth and friendly.

“I received an undergraduate degree that began a career in public education and eventually led me to return to SBU in the spring of 2008 to pursue

a specialist degree. Thanks to Dr. Taylor’s support and leadership, a doctorate program was started. At the initial orientation four years before I would finish my terminal degree, he took our nervous excitement and fanned it into a resolve to complete what might not be an easy journey but would be unquestionably rewarding.

“I was able to share that feeling of accomplishment with Dr. Taylor when I finished my doctoral degree. I was the last person to shake his hand and be handed my diploma as he smiled at me in congratulations. In that moment, my simple response of ‘Thank you’ to his kind remarks meant so much more than a simple ‘thanks’ for handing me a slip of paper. It is a thank you for leading the University that, through God’s providence, led me to a wife, children, friends, mentors, teaching career and administrative career.”



1.



4.



2.



5.



6.



3.



7.

2018 GRADUATION

351 undergraduate. 280 graduate. **631 graduates.**

1. LIFE BEAUTIFUL AWARDS: The award is given annually to an exceptional man and woman in SBU's spring graduating class whose outstanding scholarship and character demonstrates that they live a "life beautiful."

Jacob Immel, a chemistry major and mathematics minor, is the son of Heath and Angelique Immel of Wooldridge.

2. Tiana Brownen (Life Beautiful recipient), a communication and English major, is the daughter of Terry and Nancy Brownen of Seneca.

3. COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER: Chaplain (Colonel) Gary Gilmore '79, Joint Force Headquarters Senior Army Chaplain of the Missouri National Guard, shared with the graduates that earning their degrees is a "significant milestone of achievement that you will cherish and remember all your life."

4. Graduates process into the Ken and Jane Meyer Wellness and Sports Center.

5. BOB R. DERRYBERRY SENIOR ADDRESS SPEAKER: Reece Tabor, who graduated with a degree in communication, encouraged his classmates to reflect on what their story tells.

6. ORIEN B. HENDREX AWARD RECIPIENT: Dr. Chris Dinwiddie, associate professor of psychology on the Bolivar campus, received the Orien B. Hendrex Distinguished Teacher Award.

The award is presented annually to a faculty member who has been judged by the previous three years' graduating classes to be outstanding in both teaching ability and personal guidance. The SBU Board of Trustees designated this award in memory of Hendrex, a former academic dean.

7. Graduates recess after the Commencement Ceremony.

RETIREMENT RECOGNITIONS

Faculty members Sherrie Bayer '92, and Dr. Rodger Minatra '08, along with staff members John Credille '76, '92, Theresa Daniels and Dr. C. Pat Taylor were recognized for their retirements from SBU.



SHERRIE BAYER '92

instructor of university studies, coordinator of interdisciplinary studies and supervisor of study sessions in the Clark University Success Center, has taught full-time at SBU since 2002.



