



## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

### *They will know we are Christians by our love, or will they?*

Over the past year, your alma mater has been embroiled in a denominational controversy that has made national headlines. Challenges to the University's commitment to kingdom work and theological integrity have been the primary focus. Nevertheless, I view these challenges as opportunities to clarify who we are and always have been as a university.

We take our commitments to Biblical worldview education seriously. One way the University Board of Trustees has supported these commitments is by commissioning Dr. David Dockery to lead a Peer Assessment Committee to conduct substantive conversations regarding faith, learning, and doctrine. The study primarily found the 1921 Statement of Faith not being at the forefront of who we are as a university.

In direct response, former board chairman, Mr. Mark Rains '70, formed a workgroup of trustees and faculty to revise the Statement. Additionally, the workgroup will make recommendations to the administration on how the Statement can be applied effectively. I anticipate the workgroup will recommend the revised Statement should be embedded within the University Principles and Expectations document every prospective employee signs when making application to SBU. I also anticipate the workgroup to make more-specific Baptist recommendations regarding the faculty teaching within The Courts Redford School of Theology and Ministry.

All of these items are positive steps for the University as we continue our Kingdom work.

Within the lifetime of an institution such as Southwest Baptist University, controversies come and go, providing opportunities for us to reflect on the DNA of the University. Make no mistake about it — the controversy

in which SBU has been embroiled has little to do with theology; this has been a co-opted controversy used by others as an attempt to exert undue influence over the University. All of this affects our giving, our enrollment, and potentially our accreditation. The manipulation, underhandedness, and self-dealing threaten who SBU has always been, and I cannot help but think the Lord is displeased.

When we disagree with one another, shouting matches are ineffective, be they in the form of public forums, pamphleteering, social media campaigns, or letter writing campaigns. What is wrong with having forthright conversations, and perhaps airing our disagreements over a cup of coffee?

As long as SBU has been in existence, Scripture has reigned as the supreme authority for how we teach and how we learn — provided within the confines of a Biblical worldview. This makes some uncomfortable, insisting there be something else to define us. This type of Orwellian thinking erroneously tries to redefine the contemplative life within the context of a Christian university whose liberal arts education has always been its focus. As we use the guardrails Scripture provides, ideas contrary to our own should sharpen rather than frighten us. From my perspective, Jesus is enough.

May the Lord bless you, and may He bless Southwest Baptist University.

Eric A. Turner  
President | *ROMANS 10:15*



## Alumni awards presented at SBU HONORS CHAPEL



**Front row (left to right):** Dr. David Hilderbrand, Dr. Russell Ford, Dr. Glenn Miller, Elizabeth Mitchell Pace, Dr. Gary Longenecker.

**Back row (from left):** Dr. Eric A. Turner, president of SBU; and Dr. Lee Skinkle, provost.

*Five Southwest Baptist University alumni were honored with special awards in recognition of living lives of service at Honors Chapel on Friday, Oct. 18.*

### Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award

The Alumni Association presents the Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award annually to an alumnus or alumna who demonstrates the ideals personified by the late Edwin Lightfoot '40. The award criteria include alumni leadership in the University, dedication to the education and welfare of youth, and demonstrated support for SBU.



### ELIZABETH MITCHELL PACE '59

#### *Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient*

Elizabeth Mitchell Pace taught in the Bolivar School District for 35 years and was a member and officer of the Parent Teacher Association, Classroom Teacher Association and Lakes Country Council of the International Reading Association. She serves the Bolivar community as a member of the service organization Bolivar Twenty Club and as a supporter of the Exodus House and House of Hope.

Pace earned her associate of arts degree in 1959 from Southwest Baptist College, her bachelor of science degree from Baylor University in 1962 and her master of science in education from Missouri State University in 1981.

She recalled the impact that Edwin Lightfoot has had, not only on her life, but on SBU's past, present and future.

"Dr. Lightfoot's contributions to SBU have had an immense, long-lasting result," Pace said. "The ripple effect of his gifts is not measurable. It is satisfying to enjoy the benefits of a Christ-centered, caring academic community, to observe the growth of the university, to watch the students become servant leaders in a global society."

