

# THE BAPTIST EDUCATOR



News Journal of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities

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## IABCU ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOPS SET FOR MAY 30-JUNE 3, 2015 IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The annual meeting and workshops of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities is set for May 30-June 2, 2015, in St. Louis, Missouri. This year's meeting will be hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Alton Lacey, along with the faculty and staff of Missouri Baptist University.

The events will begin with the annual golf tournament on Saturday, May 30. This year's tournament will be played at Missouri Bluffs Golf Club, which is widely considered to be one of the best championship courses in Missouri.

This year's schedule includes a Sunday afternoon St. Louis Cardinals game. The first block of tickets sold out quickly, and a second block of tickets has been purchased.

The opening session of the annual meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 31. Dr. David P. Gushee will deliver this year's Hester Lecture with a talk entitled "Students, Baptists, and Education: Who We Educate, From What Theology, With What Paradigm." Dr. Gushee is the Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of the Center for Theological and Public Life at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia.

On Monday morning, June 1, Dr. Robert Bishop will pre-

sent information about Wheaton College's Evangelism Initiative. Along with the second plenary session, the annual IABCU business luncheon will be held. It will feature an update by Dr. David Olive, president of the IABCU, as well as an update from Dr. Carolyn Bishop, president of the Consortium for Global Education. A reception and banquet will be held on Monday evening at Missouri Baptist University, hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Alton Lacey and the MBU staff.

This year's spouse tour will include a trip to the Missouri Botanical Gardens, one of the top botanical gardens in the country. Guests will enjoy a tram tour through the display gardens, light lunch at the Spink Gallery, and an educational workshop and demonstration entitled "Say It With Flowers," where attendees will learn how to turn a grocery store bouquet into a beautiful arrangement.

Several workshops will be offered during the meeting, including "Managing Crime, Security, and Allegations of Sexual Misconduct on the Christian Campus," led by Alton Lacey and Aaron Lacey, Partner in the Higher Education Practice at Thompson, Coburn, LLP. Thomas Bakewell, consultant and author of *Claiming Your Place at the Boardroom Table: The Essential* continued on page 7



Located in St. Louis, Mo., Missouri Baptist University is home to more than 5,200 students. MBU offers more than 40 undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees in education, business and religion and terminal degree, the Doctor of Education. In addition to its 66-acre West St. Louis County campus, MBU offers degree programs at 11 regional learning centers throughout Saint Louis, in Southern Illinois and online.

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## E.T.B.U. Trustees Elect Dr. Blair Blackburn as President

MARSHALL, Texas (4/07/15) – According to a press release from the school, the East Texas Baptist University Board of Trustees elected Dr. J. Blair Blackburn of Dallas, Texas, as its next president. Dr. Blackburn will succeed Dr. Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver who left to become the president of Union University located in Jackson, Tennessee, on June 1, 2014.

Dr. Blackburn currently serves as the Executive Vice President at Dallas Baptist University. He has been in this position since 2002, reporting directly to the President, and has 20 years of service with the institution.

“Dr. Blackburn is an exceptionally well qualified and highly experienced individual ideally suited to be E.T.B.U.’s next president,” said Hal Cornish, chairman of the E.T.B.U. Board of Trustees. “The Board of Trustees and the entire E.T.B.U. community is very excited about the University’s bright future under the presidential leadership of Dr. Blackburn.”

“I am excited and humbled that the Lord has called me to serve as president of East Texas Baptist University,” shared Dr. Blair Blackburn. “Having been raised in Northwest Louisiana and living in East Texas for many years, I have known and respected this institution for its unwaver-



*Dr. Blackburn, and his wife, Michelle, have been married for 23 years and have three children: Taylor (22), Elizabeth “Blair” (17), and Parker (15).*

ulty and staff of E.T.B.U. and build upon an incredible foundation as we press forward in the vision of building East Texas Baptist into an institution of greatness for the glory of God. I believe that as followers of Christ, we are called to live a life of excellence., and as a Christ-centered university, we are likewise called to pursue excellence in all aspects of our mission to train and equip men and women to be contributors for the Kingdom, in whatever and wherever the Lord calls..”

“Michelle and I look forward to the opportunity God has granted us to serve the East Texas Baptist Family. We want to reflect a model of Christ’s servant leadership and to foster an engaging environment where transformational leadership is embraced and encouraged.”