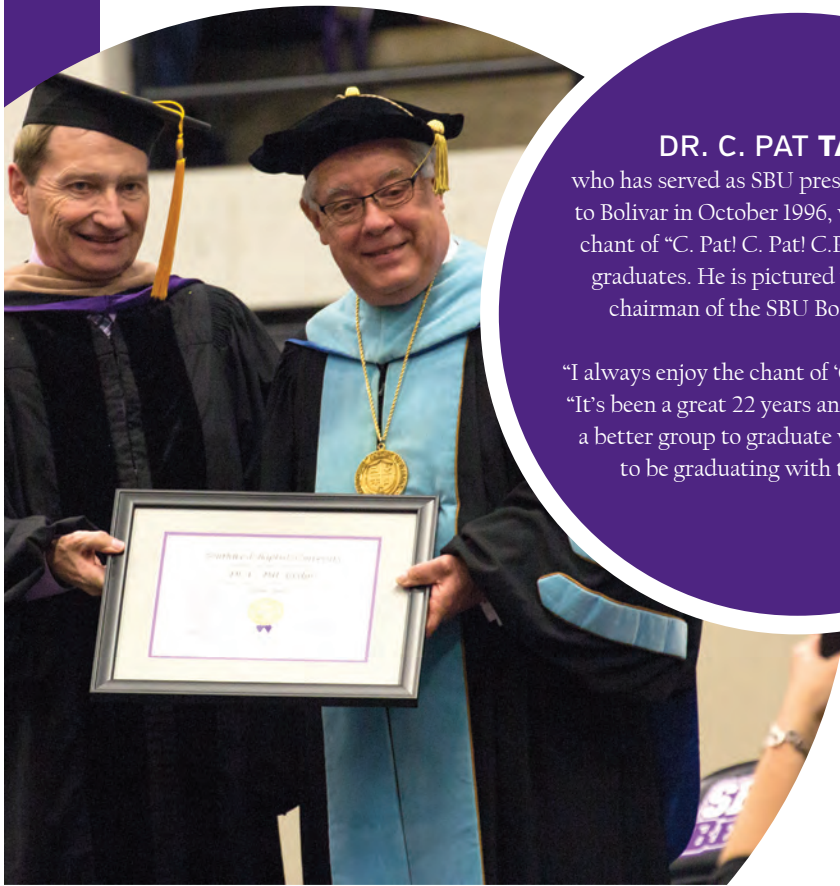
DR. RODGER MINATRA '08

associate professor of business administration, started at SBU in 2004, and has served as an advisor for students at the Bolivar, Mountain View, Salem and Springfield campuses.



JOHN CREDILLE '76, '92

has served as registrar at SBU since 2001, but began his long tenure in 1979 as assistant director of financial assistance before becoming credit and collections manager in 1986.



DR. C. PAT TAYLOR

who has served as SBU president since coming to Bolivar in October 1996, was greeted with a chant of "C. Pat! C. Pat! C.Pat!" from the 2018 graduates. He is pictured with Don Fahrni, chairman of the SBU Board of Trustees.

"I always enjoy the chant of 'C.Pat!'" Taylor said. "It's been a great 22 years and I cannot think of a better group to graduate with, so I'm happy to be graduating with the 2018 class."



THERESA DANIELS

most recently served as the director of donor relations in the University Relations department, and held positions of campaign data coordinator, administrative assistant to the vice president, director of annual fund and director of alumni relations. Daniels began at SBU in 1987 in the athletics department.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF **ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT**

The SBU campus is in transition from new sidewalk being installed campus-wide to the renovation of the tennis courts to the biggest transition of all: a new president. Summer is usually a time that is spent catching up. Longer days and a more laid-back attitude is the typical summer at SBU, but this summer feels different. A strange mix of sadness and excitement encompasses the quiet, peacefulness of this still campus.

I often am asked what is my favorite part of being the SBU alumni director. I have always found that question easy to answer. Hearing alumni stories is my favorite part. This semester, I have heard so many stories from alumni who are in the same place as the rest of us at SBU, sad about Dr. Taylor's leaving, but, at the same time, excited for his new season of life. As I find myself thrust into this transitional period, I seem to be thinking about my SBU story more and how it has been impacted by Dr. Taylor.

Just as many of you, my parents and I visited SBU's campus when I was a senior in high school. I was a bit of planner even then, so of course, it was September of my senior year. I remember taking a campus tour with a student tour guide from my home church (hi, Andrea!). On our tour, we ran into Dr. C. Pat Taylor just outside the newly renovated Meyer Wellness Center. (I'm guessing the purple folder that I clutched was a prominent sign of my high school senior status.) Dr. Taylor stopped and talked with my family, asking where we were from, what I planned to study, and of course, ended the conversation stating why I should be a Bearcat! This seemingly small gesture had a big impact on this small-town girl and her family. No other university that I visited had an experience even close to that. My parents were so impressed with the time Dr. Taylor took out of his busy schedule to talk to us and I knew I needed to be a Bearcat.

