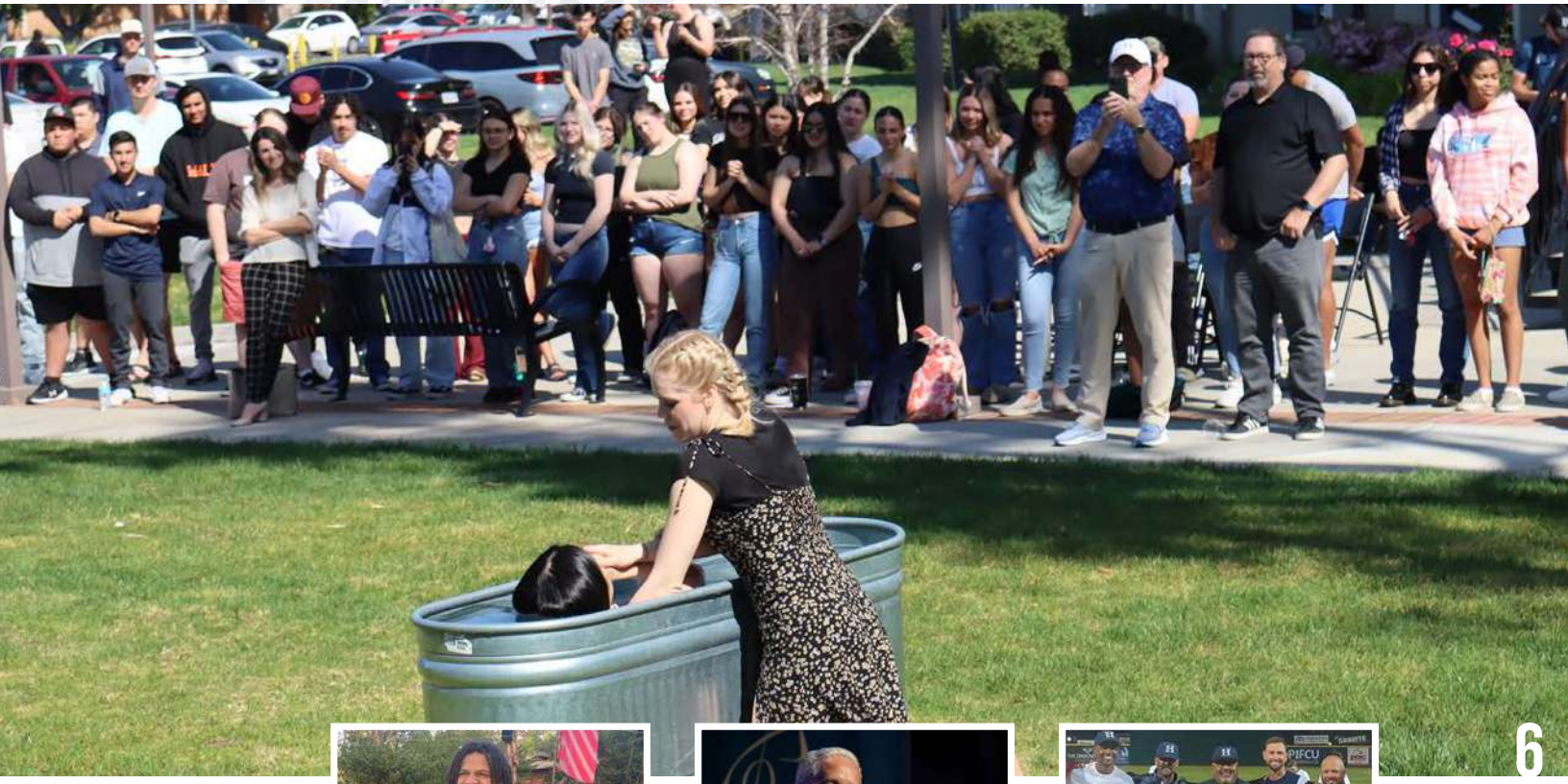
Inside HIU

THE MAGAZINE OF **HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY** | 2025

Students Baptised!

WE ARE HOPE



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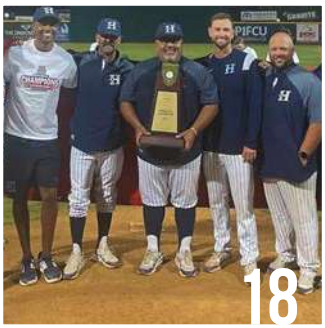

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InsideHIU

2025

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HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY | Founded in 1928, HIU is a regionally accredited Christian university that integrates faith, learning, and service. HIU students receive a transformative educational experience and are prepared to serve the Church and impact the world for Christ as exceptional servant leaders.