The President of Dallas Baptist University, Dr. Gary Cook, says, “I have had the privilege to work side by side with Blair for 20 years. Over the course of that time, he has served in a variety of roles, each time meeting and exceeding expectations. He has worked closely with faculty and staff members in matters of accreditation, enrollment, advancement, student life, spiritual life, athletics, and construction, and he is so highly respected by his peers.”

Dr. Blackburn has an associate of arts degree from Tyler Jr. College and graduated from the University of Texas at Tyler with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science. He holds a Master of Science degree in Higher Education Administration from Texas A&M-Commerce. He earned his Doctor of Education in Educational Administration .

ing commitment to stand as a beacon for Christ-centered education.”

“It is my desire to partner together with the faithful fac-

East Texas Baptist University offers graduate programs in business, counseling, religion and education, as well as 40 undergraduate degree programs. ETBU provides a Christ centered education that emphasizes the integration of faith and learning. ■

# Comment: Living Out Our Missions of Faith & Learning

David Olive, IABCU President and Board Chair and President, Bluefield College

As I near the end of my service to the Association in this current capacity, I am reminded of what excites me most about our unique and compelling relationship with one another. The friendships and collegial fellowship is personally and professionally inspiring, yet the central element in our missions that binds us together is our shared labors in seeking to transform the hearts, souls and minds of our students to be like that of



David Olive

The friendships and collegial fellowship is personally and professionally inspiring, yet the central element in our missions that binds us together is our shared labors in seeking to transform the hearts, souls and minds of our students to be like that of Christ's.

Christ's. In so doing through our educational endeavors, we are enabling our students to understand God's call upon their lives. And, as they discover that which brings them their greatest joy—their passion in life—they, too, can seek to live their lives in a manner that seeks to meet the world's greatest needs. What an amazing opportunity we have! What a blessing we share.

During this year, I have taken the opportunity in The Baptist Educator to focus on spiritual formation and the importance it has in our efforts to integrate faith and learning. In the last issue of The Baptist

Educator, you learned from Dr. Shawn White, Director of Spiritual Formation and Assistant Professor of Christian Studies at Bluefield College, how we at Bluefield are approaching spiritual formation and seeking to transform the lives of our students. In the pages that follow, you will gain insights as to how three other of our member institutions are being salt and light to their students on their campuses. One author shares a glimpse of spiritual formation through the lens of a moment in time in the life of the institution, a

While challenges certainly face higher education, the religious sector, and our respective institutions, opportunities abound and the future is bright.

moment marked by tragedy and joy. Another shares of the intentionality required in living out the Great Commission in order to reach students who have little to no faith and who come from a world that often crowds out an awareness of, or relationship with, God. The other shares how biblical foundations are made evident to students through numerous encounters throughout their educational journey. Each is similar, yet unique—as is the vastness of our diversity institutionally and individually.

In closing, I am grateful to each of you for your support not only of this Association, but of me during my time of leadership. I have been blessed to work with incredibly gifted and capable officers—Dub Oliver, Jairy Hunter and Mark Wyatt—as well as a wonderful board of directors. While challenges certainly face higher education, the religious sector, and our respective institutions, opportunities abound and the future is bright. May God continue to bless our institutional leaders, faculty, staff, and the students we serve, along with the collective work we share through this Association!

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION AT A “UNIVERSITY COMMITTED TO THE GREAT COMMISSION”

California Baptist University is a university committed to the Great Commission. Consequently, the Office of Spiritual Life must pass the litmus of the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20. As many biblical exegetes have documented, the main verb of the Great Commission is the imperative, “make disciples.” For that reason, making disciples is paramount in Spiritual Life programming, whether it is in one-on-one discipleship, small or large group meetings/Bible studies, pastoral care appointments, Chapel programming, local and domestic ministry

partnerships, or international service projects.

Because C.B.U. has a diverse student population, we must be about facilitating forward movement in the spiritual growth of all students, regardless of their current spiritual condition. For students who have committed to Christ, we teach and demonstrate the practices that facilitate maturity. For students who have never made a commitment to Christ, our goal is to help

them take a step closer to follow Jesus. We are committed to walking alongside them, knowing that our loving relationships could be catalysts that God uses to open their spiritual eyes.