As a student at SBU, I have such fond memories of the Cabinet participating in the Homecoming bed races (and even winning) with Dr. Taylor at one of the back rails running hard. I remember SIFE (now Enactus) speeches to the Board of Trustees and Dr. Taylor introducing each member of the team while looking us in the eyes. He didn't need a script to tell him who we were; he just remembered each one of us. I remember on graduation day, walking across the stage to receive my diploma and Dr. Taylor saying, "I'll see you in two weeks. Looking forward to working with you, Holly. Congratulations."

As a staff member of SBU, I have countless stories of Dr. Taylor lightening the mood of a stressful fundraising planning meeting with a farm saying like, "When you pass a turtle sitting on a fencepost you know one thing: he had help getting there." Or explaining what an antiquated saying meant like, "Throw it over the transom." Or every Homecoming weekend in the midst of chaos, Dr. Taylor would always lighten the mood with the comment, "Let's haul off and have Homecoming!"

I have many somber memories as well. When my papaw passed away two months after starting at SBU, I received a phone call from Dr. Taylor; when my husband and I married a few short months after Mrs. Judy passed, I received a note from Dr. Taylor explaining that weddings were just too hard to attend at that time, but he wished he could have attended; and when we went to D.C. to host an alumni trip this past spring, Dr. Taylor mentioned just how much he's going to miss this place.

Dr. Taylor invested in his students, but he invested in his colleagues and his alumni of SBU, as well. His love of SBU can be seen in the concrete throughout campus, the buildings that have been constructed, the endowment that has grown, but most importantly, in the eyes and hearts of each person Dr. Taylor has come in contact with at SBU. I know my story is so similar to the stories of many other SBU alumni, and of professors and staff members who have had an impact on their life while at this great school. I think that is what makes SBU special. The people who CARE not just about teaching academics, but who want to spiritually invest into their students, their colleagues and their friends.

So, while this summer brings change, it also brings a time to reminisce; a time to show how blessed our time has been and how blessed our future will be. We would love to hear your story as well. If you would ever like to submit your story, visit our Keeping in Touch website (www.SBUniv.edu/Alumni/keeping-in-touch.php) and let us know how and who impacted you at SBU.

Blessings,

Holly Bridge '08

Director of Alumni Engagement

Alumni@SBUniv.edu

[800] 526-5859, ext. 1806

SBU Enactus places in top 12 at nationals



Southwest Baptist University Enactus finished in the top 12 in the Enactus U.S. National Exposition held May 20-22 at the Kansas City Convention Center.

“This was a tremendous group of students,” said Dr. Nathan Wright '05, assistant professor of business administration. “We were blessed to have five returning speakers including two three-year speakers.”

SBU Enactus qualified for nationals after winning a regional championship at the April 9 competition in Chicago. It was the team’s 33rd regional championship out of the past 34 competitions. The team placed in the top eight in the 2017 national competition.

SBU Enactus projects included working with small businesses in downtown Bolivar, continuing the Sentrepact

entrepreneurship and free-enterprise initiative at Lebanon and Bolivar high schools, assisting Community Outreach Ministries in Bolivar, and launching the Jump Start program on campus to help students start their own businesses.

The presentation team included: Jordan Martin, a sophomore international business major from Blue Springs; Samantha Martin, a junior marketing major from Dardenne Prairie; Stephen Pierce, a junior marketing major from Lee’s Summit; Ashley Bell, a junior computer information science major from Dodgeville, Wis.; Erin Corner, a senior public relations major from Green Bay, Wis.; and Taylor Parrish, a senior management and marketing major from Blue Springs.

Southwest Baptist University sophomore Armani Battle earned All-American honors in the long jump with a sixth-place finish overall on day one of the NCAA-II Outdoor Track and Field National Championships on May 25-26, in Charlotte, N.C. She added two more All-American honors on day two in the women’s 100 and 200-meter dash finals.

Battle, the SBU school record holder in the long jump, leaped 6.09 meters [19 feet, 11¾ inches] to grab a spot on the podium. Battle becomes the second Bearcat Track and Field athlete to earn All-American honors this season as freshman Meleah Ridenour was an Indoor High Jump All-American.