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PRESIDENT'S

At last year's ***Spirit of Hope*** Gala, we honored several of our alums who serve around the world as missionaries, church planters, and evangelists. We couldn't possibly feature all the alums who serve globally, as over forty countries have been impacted by HIU alums over the past 96 years. These servant leaders are hard-working and often work for decades in very challenging villages, deserts, mountains, and in some of the poorest slums of Africa.

I want to take a risk and ask that you keep the following information to yourself, as there is some measure of peril in describing the amazing work going on in the Middle East. I can't disclose the country, but I can tell you about the good work **Doug** and **Shelly Kalestead** are doing through their organization, Iberoamerican Ministries (IAM). Doug and Shelly were honored last year for their decades of service in South America, but what most people will never know is the work they do in the Middle East.

Hope is proud to reveal that we have been partnering with IAM for the last decade to provide instruction, curriculum, and guidance for the training of Christian pastors in a world that is almost entirely Muslim. Dr. Joe Grana, Dr. Phil Towne, and **Dr. Carl Toney,** along with one of our Board Members, Pastor **Scott Martin**, have all been an integral part of educating dozens of pastors in a region that so desperately needs to know the Lord. I have not yet been able to teach there, but I love that we have had these Hope faculty teach in person.

Churches are being planted and taking root in several countries. Only recently have the government leaders in a key country there acknowledged and permitted Biblically-based training. That approval can change at any time. This has allowed the work there to grow and flourish. What is happening there is similar to the secretive growth of house Churches in China during the second half of the 20th century. Once China lifted some of the restrictions on Christian gatherings, the world learned of millions of people who had committed their lives to Christ.

We are at the beginning of such a movement in the Middle East. Sharing this work with you is risky, so we aren't identifying cities, names, or details for safety reasons. As you would guess,

PERSPECTIVE

many people in these countries are very threatened by the gospel and all things Christian.

As President, I cannot be prouder of this work and am glad to pull back the curtain on this phenomenal endeavor that we are happy to be a part of. Please pray for the work in the Middle East, that it would spread and thrive, as well as for the safety of the faculty, staff, and students.

The other development I'm proud to unveil is **our new Corporate Partnership program: BRIDGE.** Beginning this academic year, we are welcoming new students from three organizations. Our first three corporate partners are restaurant owners. It's exciting to welcome multiple Chick-fil-A, Taco Bell, and Jersey Mike's locations to our new BRIDGE program.

BRIDGE allows employees of these locations to attend Hope at no cost. Hope provides a special Presidential Scholarship to cover any gap between the cost of tuition and financial aid that students qualify for. Over 1,100 employees will have access to life-changing, Biblically-based degrees. These online degrees are a great fit for hard-working young adults who desire to earn their bachelor's degree while maintaining the demands of their job.

I am thrilled to partner with fine business leaders who see this as a great benefit for their employees. It really is a win-win, or even a win-win-win; wins for the employees, the Franchise Owner/Operators, and for Hope.

In time we will expand the model to other industries. Our heart's desire is to bring Christian higher education to students throughout California. I'm personally excited that many of the Taco Bell locations are in the middle of the state, where educational opportunities are few and far between. Several times a year, my wife, Leslie, and I drive up Highway 395 to the Eastern Sierras. As we drive through the deserts, valleys, and mountains, I have long wondered what becomes of High School graduates in these small towns. With only a couple of exceptions, these small towns have no colleges for students to attend.

Hope can help hundreds, if not thousands, of young people further their education. It is a personal point of pride that we might be able to change the trajectory of the lives of these men and women. I pray the program will thrive and ask for your prayers for the Lord to continue to open the door for new partners to join the BRIDGE partner program.

Paul H. Alexander

Paul H. Alexander, Ph.D.
President

CAMPUS MINISTRIES: **WORSHIP & BAPTISMS**

Last Spring, seven HIU students made a public declaration of their faith, following Jesus' mandate to be baptized during a very memorable Chapel on the central lawn!

Steve Carter (BA'02)

After an extensive period of vetting highly qualified candidates from around the country, including in-depth interviews and a rigorous theological evaluation, the Board of Trustees of Christ Church of Oak Brook, IL, a multi-site campus, announced that the membership of Christ Church voted to call **Steve Carter (BA '02)** to serve as Lead Pastor.