Making disciples means we have to be about the simultaneous work of evangelism and discipleship. Evangelism that is devoid of discipleship might lead only to making converts instead of disciples. But discipleship that is not mindful of the redemption and reconciliation that became possible in the sacrifice of Christ could lead to a false sense of spiritual maturity.

**...making disciples is paramount in Spiritual Life programming, whether it is in one-on-one discipleship, small or large group meetings/Bible studies, pastoral care appointments, Chapel programming, local and domestic ministry partnerships, or international service projects.**

Therefore, the gospel must be unleashed as the catalyst for both justification and sanctification. The gospel is the power of God to salvation (Rom. 1:16), but it is also foundation of our continued hope (Col. 1:23). Unfortunately, we have discovered that many students, both church and unchurched, cannot articulate a

basic understanding of the gospel. Consequently, the gospel is central to all of our programming.

We are intentional in presenting the gospel during large group worship times during new student orientation, and those are followed by personal gospel appointments in the first few weeks of the fall semester. The gospel is presented in biblical Chapel messages and is key to the discipleship ministry large and small group meetings throughout the year. Applicants for summer service project programs must articulate their understanding of the gospel in their applications. These gospel accounts are then discussed in follow-up interviews, and as a result, some students have committed to Christ in their application to participate in Great Commission service.

The prevalence of gospel illiteracy is an indicator of biblical illiteracy. We have discovered that a small minority of students daily read and reflect on the Bible. Gone are the days when students arrive on campus with a basic understanding of scripture. Therefore, the Bible is preeminent in all Spiritual Life programming. Training for local service projects includes a biblical foundation for service. Discipleship programming teaches Bible-centered spiritual disciplines. The objective in Chapel is for speakers to speak

from the Bible. In all our programming, we are careful to explain what the Bible says, what it means, and how it applies to the lives of college students.

Though the Great Commission is often used to

support “missions,” the commitment to focus on making disciples opens the Great Commission to all followers of Jesus. We avoid use of the word “missionary” because it could convey that disciple-making is limited to a special class of Christians. All followers of Jesus are called to make disciples wherever they are located because “the fields are white unto harvest.” The answer to whether we should stay or go is emphatically “yes!”

With that in mind, making disciples begins on our campus. Many students come to us without a genuine relationship with Christ. Disciple-making begins with those students. Other students come to us having committed to Christ, but they are still immature in their faith and walk. Disciple-making begins with those students, too. Still others come with a strong and vibrant relationship with Christ. Disciple-making begins with these students, as well.

Making disciples also extends to the entire globe. This year, almost 400 students, staff, and faculty will be trained and sent out in 42 teams to participate with field workers in the work of making disciples in 16

nations around the world. Our goal is two-fold in sending them out.

For some, we hope to awaken their desire for a lifetime of overseas ministry. But in all, we desire to create an

insatiable thirst for the joy that comes from a lifetime of making disciples no matter where God may place them.

Because CBU is a university committed to the Great Commission, our desire in Spiritual Life is to follow the directive of Jesus to make disciples, and our mission is to make disciples who will make disciples.

If our mission is successful, those whom we disciple will do the same as they serve the church and the world. ■

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*John Montgomery is Dean of Spiritual Life at California Baptist University, where he and his team desire is to see college students transformed by the gospel for the glory of God.*

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# STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY

Three days following Ash Wednesday, the wintry mix falling from the grey sky was a cold and relentless reminder of the morning's sadness. Mourners gathered for a funeral service that never should have been. Colleagues from our university surrounded a co-worker and his wife who were preparing to bury their only child after we sang a few songs, prayed a couple of prayers, and listened to a brief sermon. With administrators, teachers and students scattered throughout the sanctuary, I found myself thinking, "Am I really here?"

Babies don't belong in caskets.

With hurting hearts and smothering emotions, people came to the church building to gather around a devastated family who only a few days ago had found their 3 month old daughter lying lifelessly in the crib. On this day, the roads were slick with ice. The air was cold. Everyone carried an umbrella. With dark clouds looming above, the morning's sorrow was almost too heavy to bear. We drove the sad hour-long drive to try to show our love for the distraught family and be present with them during what was a most difficult time.

Would the sun ever shine? Would we ever smile again?

Women whose husbands die are known as widows. Children whose parents die are called orphans. There is no word to describe a parent who has lost a child.

Come, Lord Jesus.