Battle placed fourth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.91 seconds and sixth in the 100-meters with a time of 11.77 seconds. In total, Battle finished her season with three outdoor All-American honors, three All-Region recognitions, and three All-MIAA awards – all of which were in the 100, 200, and long jump.

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association announced the 2018 All-Americans in June, with five Bearcats earning honors in Division II.

Sherif Abohabaga '17 was named to the men’s singles team for the third consecutive year, and Gyorgy Agoston and Ferenc Agoston were named to the doubles team.

Klara Vickov and Jill Van Den Dungen were named to the women’s doubles team.

An athlete must finish in the top 20 of the final national ranking to qualify for the Oracle/ITA All-American Singles Team. Abohabaga finished with a singles record of 18-1 and

SBU athletes earn All-American honors



a doubles record of 6-3 with his partner, Carlos Corser. Abohabaga earned the #8 spot in the singles final ranking.

To qualify for the Oracle/ITA All-American Doubles Team, the duo must be in the top 10 of the final national ranking. The SBU brothers doubles team, Gyorgy and Ferenc Agoston, claimed the #9 spot in the final doubles ranking. As a duo, they finished the 2018 season with a 12-6 record. They also had excellent singles records, Gyorgy went 13-2 and Ferenc finished 12-3. Vickov and Van Den Dungen finished 15-3 on the year, securing the #3 spot in the final doubles ranking. Van Den Dungen narrowly missed the singles qualifications, earning the #25 spot with a 13-5 record.

SBU athletes earn 211 individual MIAA Academic Awards



The MIAA Conference announced the 2018 spring sports Academic Award recipients, with Southwest Baptist claiming 211 individual MIAA academic awards. Eight student-athletes earned the MIAA Academic Excellence Award, which is given to those who maintain a cumulative grade point average of 4.00, while 12 student-athletes earned the MIAA Scholar-Athlete Award, which is given to those who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 and earned All-MIAA honors in their respective sport. The MIAA Academic Honor Roll, consisting of all sports in the conference, featured 191 Bearcats who had a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00.

Academic Excellence Award (4.0 Cumulative GPA): Amanda Berkstresser – Women’s Track and Field – Fr. – Kansas City, Mo.; Emma Davis – Women’s Tennis – Fr. – Blue Springs, Mo.; Abby Friesen – Women’s Track and Field – So. – Olathe, Kan.; Josh Hunt – Baseball – Fr. – Siloam Springs, Ark.; Samuel McCormick – Men’s Track and Field – Fr. – Edwardsville, Ill.; Klara Vickov – Women’s Tennis – Jr. – Forest Hill, Australia; Payton Wildeman – Softball – Fr. – Bentonville, Ark.; Luke Winfrey – Baseball – RS Fr. – Lebanon, Mo.

Scholar-Athlete Award (3.5 cumulative GPA + All-MIAA honors): Gyorgy Agoston – Men’s Tennis – Jr. – Budapest, Hungary; Raul Caballero – Men’s Tennis – Jr. – Terrassa, Spain; Constanca Crespo – Women’s Tennis – Fr. – Cascais, Portugal; Lucia Diaz – Women’s Tennis – So. – Seville, Spain; Jill Van den Dungen – Women’s Tennis – So. – Geldrop, Netherlands; Beatrix Federer – Women’s Tennis – Sr. – Budapest, Hungary;

Jaidyn Mawhinney – Softball – Sr. – Surrey, British Columbia, Canada; Andrew Meier – Baseball – So. – Dixon, Mo.; Megan Schellert – Softball – So. – Wentzville, Mo.; Torben Semrau – Men’s Tennis – Sr. – Hofheim, Germany; David Szeri – Men’s Tennis – Fr. – Szentes, Hungary; Klara Vickov – Women’s Tennis – So. – Forest Hill, Australia.