While a student at SWBC, Pace was Student Association secretary, a biology lab assistant, Life Beautiful Award recipient, debate team member, Miss Southwest candidate and revival team participant. She also traveled with the Chorale to Italy, Austria, Czech Republic and Germany. Pace and her husband, Julian, are members of First Baptist Church of Bolivar and have two children: Julian Jr., and Emily.

## SBUlife

ALUMNI MAGAZINE Volume 110 Issue 4 | USPS 507-500

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SBUlife [USPS 507-500] is published in February, April, July, and November. It is distributed free for alumni, parents and friends of Southwest Baptist University by the Office of Marketing & Communications, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613. Periodical postage paid at Bolivar, Mo., and additional mailing offices.

SBUlife highlights the University's mission: to be a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society. SBU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, marital status or disability. Any person having inquiries regarding this may contact Tara Parson (417) 328-1511.

## Alumni Life Service Awards

Inspired by the Life Beautiful Award presented each year to one male and one female graduate, President John Dowdy suggested to the Southwest Baptist College Board of Trustees in 1955 that the Life Service Award be given annually to graduates whose lives have exemplified the principles which are upheld at Southwest. The award is the highest recognition that the University can bestow upon an alumnus or alumna.



### DR. RUSSELL FORD '65, '67, *Life Service Award recipient*

Dr. Russell Ford was a member of SWBC's first four-year graduating class, earning a B.A. in education, majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. He then went on to serve in the United States Marine Corps from 1967-1970, which included a 13-month tour of duty in Viet Nam.

"I was raised in a Christian home, and I thank God for how he has blessed me and for leading me every step of my life, including choosing Southwest Baptist College," Ford said. "I'm thankful to SBU, the institution,

for what it stands for and for what it meant for my life."

Ford has received several awards and honors including the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" (earned in Viet Nam), Educator of the Year, St. Clair Chamber of Commerce (1996), Missouri Superintendent of the Year (1996) and was the Missouri representative for National Superintendent of the Year (1996). Ford and his wife, Barbara '69, have two adult children: Mark Ford '92 and Sharida Green '96, and are members of Go Church in Ridgefield, Wash.



### DR. DAVID HILDERBRAND '65, '67, *Life Service Award recipient*

Dr. David Hilderbrand, who earned his bachelor of arts degree in mathematics from SWBC in 1967, began his teaching career in chemistry at South Dakota State University and taught from 1974-2004 as well as served in other director roles at the university.

"Some very special relationships developed here, and one of those was four of us guys who lived in a suite in Beasley Hall," Hilderbrand said of what his time at SBU meant to him. "You have changed my life,

and I am far better for having known you. I also want to express my appreciation for the quality education and the leadership opportunities that I had while a student here."

During his time at SWBC, Hilderbrand was president of the Student Association, a two-time nominee for Mr. Southwest, selected Most Likely to Succeed, a dorm counselor, chemistry lab assistant and a member of SWBC's first four-year graduating class. Hilderbrand and his wife, Julie '68, have two adult sons: Grant '91 and Lucas.



### DR. GARY LONGENECKER '71, *Life Service Award recipient*

Dr. Gary Longenecker earned his bachelor of arts degree from SWBC in 1971 and an honorary doctorate from SBU in 2008. In addition to the many organizations he serves, Longenecker also is the director and founder of Kingdom Sports Products, which developed the "Ball of Many Colors" – a soccer ball that helps spread the Gospel throughout the world. Thousands have come to know Christ through its message.

"I didn't think I would make it," Longenecker said about

being a 26-year-old college student. "But, with the help of some wonderful faculty and some encouragement from a lot of people, I was able to finish and eventually go on and get my seminary degree."

Longenecker currently is senior pastor at Harmony Baptist Church in Rogersville, where he serves on several committees. He also has served at First Baptist Church of Lebanon, Mo. Longenecker and his wife, Mary, have two children: Mark and Jill.