When evening came, many from our University family gathered at another church in another town with others from our local community. We had cried together that morning with one family. We came

together again and were celebrating with another family only a few hours later. Warm candles glowed and the scent of fresh flowers filled the sanctuary as happy couples dressed in festive wear sat in joyful anticipation of a wedding's beginning. The wedding party was splendid. The parents of the bride were glowing. The groom stood with an enraptured expression as his beautiful bride came down the center aisle. Majestic music filled the church as the congregation happily witnessed the solemn vows between a man and his bride.

It is not good for man to be alone.

The black-robed preacher reminded us of the holy institution of marriage. Founded by God, the marriage relationship between a man and a woman is a reflection of the relationship that exists between Christ and the church. Like the metal and shape of a wedding ring, marriage is a pure and ongoing relationship. A wedding ceremony is not only a time

when a man and woman make life-long vows to one another—it is a time when we are reminded that Christ will one day come for his bride—the Church. At that time, we will know fully the love of God as we are ultimately united with his Son.

Christians bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). We come alongside one another and weep with those who are weeping. When one member suffers, we all suffer. On the other hand, we also are quick

to rejoice with those who are rejoicing. When one celebrates, we are eager to join the party (Romans 12:15).

Indeed, God's Kingdom is both here and not yet

**As an institution of Christian higher education, our mission is to provide Christ-centered education which promotes excellence and character development in service to Church and society.**

here. It has come in Christ. It will come when Christ returns. Awaiting the consummation of the Kingdom while living in our fallen world, we understand that “Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven” (1 Corinthians 15:49).

Standing at the funeral that morning, I felt that we were so far from God’s design. At the evening wedding, I felt that we were so close to what God has for us. The sad morning was yet another reminder that things currently are not as they should be. The joyful evening was yet another reminder of our blessed hope—the promise of salvation which we will one day physically experience.

Someone has described the Lenten season as a “bright sadness.” There is the brightness of the resurrection in which we hope. Our sadness is rooted in the present reality our fallen world and the costliness of God’s sacrifice for our sins. Until Christ returns, this is our journey—a journey full of bright sadnesses. We journey through life realizing that things on earth are not as they should be; nor are those things as they will one day be.

The hope of the resurrection makes all the difference in this world.

Our journey in life is also one that we travel together with other believers. As an institution of Christian higher education, our mission is to provide Christ-centered education which promotes excellence and character development in service to Church and society. The nature of our mission shapes the context of our organization. A Christ-centered mission calls for a Christ-centered community that cares deeply for one another. Because of

**A Christ-centered mission calls for a Christ-centered community that cares deeply for one another.**

Christ’s crucifixion, we weep with one another over the implications of our sinful world. As a result of Christ’s resurrection, we rejoice with one another because of His victory over sin and death which has been given to us by grace through faith.

The community of believers makes all the difference in this world.

Reflecting on our fallen world sobers the journey of daily living. Considering the

reality of the resurrection and the Lord’s return for his Bride causes our hearts to yearn even more for that day when he will appear. Until then, we have God’s promise to undergird us and God’s people to journey with us.

Even so, come Lord Jesus. ■



*Dr. Todd Brady is Vice President for University Ministries and Assistant Professor of Ministry at Union University.*

## IABCU Annual Meeting

*Continued from page 1*

*Handbook for Excellence In Governance and Effective Directorship*, will present “Private Colleges That are Thriving Today and How They are Doing It: Achieving Change with Actual Case Studies.” Chris Withers, consultant and former Vice President of Advancement at the University of Richmond will present “How To Get the Board Engaged in Fundraising Or Get Behind A Campaign.”

Warren Peek from the Southern Baptist Foundation and Barbara Medlin from GuideStone Financial Resources will be available for private consultations. To schedule an appointment, please email Ashley Hill at [ashleyhill@baptistschools.org](mailto:ashleyhill@baptistschools.org).

Registration for the annual meeting is open at [BaptistSchools.org](http://BaptistSchools.org). The meeting will take place at the St. Louis Marriott West. ■

# SPIRITUAL FORMATION AT CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Charleston Southern University is a South Carolina Baptist affiliated school founded in 1964 in the beautiful, historic Lowcountry. Our vision is to be a Christian university nationally recognized for integrating faith in learning, leading and serving. In light of our vision, spiritual formation is extremely important to us. The principles listed below guide our spiritual formation efforts.