Academic Honor Roll (3.0 cumulative GPA) Baseball: Quinn Appletoft, Dason Boren, Samuel Box, Kenyon Breedlove, Cory Dudley, Andrew Feist, Aaron Head, Blake Hobbs, Joshua Hunt, Caleb Lasher, Josef Luthy, Tyler Mathys, Andrew Meier, Dalton Morrow, Jackson Mueller, Carter Newton, Carl Schwettmann, Tyler Slawson, Logan Sorrell, Nicolas Sterling, Mason Sturgeon, Jacob Teichmeier, Noah Tucker, Drew Wagner, Adam White, Luke Winfrey

Men’s Basketball: Lucas Brueggemann, Andy Campbell, Maris Colton, Jordan Hillenberg, Campbell Lakatos, Ikponmwoosa Theodorus Oghide, Jakob Partee, Damian Progmnet, Kai Woodfall.

Women’s Basketball: Morgan Henderson, Mikayla Putt, Bailey Rezabek, Caylee Richardson, Megan Rosenbohm, Kameron Schaaf, RayShionne Smith, Regan Tibbits, Laura Vierkant, Taliyah Wilson.

Cheer: Lindsey Appleby, Raina Feckovic, Bethany Hutchings, Abigail Loser.

Cross Country: Mary Carr.

Men’s Golf: Matthew Chandler, Jordan Ells, Patrick Jackson, Caleb Kubacak, Kerry Maguire.

Women’s Golf: Jaidee Akers, Andrea Brown, Jacey Collins, Mary Harris, Ashley Kelley, Makenna Krysl, Addison Stewart.

Men’s Soccer: Jose Carrillo, Ian Cepeda, John Cleveau, Jacob Immel, Zachary Jennings, Richard Lara, Brooks Lucas, Jack McLauchlan, Braden Niswonger, Alberto Rodriguez, Daniel Santibanez, Alek Santo, Logan Santo, Angel Torres, Alec Van Wormer, Abraham Wade, Levi Zustiak.

Women’s Soccer: Addison Brewer, Laura Carpenter, Callie Chenoweth, Dani-

elle De Felice, Raegan Edwards, Emma Garner, Ashlyn Gibbs, Brooke Herald, Samantha Heustis, Skylr Houzenga, Lauren Hudak, Nicole Lee, Laura Manuel, Ashley McClendon, Kayla Myers, Stevee Naudet, Toni Paterno, Anna-Catherine Pettit, Abbegale Reeves, Raquel Rodriguez, Brianna Stanley, Tessa Wagner, Averi Walker, Jessica Weedin.

Softball: Miranda Aguilar, Alexis Dock, Emma Ezzell, Jayden Gonzales, Stormy Greathouse, Kaley Hansen, Kori Hillenberg, Nicole Horstman, Jaidyn Mawhinney, Morgan McMullin, Hunter Middleton, Claire Miller, Allison Petry, Megan Schellert, Kaylee Schmidli, Kelcee Welch, Payton Wildeman.

Men’s Tennis: Sherif Abohabaga, Gyorgy Agoston, Ferenc Agoston, Joao Almeida, Raul Caballero, Marcel Castello, Carlos Corser, Logan French, Maximiliano Sanoja, Torben Semaru, David Szeri.

Women’s Tennis: Sarah Brown, Diana Cabrera, Constanca Cruz Crespo, Emma Davis, Lucia Diaz-Saez, Beatrix Federer, Courtney Potter, Jill Van Den Dungen, Klara Vickov.

Men’s Track and Field: Austin Acosta, Thomas Chabreck, Matthew Christoffer, Ansen Covin, Wayd Davis, Terry Fenske, Daniel Frazee, Tyler Goatley, Cecil Grainger, Jordan Inman, Jeremy Inman, Blaine Jimerson, Jayden Locke, Samuel McCormick, Caleb Mooney, Trey Mooney, Jonathan Murphy, William O’Keefe, John Pate, Colby Sutton, Rocky Walker III.