Steve follows in the footsteps of Dr. Dan Meyer who retired in January. the Board of Trustees held a Special Meeting on Sunday, October 27, 2024, to call Rev. Steve Carter as our next Lead Pastor. Over 96% of the members at the Special Meeting voted to elect Steve as Lead Pastor of Christ Church effective upon the retirement of Rev. Dr. Dan Meyer in January 2025.

Steve joined the staff and began an orientation and onboarding process in November. After Dr. Meyer's departure on January 19, 2025, Steve became the Lead Pastor. Dan continues serve in an advisory role through the end of 2025.

Carter was the heir apparent to become the lead teaching pastor at Willowcreek Community Church in South Barrington, IL, upon the retirement of Bill Hybels, but chose to step down amidst developing news of Hybels' indiscretions and subsequent denials.

Steve is a dynamic speaker, podcast host, and the author of several books, including two bestsellers, *The Thing Beneath The Thing* and *Grieve, Breath, Receive* (available on Amazon).

Hello HIU family!

Since graduating from HIU with my bachelor's degree in Worship Arts, I have been serving as the full-time worship leader at Wildewood Christian Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Having been privileged to attend Wildewood as a child, the opportunity to serve this congregation through vocational worship ministry has been invaluable!

I am beyond grateful for the years spent earning a B.A. at Hope. The undergraduate program, and the people at HIU, equipped me to serve the local church in areas of both technical and spiritual need. I was enabled to integrate modern audio hardware and lighting software to further elevate Wildewood's Sunday morning services through HIU's education. Perhaps even more importantly, my college years gifted me with a strong support network of leaders whose wisdom has taught me how to serve others with excellence, gentleness, and understanding. Thank you HIU!

As I continue to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, I am making plans for quite a move: serving overseas as a full-time missionary in the country of Ethiopia! As he often does for his children, God has invited me into something that I never dreamed I'd be able to be a part of. Working through Christian Missionary Fellowship International and partnered with a local church network, I endeavor to use music ministry, house visits, and other forms of outreach in a rural, impoverished area of the capital city. It is my prayer that this new ministry would lead to Bible studies and discipleship movements, allowing locals to be introduced to a God who loves them so very much. Currently, I am support-raising and preparing for the field- I hope to leave for Africa in December of 2024! I would highly appreciate prayers for perseverance in language learning, guidance in disciple-making, and blessing in support-raising; I'm honored to extend the HIU impact to the country of Ethiopia!

–Dylan Ferguson, BA'23

CELEBRATING **HOPE**

Last April, several hundred HIU supporters, friends, alumni, Student Ambassadors, and staff converged in the Grand Ballroom of the Disneyland Resort Hotel for Hope International University's annual Spirit of Hope Concert & Awards Gala. The elegant evening of celebration, inspiration, and philanthropy highlighted HIU's ongoing mission and legacy of preparing students through Christian Higher Education to serve the Church and impact the world for Christ. The 2024 gala raised more than $160,000 towards student scholarships.

HIU President **Paul H. Alexander, Ph.D. ('84, '88)**, delivered the keynote address and unveiled the inaugural President's Alumni Servant Leader Award to **Toby Yurek ('95**) in honor of Toby's lifetime of exemplary public service, commitment to Christ, and support of Hope International University. Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to **Garrett Radford ('16), Kari Pel ('97), Dr. Richard Lopez ('00), Jim Price ('70),** and **Samuel Semanda ('18, 21).** Three former student athletes were inducted into the HIU Royals Athletics Hall of Fame: **Liam Hunt ('17 - Men's Basketball), Jazzmyn Esquivel ('19 - Women's Soccer),** and **Leigha Williams ('20 - Women's Soccer).**

A panel of Deans from each of HIU's 5 Colleges fielded questions from **Dr. Steve Edgington,** Vice President for Academic Affairs, sharing "A Dean's Eye View" of Christian Higher Education and highlighting the latest developments in their respective Colleges. Current HIU students **David Zacarias ('24)**, who grew up in the Philippines, and **Amy Sanchez ('25)**, who was born and raised in Mexico, each shared their poignant, personal testimony of how God led them to Hope, provided the financial assistance necessary for them to attend, and how HIU is equipping them for their chosen vocation. **Daunte Ferguson ('23, '25)** and **Emma Kisaka ('25)** served as the Masters of Ceremony.

Guests enjoyed musical performances by the HIU vocal ensemble, HopeSings!, as well as the HIU Worship Team, directed by alumnus and professor **Matt Thompson ('03),** Chair of Worship Arts. Prior to the gourmet dinner and program, guests gathered for a pre-event reception, enjoying hors d'oeuvres, live music, and a special photo op with Mickey Mouse.