***Clearly define and promote the biblical worldview, which includes the gospel.***

We seek to define clearly the biblical worldview,

which includes the gospel, and promote it in every area of the university (e.g., classroom; athletics; chapel; campus Bible studies; personal example of administrators, faculty and staff). Our understanding of the biblical worldview may be summarized as follows:

**Creation**—God is the creator of all things (Gen 1-2). As creator God has sovereignty over his creation. That God created people in his image (Gen 1:26-27) suggests that we should regard people (humans) as possessing a special dignity, and we should serve as responsible stewards of creation (Gen 1:26-30). Our ultimate purpose is to glorify God (1 Pet 4:11b; 1 Cor 10:31).

**Fall**—In the garden humanity rebelled against its creator (Gen 3:1-7). As a result, sin came into the world, humanity inherited Adam's guilt (Rom 5:12-19) and people became separated from their creator, needing reconciliation. The Fall resulted in the marring of God's perfect world.

**Redemption**—In response to humanity's sin problem, God took the initiative to bring his salvation. From the Jewish people God brought forth Jesus, the Messiah and Son of God, who died as a substitute for sinners (Mark 10:45). To

**In light of our vision, spiritual formation is extremely important to us.**

receive God's free gift of salvation people must repent of their sin (Acts 2:38), place their faith in Christ (i.e., trust what Scripture teaches about who he is and what he has done) and obey God's commands (Matt 7:21-23).

**Restoration**—God will one day restore his creation and dwell with his people on the earth, reigning as their sovereign king (Rev 22:3; see also 7:15; 11:15).

***Employ Christian administrators, faculty and staff who demonstrate a vibrant, growing faith.***

For authentic spiritual formation to take place in the lives of students those in leadership positions

(e.g., faculty, coaches) must be genuine believers who give evidence of a vibrant, growing faith. We ask potential employees to share their conversion experience, and we require them to affirm (sincerely) specific biblical principles. We recognize that personal interaction between university leadership and students both inside and outside the classroom plays a key role in students' spiritual development.

***Require students to take Survey of the Old Testament and Survey of the New Testament classes, and provide elective courses related to spiritual formation.***

All students are required to take two courses that expose them to the Christian Scriptures, Survey of the Old Testament and Survey of the New Testament. Exposure to the entire canon, rather than a course on a single testament or merely the Christian worldview, allows students to experience God's Word in its entirety and on its own terms. Students may also take an elective course, Christian Discipleship, which allows them to explore discipleship from biblical, theological, historical and practical perspectives.

***Encourage students to engage with other believers in local churches that are biblically orthodox and gospel focused.***

While a Christian institution may play an important role in helping

students progress spiritually, it can never take the place of the local church. We strongly encourage our students to join with other believers in a local church setting in order to learn what it means to be a Christian disciple. We are intention-

al about partnering with local fellowships that hold a high view of Scripture and seek to advance the gospel. We welcome local churches to help us disciple our students.

***Encourage students to serve Christ and others as He allows.***

We teach our students that spiritual formation takes place at the university, in the church (among believers) and in the world. In addition, we encourage them to reject the medieval distinction between sacred and secular vocations. Instead, we tell students to view all of the earth as God’s domain and every vocation (provided that it does not require one to sin) as an opportunity to glorify him and serve others. When students seek to glorify God and serve others they experience meaningful spiritual formation.

***Provide opportunities for interaction with Christian leaders serving Christ now in diverse fields.***

Charleston Southern University’s Whitfield Center for Christian Leadership is composed of three institutes, the Biblical Worldview

Institute, the Faith Integration Institute and the Marketplace Institute. Its aim is to equip individuals for leadership and service through the development of a biblical worldview. Each institute hosts conferences that provide opportuni-

**For authentic spiritual formation to take place in the lives of students those in leadership positions (e.g., faculty, coaches) must be genuine believers who give evidence of a vibrant, growing faith.**

ties for the Charleston Southern University community to learn from Christian leaders serving Christ now in diverse careers. The campus community is thus given models from which they can learn and grow in their faith.

Those who lead in spiritual formation efforts at Charleston Southern University would readily acknowledge that their work is far from perfect. Nevertheless, we are confident that regardless of our shortcoming God is able to complete his work of salvation in the lives of his people (Phil 1:6), forming them into Christ’s likeness (2 Cor 3:18). ■



*Michael L. Bryant is the dean of the School of Spiritual Studies at Charleston Southern.*

Who should attend the 2105 Annual Meeting of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities?