Women’s Track and Field: Amanda Berkstresser, Bailey Bowe, Memphis Coble, Mikhaela Cochran, Abigail Friesen, Alexis Fritz, Hannah Gulick, Rachel Holt, Laurnea Jarman, Taylor Morrow, Stephanie Penticuff, Oluwabukola Molunrayo Pereira, Jade Raynor, MeLeah Ridenour, Bethany Rodgers, Emma Sloan, Lillian Uding, Sydney Vogel, Tabitha Weber, Sarah Willhite.

Volleyball: Bailey Baumann, Ashleigh DeWees, Taylor Fischer, Bre Freeman, Whitney Johnson, Rachel Pfeifer, Katherine Robinson, Greyson Roster, Emily Thompson, Delanie Tipton.

Southwest Baptist University's Speaking Bearcats finished in the top 5 at the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament and Convention held March 14-17, 2018, at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tenn.

SBU faced off against competition from 85 other colleges and universities representing more than 30 states, finishing second in the open debate sweepstakes, sixth in open individual event sweepstakes and fifth in overall open sweepstakes.

In parliamentary debate, juniors Andrew DeShon (Lee's Summit, Mo.) and Mikayla Throne (Ozark, Mo.) finished the tournament as octofinalists (top 16). Throne was the third-place speaker in open parliamentary debate.

In public forum debate, junior Marisa Mayo (Billings, Mo.) finished fourth. In international public debate, sophomore Mariah Gilmore (Springfield, Mo.), sophomore Jeffrey Metzler (Minneapolis, Kan.) and freshman Jordan Martin (Grain Valley, Mo.) all reached the octofinals (top 16). In debate speaking awards, Martin was second in IPDA, and Metzler was third.

In speech events, the team had a number of impressive results:

REECE TABOR '18, senior (Nixa, Mo.), was a semifinalist (top 12 in the nation) in informative speaking, a quarterfinalist (top 24 in the nation) in persuasive speaking and editorial impromptu. He also was 24th in interviewing.

TIANA BROWNE '18, senior (Seneca, Mo.), earned fifth place in persuasive speaking, sixth place in extemporaneous speaking and was a semifinalist (top 12) in communication analysis. She also was a quarterfinalist (top 24) in impromptu speaking.

KENSEY DRESSLER, senior (Kansas City, Mo.), won fifth place in interviewing. She was a semifinalist (top 12) in impromptu and a quarterfinalist (top 24) in editorial impromptu. She also received Excellent Awards (top 40 percent) in both communication analysis and extemporaneous speaking. Dressler's strong results enabled her to finish ninth in the speech pentathlon competition.

ANDREW DESHON won fourth place in extemporaneous commentary in his first-ever national tournament.

MARISA MAYO was a quarterfinalist (top 24) in after-dinner speaking, a

SBU Speaking Bearcats finish in top 5 at national tournament



semifinalist (top 12) in both extemporaneous and communication analysis and earned an Excellent Award (top 40 percent) in persuasive speaking.

MIKAYLA THRONE earned an Excellent Award (top 40 percent) in program of oral interpretation.

JEFFREY METZLER earned an Excellent Award (top 40 percent) in interviewing.

KATELYN BLOOM, freshman (Bloomsdale, Mo.), won 16th place in interviewing.

JORDAN MARTIN won Excellent Awards (top 40 percent) in dramatic interpretation, prose, interviewing and program of oral interpretation.

BREANNA PRATER, freshman (Abilene, Kan.), won an Excellent Award (top 40 percent) in interviewing. She also was a quarterfinalist (top 24) in impromptu and a semifinalist (top 12) in editorial impromptu.

SBU students create website for “Buy Missouri” initiative

A team of graduating seniors from Southwest Baptist University recently worked with Missouri then Lt. Gov. Mike Parson's office to develop a website to enhance his “Buy Missouri” initiative.

Each year the senior students in SBU's Department of Computer and Information Science form teams to complete year-long projects for area businesses and organizations. These projects provide a capstone experience culminating their years of study.

The “Buy Missouri” website project team consists of Emily Munsell '18, senior computer information science major from Osceola, Ryan Reed '18, senior web systems and design major from Bolivar, and Joseph Sommerer '18, senior computer science and mathematics major from Jefferson City.