### DR. GLENN MILLER '81, *Life Service Award recipient*

Dr. Glenn Miller earned his associate's degree in general education from SWBC in 1981, a bachelor of science in business administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a doctor of educational ministry from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"SBU is a high-quality academic institution," Miller said. "As I went on to get graduate studies at other institutions, I recognized the quality of the education that I received while I was here.

"From the classroom to the global mission field to

everywhere in between, SBU's unwavering commitment to the Kingdom and to the Great Commission makes me want to be a part of things here, and makes me proud to be an alumnus."

Miller founded the Institute for Church Management [ICM] in 2004, creating a 10-course curriculum for improved church/non-profit administration. He also is the founder/Chief Executive Officer of Miller Management Systems, LLC, serving more than 3,000 ministries across 28 denominations. He and his wife, Kimberly '81, have four children and six grandchildren.

To nominate an alumnus for the Life Service Award or the Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award for 2020, fill out a nomination form by March 10, 2020, at [advance.SBUuniv.edu](http://advance.SBUuniv.edu).



SOUTH WEST BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

# HOMECOMING 2019





**SAVE  
the  
DATE**

# Homecoming 2020 **OCTOBER 2-3**



Connect with us at **Facebook.com/SBUniv**  
to view more photos from Homecoming 2019!

# Canfield, Manuel named **SBU Homecoming King and Queen**



Aaron Canfield and Laura Manuel were announced as the 2019 Southwest Baptist University Homecoming King and Queen at halftime of the Bearcats' football game against Quincy University on Oct. 19.

Students nominated five seniors as candidates for Homecoming King and five candidates for Homecoming Queen.

Aaron Canfield is an exercise science major from Tulsa, Okla. He is the son of Carolyn and Byron Canfield. After graduation, he plans to attend physical therapy school at SBU.

Manuel is a sports medicine major from Blue Springs. She is the daughter of Marla and Scott Manuel. After graduation, she plans to pursue a doctorate degree in physical therapy at SBU.

## **SBU Alumni Association awards annual scholarships**

Four Southwest Baptist University students were recognized during Homecoming 2019 festivities for receiving scholarships from the SBU Alumni Association.

Each year, \$2,000 scholarships are awarded to four students. Each student is enrolled full time at SBU and is the child of an SBU graduate. Other qualifications include maintaining a 3.0 cumulative GPA and being an active member of an evangelical church. Since June 1, 2002, the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship has provided \$83,500 in scholarship support.

### **Recipients**

Alexis Royal is a freshman from Harrisonville, Mo., majoring in elementary education, with a secondary certification in early childhood education. Her parents, Michael '92 and Tonya '93, are alumni of SBU. After graduation, Alexis plans to teach first grade in her hometown.

Josiah Williford is a sophomore from Dixon, Mo., majoring in Christian ministries, with a minor in discipleship ministries. His parents, Bobby and Dianne, graduated from SBU in 1992 and 1993, respectively. After graduation, Josiah wants to live life completely dependent on the Lord. He says he's not called to the "American Dream," and would love to live overseas.

Tymon Conway is a junior from Pleasant Hill, Mo., majoring in mathematics, with 9-12 certification. His parents, Mark and Amy, both are 1996 SBU graduates. After graduation, Tymon will pursue a master's degree in pure mathematics with plans to become a high school mathematics teacher.

Emma Hale is a senior from Springfield, Mo., majoring in psychology. Her parents, Alan '94 and Shayla '93, are SBU alumni. After graduation, Emma plans to enter a Ph.D. program in clinical psychology in the fall of 2020 with plans to study pediatric pain management.

## **SBU installs Bailey as Miller accounting chair**

Sharla Bailey was installed as an academic chair during Southwest Baptist University's academic chair installation ceremony Wednesday, Nov. 6, in Rohrs Auditorium on the Bolivar campus.

Bailey, a 1981 SBU graduate and assistant professor of accounting, was installed as the Lenore Miller Accounting Chair.

"An academic chair is supported by an endowed fund that is permanently invested for a faculty member in a specific academic discipline," said SBU Provost Dr. Lee Skinkle. "Earnings from the endowment help to off-set the faculty member's salary and support the faculty member's budget for professional development."