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## Legal Notes by James D. Jordan

# Mary's Little Lamb in the 21st Century



***Mary had a little lamb, his fleece was white as snow, And everywhere that Mary went the lamb was sure to go.***

We know where this little lamb is headed. How will Mary's teacher react? How should she react in 2015?

Teacher knows immediately that the lamb is not a "service animal" under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its regulations. (Remember those Baptist schools which are religious organizations, or entities controlled by religious organizations, are exempt from the public accommodation provisions of the ADA, but they are still subject to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Either way, the same ADA regs apply.) The ADA regs define service animals as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks directly related to a person's disability. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, and calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder during an anxiety attack. Mary's lamb cannot be a service animal unless (1) Mary has a disability, (2) the lamb has been individually trained to do work or perform a task to assist Mary with her disability, and (3) the lamb is a dog. Although miniature horses weighing 100 lbs. or less may have to be treated like service animals, there is no exception for lambs, even little ones.

If Mary had brought a dog to school, Teacher's duty is clear under the regs. If the dog was obviously a service animal (for example, if Mary was blind or the dog was pulling her wheelchair), Teacher should do nothing and allow the dog to accompany Mary in all areas of the school where Mary is allowed to go. If it was not obvious what service the dog

was providing, Teacher could ask only two questions: (1) Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? (2) What work or task has the dog been trained to perform? She cannot ask about Mary's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

Let's assume that Mary's answers to Teacher's two questions confirmed that her dog was a service animal. The dog must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with its work or Mary's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, Mary must maintain control of the dog through voice, signal, or other effective controls. Teacher cannot ask Mary to remove her dog unless Mary fails to control the dog or the dog is not housebroken.

***He followed her to school one day, which was against the rule***

We know that Mary's lamb is not a service animal, but was it "against the rule"? If Mary has a psychiatric or emotional disability, having her lamb close by for comfort or emotional support may be a reasonable accommodation which allows Mary an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits offered by the school. Unlike service animals, a "comfort animal" or "assistance animal" does not have to be a dog. The school should require Mary to document her disability, then engage in a dialog with Mary to confirm that having the lamb at school will be an effective way to accommodate Mary's disability without imposing an undue burden on the school. The school may be required (under the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, the Fair Housing Act, or a state law) to let Mary keep her lamb at school, but the school can impose reasonable restrictions for the health and safety of others in the school community.

For example, it is a common practice to restrict comfort animals to the owner's dormitory room and to require animals to have proper care, including vaccinations and veterinary visits.

***It made the children laugh and play to see a lamb at school.***

Hmm, there could be a problem here. If the children were laughing at Mary, they may have been creating a hostile environment on the basis of her disability. In that case, Teacher should have brought them in line pronto. It would be illegal for the school to retaliate against Mary or allow other students to make fun of Mary for having an appropriate assistance animal at school. Let's give the children the benefit of the doubt and assume that all were laughing, including Mary, because she had a comical lamb.

***And so the teacher turned it out, but still it lingered near, And waited patiently about, till Mary did appear***

Teacher may have acted within school policy by excluding the lamb from the classroom since it was not a service animal. While it is becoming common to accommodate comfort animals in the student's residence, it is much less common to allow them in the classroom. Clearly Mary's lamb was creating a distraction in the classroom (all that laughing and playing!) which may have fundamentally altered the school's educational program. At least the lamb stayed under control after being evicted from the classroom.

It's been fun to view Mary and her little lamb through a 21st century lens, but there is a serious lesson here. Animals of many different stripes are coming to school. University employees, especially the disability compliance officer, need to be prepared to classify them correctly and respond properly.

# CBU Names Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

RIVERSIDE, CA (March 31, 2015) – Dr. Charles D. “Chuck” Sands, founding dean of the College of Allied Health and professor of public health at California Baptist University, has been named Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs effective July 1, 2015.

Sands was selected from scores of applicants following a months-long nationwide search. He succeeds Dr. Jonathan K. Parker, who announced last December that he will return to full-time classroom teaching after serving 15 years as Vice President for Academic Affairs.

“We are very pleased that Dr. Sands is joining the executive leadership team at California Baptist University,” said Dr. Ronald L. Ellis, CBU president. Ellis noted that Sands brings a proven track record of academic leadership in faith-based higher education to his new position as well as demonstrated entrepreneurial ability and a keen global awareness.