“Buy Missouri” is a statewide initiative to connect residents and businesses in Missouri, by educating consumers on the wide variety

of products made in Missouri and connecting them to the local businesses.

“Missouri has hundreds of products made within our borders, and our goal is to identify and compile these products so that all Missourians will know which ones to buy to help our state,” said Parson, now governor. “This website will be a resource that can be used to help advocate for items made within the borders of Missouri and to promote to other states and the world the products Missouri has to offer.”

A key component of the website the students created is a searchable business directory. Missouri businesses will have the opportunity to register for the site and then approved businesses will appear in the directory. Once the website launches, users will be able to search the directory by business name, industry type or county to connect to businesses participating in the “Buy Missouri” initiative.

1960s

Larry Benner '67 taught for 20 years in the Fort Osage School District in Independence, Mo., and retired from Susquehanna Auto Clinic [automotive repair] in November 2014. He and his wife, Linda, a 1967 Bolivar High School graduate, live in Independence and have two adult children, Lisa and Landon. Larry would love to hear from his SBU friends and classmates from 1962-1967. He can be reached at hr1957lb@comcast.net.

Ronnie Lowry '68 is retired and ministering online. He currently lives in Jacksonville, Fla., and would love to hear from his friends [1950-1970]. Ronnie can be reached at ronnie.lowry@outlook.com.

Thomas Smith '68 earned a bachelor of science degree from SWBC and currently lives in St. Louis.

1970s

Michael Rorie '78 retired from the United States Army in November 2017 and is now working for Whelan Security in Georgetown, Ky. Michael can be reached at mchl_rorie@yahoo.com.

1980s

Stuart Gilstrap '86 is ministering to families as a funeral director at Shadel's Colonial Chapel in Lebanon, Mo., where he lives with his wife, Julie. Stuart can be reached at stuart.gilstrap@gmail.com.

Todd Butler '88 works as a systems securities analyst for the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City. He also works as a minister for God Squad Ministries, performing counseling and wedding services for engaged couples. He and his wife, Janet [Dotson] Butler '89, live in Raytown, Mo., and have five children: Tyler, Natalie, Larissa, Lindsey and Kylie. Janet is a former middle school assistant librarian and currently works as a portrait photographer. Todd and Janet would love to hear from fellow SBU alumni. Todd can be reached at todd.wesley.butler@gmail.com.

Melissa [McCorkle] Anderson '89 earned a bachelor of science degree and currently lives in Blue Springs, Mo.

1990s

Philip Huebner '92 retired from the United States Navy after 28 years, and is now a supply chain supervisor at Aviation Technical Services in Kansas City. Philip can be reached at navyhueb@gmail.com.

Michael Summers '96, is a hospice chaplain with Integrity Home Care & Hospice in Springfield, Mo. He and his wife, Holly

[Thompson] Summers '96, '06, live in Fair Grove with their son, Stephen [4]. Michael can be reached at mjspreacher@gmail.com.

2000s

Mandy [Kellums] Baraka '01 married Andre and completed her Ph.D. in counselor education and supervision in 2017. She currently works at Wheaton College.

Joshua Hedger '04 planted Emmaus Church in 2015 and serves as pastor of teaching and vision, and earned his master's degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Tish, live in Kansas City with children Asa [3] and Trisha Tanner [18], who will be a freshman at SBU in the fall of 2018. Joshua can be reached at joshuarhedger@gmail.com.

2010s

Ryan Blumer '18 graduated with his doctor of physical therapy degree in May, and currently lives in Norwalk, Iowa, with his wife, Sara. He can be reached at rlblumer@msn.com.

Dawn [Rice] Henry '18 earned her bachelor of science degree in May and lives in Mountain View, Mo. Dawn can be reached at dawnhenry0915@gmail.com.

Lindsay [Mitchell] Keeney '14 works for CoxHealth and lives in Rogersville, Mo., with her husband, Devin.