The University is deeply grateful to all of our sponsors and faithful supporters whose generous donations make it possible for students to attend HIU. Every donation makes a significant impact by allowing them to pursue and fulfill God's calling on their lives and to extend the Hope of Christ to a world that so desperately needs Him.

Amy Sanchez
Education Major

My name is **Amy Sanchez**; I am a Senior at Hope, majoring in Education. I am in the Teacher Preparation Honors Program, and proud to be a first-generation college student! As a Royal, I have played on the Women's Basketball team, worked in the Athletics department, served as a small group leader, and participated in Student Government. I am currently serving my second term as the Student Body President. I also work as a Child Care teacher at Wagner Elementary in Placentia.

My father grew up picking coconuts and mangos all day in scorching and dry weather. When my mother was a young girl, her parents divorced and left her, so she bounced around to various households within her extended family. After moving to the U.S., my parents got married and lived in a one-bedroom studio, where they only had one knife, a fork, a spoon, and a plate. They both worked extremely hard to ensure that my siblings and I have had every opportunity to succeed.

Ever since I was a little girl, my life has been full of suffering, childhood trauma, and moments in which my prayers to God have been full of tears and begging for the pain and chaos to stop. When my parents made the difficult decision to end their marriage; not only did it break our family, but it also broke my heart. As the oldest sibling, I had to step up and take care of myself and my little sisters. I spent countless dinner meals alone at what used to be a family dining table, holidays in my room alone, and moments crying to God, asking why.

Through adversity, I have grown deeper roots in my faith that God is good even when life is not, because pain and trials are only temporary, but God's love for me is eternal. See, I now have God-fidence, knowing that I when I can't handle things, He will.

I still get goosebumps when I think about how I ended up at Hope. A mentor of mine recommended HIU because she was enrolled in one of their master's programs, but I already had made my decision to attend another school, so I brushed her suggestion aside. But just days before my high school graduation, I received a scholarship offer from HIU, so I applied to be a part of the teacher preparation honors program. When I got the news that I had been accepted, I changed my previous plans, and committed to Hope on the day of my high school graduation. Now, when I think about all that has unfolded for me at Hope, I have no doubt that it has all been part of God's plan for me.

The community at Hope has had such a positive impact on my life, from the Housekeeping crew and cafeteria workers to our President. I met my roommate and best friend, who has been by my side through every up, down, and sideways. I'm so grateful for the faculty and staff who have poured into me and mentored me at HIU, such as Dr. Natalie Hewitt, and Stephen & Kenzie Kopp, who have supported me and guided me through leadership adversities, personal hardships, and battles with anxiety..

After I graduate in May of next year. I plan to begin HIU's Masters program in Education. Upon completion, I plan to become a teacher and to get my administrative credential at Hope. After that, I want to pursue a doctorate in Educational leadership. My mom always said she wanted me to be a Dr.; she didn't say what kind! One day, God willing, I want to become a school Superintendent. Who knows, maybe I'll go from HIU's Student Body President to HIU's University President, haha. Whatever happens, my number one goal in life is to glorify God by shining Jesus' light through how I live and love. I want others to see Jesus in me and through me.

David Zacharias

Music & Worship Arts Major

My name is **David Zacarias.** I graduated in December with a degree in Music & Worship Arts.

It is quite a trip for me to be standing here tonight. Eight years ago, I was invited to attend Spirit of Hope with my church, and I've been to every Spirit of Hope since 2016! I never imagined I would be on stage sharing my story… but here I am!

Before I ever heard of Hope International University, the city of Fullerton, or even California, I only knew of my town in the Philippines: Belvedere, Cavite. My parents raised my sister and me there for the first five years of my life until we decided to broaden our horizons and explore better opportunities in a faraway land called the United States. We moved to Southern California we found a home in the city of San Gabriel, where we currently live to this day. It amazes me to think about the sacrifices, risks, and courage it took for my parents to leave everything that they knew and loved in the Philippines to give my sister and I the chance for a better life. I love you mom and dad!

Throughout middle school and high school I felt the Lord calling me to worship ministry, but also loved the idea of making money. So after high school, I attended a junior college in East Los Angeles to prepare for a career in Physical Therapy. At the same time, I accepted an internship at my church to learn more about worship ministry. After finishing the Physical Therapy courses, I was lost and didn't know what to do. The only thing I had going for me was the church internship, so I had a conversation with our lead pastor, Guy Fox, about my desire to go into ministry. I'll never forget what he told me: "David, it's about time."