Sands was raised in South Korea where his parents served as mission-



*Chuck Sands is new provost and vice president for academic affairs at California Baptist University. Sands previously served at Samford University and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.*

aries. That experience has influenced him throughout his career.

“I believe that Chuck’s background, experience and skills will make a significant contribution as we continue to build CBU’s strong academic programs and global impact,” Ellis said.

Sands received his Bachelor of Science in Education from Samford. He received a Master of Arts in Education and Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Before beginning his duties as Dean of the College of Allied Health at CBU in July 2010, Sands held a succession of teaching and administrative positions at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Hired as an instructor in Samford’s Department of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine in 1991, he eventually achieved the rank of associate professor. He also served as a Fellow in the Department of Pediatrics in the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine and has held adjunct academic appointments in the McWhorter School of Pharmacy at Samford and the Department of Health Education at UAB.

In 2007, Sands attended the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University, earning a Certificate in the Management Development Program. From 2007 to 2010 Sands was associate dean of Samford’s Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies.

Sands’ previous experience in health care includes working four years at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Birmingham, Ala., where he rose to

the position of manager of outpatient rehabilitation.

He recently completed a 2-year appointment to the Governing Council of the American Public Health Association and is active in numerous professional and community organizations. He currently serves as a Board member for Riverside Community Hospital; the American Heart Association, Inland Southern California Division; Partners in Medicine; the Inland Empire Coalition for Health; and Sandals Church.

“I am pleased to have this opportunity and I look forward to the continuing growth of the university and development of new programs that will further enhance the quality and reputation of CBU,” Sands said. ■

## DALLAS COUPLE’S \$2 MILLION GIFT TO BAYLOR ESTABLISHES ENDOWED CHAIR IN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

WACO, Texas – Baylor University recently announced a \$2 million gift from Jerry and Susie Wilson of Dallas that will establish an endowed chair in religious freedom to support the University’s educational mission and its Institute for Studies of Religion.

“Baylor University is deeply grateful to Jerry and Susie Wilson for this visionary gift that addresses a vitally important issue in our world today – the protection of religious freedom for all persons, everywhere around the globe,” said Baylor President and Chancellor Ken Starr.

“The Jerry and Susie Wilson Chair in Religious Freedom will help ensure that Baylor University vigorously and effectively addresses the significant issues of freedom of conscience and worship and, in particular, Christianity’s enduring role in promoting human freedom,” Starr said.

# Louisiana College Calls Dr. Rick Brewer as School's 9th President

by Norm Miller

PINEVILLE, La. (LCNews)--Louisiana College trustees unanimously elected Dr. Rick Brewer as the college's 9th president, March 5.

Brewer takes office at Louisiana College in Pineville on April 7, leaving his role as vice president of student affairs and athletics at Charleston Southern University, Charleston, South Carolina, where he gained extensive senior-level administrative experience during his 28-year tenure.

"God's hand and external confirmation have been evident in bringing Cathy and me to Louisiana College," Brewer said. "I am thankful that this new role found me. It was not even on my radar."

Chairman of Louisiana College's board of trustees and presidential search committee, Dr. Tommy French, said, "When our search committee first read Dr. Brewer's resume, we believed he was God's man for Louisiana College. Then after we met with him, we were convinced God sent him to us."

C.S.U. president, Dr. Jairy C. Hunter, said: "Rick Brewer is a strong Christian leader with extensive experience in strategic planning and budgeting, enrollment management, student development, revenue development, athletics and Christian ministries. He has provided visionary and exemplary leadership for 28 years as a senior officer at Charleston Southern University."

Brewer earned a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policies with cognates in Management and Higher Education Administration from the University of South Carolina, and an M.B.A. and B.S. in History from Charleston Southern University.

He also completed post-graduate certifications at Harvard and Duke Universities.

While at Charleston Baptist, Brewer helped envision a comprehensive, liberal arts campus environment, as well as led initiatives to champion the significance of Christian higher education. He helped to double enrollment from 1600 to more than 3400 students, increase unrestricted giving and endowment support, and improve freshman retention from 50 to 78 percent.