Brooke Koester '18 graduated in May with a bachelor of science degree and is employed by the Hermitage School District. Brooke can be reached at brookekoester18@gmail.com.

Donna [Shatterly] Lowe '18 earned her bachelor of science degree in May and is employed as a substitute teacher. Donna and her husband, Scott Watson, live in Summersville, Mo., and have four children: Zoe Lowe [15], Logan Watson [19], Dylan Watson [23] and Garrett Shatterly [26]. Donna can be reached at donnashatterly@yahoo.com.

Megan [Bugg] MacKenzie '18 works for Mercy-St. Louis and lives in Hillsboro, Mo., with her husband, Hugh MacKenzie IV '18, who works for Mercy-Jefferson, and their son, Hugh V. Megan can be reached at meganmackenzie4@yahoo.com.

Heather [Hall] Shackelford '18 earned her MSN from SBU's Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences in May, and will begin teaching in SBU's nursing program. Heather lives in Nixa, Mo., with her husband, Bill, and their two children, Lillian [6] and Solomon [2]. She can be reached at hdshackelford728@yahoo.com.

Rachel Snyder '18 earned her master's degree in May and is employed by Springfield Public Schools. Rachel and her husband, Adam, live in Springfield, Mo., with their four children: Isabelle [12], Isaac [10], Zach [7] and Nate [5].

Karen [Mac] Wallach '18 earned her master's in May and is employed by the Special School District of St. Louis County. She and her husband, Stanley, live in Kirkwood and have two children. She can be reached at macwallach@att.net.

Future Bearcats



Shellie Austin '17 and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed Isabella Gabrielle in June 2017. Isabella joins siblings Megan, Joel, Abby and Shawn.

In Memory

Dr. Don Baker '50, passed away May 22 at the age of 87. He was the director of public relations at SWBC [1957-1966] and at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary [1967-1971]. Dr. Baker returned to Bolivar and taught in the theology department at SBU from 1976-1996. He is survived by his wife, Pat; daughters Pamela Bultmann and her husband, Nelson; Dana Harrigan and her husband, Pat; Beth Grabowski and her husband, Mark; grandchildren Julia Hornung [and husband, Nate], Brian Harrigan, Jim Grabowski [and wife, Taylor], Michael Bultmann, Kelsey Harrigan, and Amy Varner [and husband, Robert]; and great-grandchildren Truman, Cecelia, Porter, and Wallace Hornung; and Sarah Varner. Friends may honor Don Baker by contributing to S.O.A.R. [Service Oriented Aviation Readiness] at the Bolivar Municipal Airport or the Baker-Hoffmeister Preaching Scholarship at SBU.

Jack Stevens passed away March 4, at the age of 82, at Citizens Memorial Health Care Facility in Bolivar. The native of Ft. Atkinson, Wisc., served in the United States Air Force upon graduation from Ft. Atkinson High School in 1953. In 1958, Stevens moved to Bolivar where he attended Southwest Baptist College before transferring to Southwest Missouri State University, where he graduated with his B.S. degree in 1962. In 1968, he was hired as the registrar at Southwest Baptist College and held this position until he retired in 1997. Stevens is survived by Cora, his wife of almost 60 years; two sons, Byron and Jay; two daughters, Rhonda and Brenda; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army, in care of Butler Funeral Home, 407 E. Broadway St., Bolivar Mo. 65613.



Southwest Baptist University

Dear Alumni and Friends,

What a great 22 years it has been for me at SBU! It has been an honor and privilege to work and serve at this great University.

I always will treasure the many friendships I have gained among students, faculty, staff, Alumni and donors.

I will continue to pray for God's blessings on SBU and look forward to seeing where the Lord leads SBU in the future.

God bless each of you!

C. Pat Taylor

SBUlife

Southwest Baptist University
1600 University Avenue
Bolivar, MO 65613



Public retirement reception for
PRESIDENT TAYLOR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

1:00-4:00 P.M.

SELLS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER



Southwest Baptist
UNIVERSITY