### **Lenore Miller Accounting Chair Sharla Bailey**

Bailey worked as a staff accountant for Phillips Petroleum Company in Bartlesville, Okla., prior to joining the accounting faculty at SBU in 1994.

She has been part of SBU's accounting program for 28 of its 44 years, and is credentialed as a Certified Public Accountant,

a Certified Management Accountant, a Certified Government Financial Manager and a Chartered Global Management Accountant.

Bailey attends First Baptist Church in Bolivar. She and her husband, Kevin, have been married for 36 years.



The Lenore Miller Accounting Chair was made possible by Dr. Barbara Clemmons, her husband Dr. Charlie Clemmons and the Lenore Miller estate. Miller's daughter Dr. Barbara Clemmons wanted to honor her mother and her lifelong support and service to her husband, Herbert, and the accounting profession.

"Southwest Baptist University's accounting program has such a rich history, and our accounting graduates are some of the most 'sought-after' in the region," said Dr. Brad Johnson, vice president for university relations at SBU.

"This new endowed chair is a fitting tribute to Barbara's mother, Lenore Miller, who was a pioneer in the development and facilitation of post-secondary accounting education programs across the nation."

## 1940s

**Richard Clark '49** lives in Ozark, Mo., with his wife Betty and can be reached at rclark01@juno.com.

## 1950s

**Barbara (Hewlett) Vargas '57** lives in Midlothian, Texas and can be reached at barbaravargas55@yahoo.com.

## 1960s

**Harold Burton '67** and his wife, **Jo (Heuer) '67**, live in Bloomington, Ill. Harold and Jo celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July with friends and family, including their children, Natalie and Scott.

## 1970s

**Roger Glidewell '71** and his wife, Kathryn, live in Chatsworth, Ga., and are preparing to celebrate their 25th year of Global Youth Camps in 2020. Roger can be reached at roger@globalyouthministry.org.

**Joe Statton '71**, and his wife, **Patti (Lewis) '70**, live in Bryant, Ark. They have three children and six granddaughters. Joe can be reached at jstatton@gsfbc.org.

**Pam McDermott '73** lives in Sioux City, Iowa, and can be reached at packerpam482000@gmail.com.

**Peggy (Condra) Young '79**, and her husband, **Donald '79**, live in Dadeville, Mo. Peggy can be reached at pkathleen@gmail.com.

## 1980s

**Bruce Wilbanks '80** and his wife of 43 years, Leta, live in Tulsa, Okla. Bruce works with Eagle Family Ministries hosting marriage conferences and serves as the founder and executive director at Marriage and Family Initiative ([www.MarriageAndFamilyTulsa.org](http://www.MarriageAndFamilyTulsa.org)). Bruce can be contacted at Bruce@MFI-Tulsa.org for information about marriage conferences at your church, or at (918) 252-7883.

**Timothy Young '80** lives in Midlothian, Texas, with his wife **Lori (Worley) Young '80**. He can be reached at tallymoo@gmail.com.

**Dawn (Williams) Holmes '82** lives in Anna, Ill., and can be reached at auroraof7@hotmail.com.

**Susan (Henderson) King '83**, lives in Lorton, Va., and can be reached at kfwzgc@aol.com.

**Hugh McComb '85**, and his wife **Debbie (Beck) '85**, live in Pearland, Texas. Hugh is practicing full-time at his counseling center, Judah Christian Counseling. Hugh can be contacted at hdlmmcc@sbcglobal.net.

**J. Jeff Fugitt '86** lives in Cassville, Mo., where he now is the pastor of the Cassville United Methodist Church. He can be reached at jefffugitt@gmail.com.

## 1990s

**Jeong Hoon Nam '90** lives in Daejeon, Korea, and can be reached at gkalkalnam@gmail.com.

**Donald Thompson '96** is the assistant principal at Deer Park High School in Deer Park, Texas. He and his wife Betsy currently live in League City, Texas and can be reached at donald7198@gmail.com

**Benjamin Lichtensalner '96** and his wife **Cynthia (Beatty) '96** live in Palatine, Ill., and can be reached at blichten@yahoo.com.