*Rick and Cathy Brewer have two sons, Jason, a professional musician in Nashville, Tenn., where he resides with his wife Krista and daughter Adalyn Kay; and Jonathan, a banker with Bank South in Lake Oconee, Ga., where he resides with his wife Catherine and son Knox Jameson.*

"At Louisiana College, my focus will be on leading the college into the future by

building on its mission and vision for effectiveness in global Christian leadership," Brewer said. "We will build upon the college's excellent academic reputation while preparing graduates to navigate the challenges of the 21st Century marketplace. Collectively, we will promote a comprehensive, liberal arts education, challenging students to think critically, learn continuously, and serve creatively."

"We will partner with L.C.'s faculty, staff and coaches to equip students with a holistic educational experience producing cultural thought leaders and thoughtful leaders, who practice servant leadership daily," he said.

An ordained Baptist Minister, Brewer has more than 40 years of continued local church ministry as a volunteer, part-time, or full-time worship leader; youth minister; and teaching pastor. "My vision for Louisiana College will be to establish and project a national distinction for excellence as a Christian college devoted to preparing students for lives of learning, leading and serving," Brewer said.

"It will be my role as president to tell the story of Louisiana College, cast the vision, build the case, and ensure the college remains committed to its Christ-centered mission and service to students by preparing them for lives of significant service for the cause of Jesus Christ in a variety of ministries and careers," he added.

"This promise from Philippians 1:6 is not just for me, but it includes the entire Louisiana College family as well," Brewer noted. "This powerful institution is here for the glory of God, and God called me to serve him, too. Therefore, I am as humbled as I am elated that our Lord has brought us together to complete his purposes for both Louisiana College and myself." ■

## OKLAHOMA BAPTIST CLAIMS THREE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES IN ONE DAY

Saturday, March 7, 2015, was a good day for Oklahoma Baptist University athletics. According to the school's website, O.B.U. captured three national championship titles in one day. The men's and women's swimming and diving teams took top honors at the N.A.I.A. Swimming and Diving National Championships. It is the fourth straight title for the men's team, and the third consecutive win for the Lady Bison.

Not to be outdone, the women's track and field team claimed the title at the N.A.I.A. Women's Indoor Track and Field Championship. It was the third consecutive national title for the team.

In addition, coaches Ford Mastin and Sam Freas earned 2015 Coach of the Year awards.

## Former President of Fruitland Passes Away

Fruitland Baptist Bible College recently announced the death of long-time homiletics professor and former president Dr. Kenneth Ridings. Ridings began teaching at Fruitland in 1968, rising to the presidency in 1997. He served the college until his retirement in 2008.

Ridings is survived by his wife Ann, daughter Beverly, and one granddaughter.

## WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHES COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

As a result of strong growth in health-related programs, the William Carey University Board of Trustees recently approved the creation of the College of Health Sciences.

The new academic unit will include several existing programs at the university, including the School of Nursing, the Department of Physical Therapy, the health information management program and the health education and administration program. Dr. Janet Williams, dean of Carey's nursing school, will serve as dean of the new college.

The establishment of the new college comes on the heels of strong enrollment

growth in the nursing school and the establishment of the doctoral program in physical therapy in 2014. The School of Nursing has seen an enrollment increase of 18 percent since 2010 on the Mississippi campuses.

## Arkansas Baptist College Dedicates New Community Center

Officials at Arkansas Baptist College dedicated a new community center on March 10, 2015. Plans for the First Security Community Union began nine years ago, but the project was put on hold due to budget constraints.

According to BaptistNews.com, the new facility will house a bookstore, a barista bar, computer stations, several dining options, as well as a recreation space for students. The top of the building is home to the Scott Ford Center for Entrepreneurship and Community Development, the college's flagship entrepreneurship initiative funded by a \$2.5 million donation by the former chief executive officer of Alltel Corp. in 2011. The center combines business education with micro-enterprise loans aimed at spurring business development in urban areas.

Arkansas Baptist College president, Dr. Fitz Hill, said about the project, "God has truly blessed us here at Arkansas Baptist College."



*The leadership of the new college includes (left to right) Wanda Jones, director of continuing education, research and funding for the nursing school; Dr. Karen Sicard, associate dean of nursing for the Hattiesburg and Louisiana campuses; Dr. Cynthia Scott, program director for physical therapy; Dr. Janet Williams, dean of the new college and of the nursing school; Dr. Bobbie Loveless, associate dean of nursing for the Tradition campus; and Dr. Angela Garrett, program director for health information management.*