**Bo Holman '96, '98** and his wife, Kristi, live in Demopolis, Ala. Bo can be reached at genesisrehab@bellsouth.net.

## 2000s

**Jodie Radford '00** lives in Lee's Summit, Mo., and can be reached at jodielynn78@gmail.com.

**Tabbie (Tucker) Pendleton '01-'03**, lives in Fort Smith, Ark., and can be reached at tammie\_65605@yahoo.com.

**Brock Kennedy '04** and his wife, Elaina, live in Springfield, Mo., and can be reached at elainack@gmail.com.



**Kyle Smith '04**, and his wife, Amanda, were married July 27, 2019 at Randolph Chapel. They currently live in Bolivar, Mo.

**Kathleen Hoelzer '06** retired from teaching music at Fox C-6 School District in Arnold, Mo. She and her husband, **Richard Hoelzer '74**, have 9 grandchildren ranging from the age of 2 to the age of 15. They currently reside in Fenton, Mo.

**Kimberly (Dyer) Hall '97, '07** and her husband, Daniel, live in Kankakee, Ill., and can be reached at kimpt@yahoo.com.

**John Shikles '08** and his wife, Bonnie, live in Bolivar, Mo. He can be reached at s490993@SBUuniv.edu.

## 2010s

**Micah Titterington '10** and his wife, **Crystal (Jordan) Titterington '10** live in Bolivar, Mo., where Micah started a new job as the Executive Director of Community Outreach Ministries. He can be reached at m.titterington@hotmail.com.

**Tori Blankenship '13** moved to Boston, Mass. to pursue a career in accounting.



**Bethany (Beldner) Simonds '12** and **Zach '12** were married in March 2019 in their hometown of St. Louis. They currently live in Denver where Bethany sells on eBay full-time, and Zach works

in finance for Western Union. Bethany can be reached at Bethany.beldner@gmail.com.

**Nathaniel Sawyer '18** and wife **Rachael (Paris) Sawyer '16** live in Marina, Calif. Nathaniel started graduate school at Middlebury Institute of International Studies this fall. He can be reached at nathanielswyr@gmail.com.

## FUTURE BEARCATS

**Robert "Bruce" Robidou '07** lives in Fort Worth, Texas with his wife **Jen (Henbest) Robidou '07** and welcomed the birth of their third child, Meredith Joy, this past July.



**Christina (Owensby) Patterson '14** and her husband Austin welcomed a boy, Baylor, to their family. Christina can be reached at cowensby15@gmail.com.

## BEARCATS IN THE NEWS

**Laurie (Bonner) Nickless '90** was invited to speak at a history conference on July 15, 2019, in Surabaya, Indonesia. She lives with her husband, Mark, in DeSoto, Mo and can be reached at thenicklessfamily@gmail.com.

## FORMER FACULTY

**Dr. Jim Frost**, who taught in the Courts Redford College of Theology and Ministry from 1987-2015, lives in Stillwater, Okla., with his wife Emily. They are ministering to international students at Oklahoma State University and would love to hear from former students. Dr. Frost can be reached at jfrost@SBUuniv.edu.

## IN MEMORY

**Shawn Linder '03** passed away Oct. 29 in a car accident. He was part of the SBU football program from 1999-2002. During his college career, he received All-MIAA honors as well as All-Region honors, and he was known as an excellent defensive lineman, an outstanding teammate, and a man of great faith. Shawn was living in Georgia, serving as the Johnson County football coach and middle school athletic director. A celebration of life homegoing services were held Nov. 3 at the Johnson County High School Gym in Wrightsville, Ga.

# SBUlife

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER EDITION  
Fall 2019

Southwest Baptist University  
1600 University Avenue  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
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**FOUNDERS' DAY**

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**3.2.20**

**#MySBUStory**

*“I’m called to be a music teacher so I can change my students’ lives, and you can make it possible.”*

**HANNA GLASGOW**

*Music education major from Grove, Okla.*



Southwest Baptist  
UNIVERSITY