Pastor Guy advised me to go back to school to finish my bachelor's degree. As an HIU alumni himself, and our church being long-time supporters of the school, he highly recommended that I attend Hope, but I thought there was no way I could afford it.

Through the church's financial support and HIU's Ministry Honors Program scholarship, God made a way!

My time at Hope has been nothing short of life-changing. Many of my favorite memories have been made with a group of friends that I made during my first week of living in the dorms. Together we've served as student leaders in chapels and other extracurricular activities for on-campus students, and we've taken full advantage of HIU's prime location. I will always treasure the many deep theological conversations with my friends late into the night.

I love the sense of connectedness and community at Hope. I have never felt like I was out of the loop, uncared for, or unseen. I've learned so much in my Bible and Theology courses, and I've truly solidified the process of determining my theology through Scripture first. Everything that I've learned and experienced at HIU is preparing me for a meaningful career in church ministry.

After graduating in December, l became a full time minister at Landmark Christian Church in Diamond Bar. As I continue listening to the Lord's voice, I know He will lead me to exactly when and where He wants me, just as He has been doing all of my life.

ROYALS

23-24 HIGHLIGHTS

1	National Championship		
8	NAIA Scholar Teams	58	GSAC Scholar Athletes
58	NAIA Scholar Athletes	33	All-GSAC
4	NAIA All Americans	1	Gold Glove

WOMEN'S SOCCER: Fourth year Head Coach Scott Dement led the Royals to a program best 17-4-2 record and a run to the NAIA Quarterfinals where they lost to eventual NAIA Champions University of the Cumberlands. The Royals won their second GSAC Regular Season Championship, second GSAC Tournament Championship, made their third NAIA National Tournament appearance and advanced to the final site for the first time after upsetting No. 6 Indiana Wesleyan at their place in the opening round. Christiane Sundstrom was named an NAIA All-American after setting a new single season record for goals with 19 and tying the single season assists record with 10. Sundstrom was also named GSAC Player of the Year while Monique Cervantes, Ashlyn Edwards, Ryley Candelario, Sarah Ralston, Haley Slouka and Jaylene Valentin were named All-GSAC.

MEN'S SOCCER: Coach Joe Lurker guided the Royals to a program best 15-4-2 record and their first ever appearance at the NAIA National Tournament Opening Round. The Royals finished third in the GSAC regular season standings but upset Vanguard in the semifinals and then beat The Master's to win their first ever GSAC Tournament Championship and punch their ticket to the NAIA Tournament. Jesse Mancilla, Luis Lira, Diego Lopez and Colm Cohen were named All-GSAC.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: The Royals finished the year in seventh place with a record of 9-16, 4-10 GSAC. Season highlights included a five set win over Life Pacific, who were receiving votes in the NAIA Coaches Poll at the time and a 3-1 win over fourth place The Master's. Cassidy Koffroth was named All-GSAC.

CROSS COUNTRY: Emma Timmermans qualified for the NAIA National Championships for the third time and became the first cross country runner in Royals history to earn All-American honors after finishing 19th out of 333 runners. Luis Diaz qualified for the NAIA National

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Championships for the first time and finished 282nd out of 328 runners. The men's team placed fourth overall at the GSAC Championships and were led by Diaz who finished 15th. On the women's side Timmermans finished 4th at the GSAC Championships to earn All-GSAC honors as the Royals finished third overall.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: The Royals finished the year in sixth place with a record of 14-11, 6-8 GSAC. Season highlights included a 70-68 win at third place The Master's and an 81-73 win at home against fifth place Arizona Christian. Shiane Talley was named All-GSAC

MEN'S BASKETBALL: Coach Bill Czech was named GSAC Coach of the Year after leading the men's basketball team to the NAIA Tournament for the ninth time in program history after finishing the GSAC regular season in third place with a record of 21-10, 9-5 GSAC despite a season ending injury to scoring leader Sebastian Castro just a few games into the season. The Royals upset No. 13 Northwestern College 79-76 in a double overtime thriller early in the season and would go on to upset No. 20 The Master's 67-65 before then falling to them again in the GSAC semifinals. Tristan Williams and Gavin Ramirez were named All-GSAC.

GOLF: Fourth year Head Coach Britney Sok was named GSAC Coach of the Year for the women for the second time after guiding them to their first ever GSAC Championship and first appearance at the NAIA Championships. Sarina Tayui and Cristen Legaspi received All-GSAC after helping the Royals defeat Vanguard in a playoff to win the title. Legaspi was 21st after day two at the NAIA Championships but didn't make the cut as the Royals finished 26th out of 30 teams. On the men's side Troy Schulz qualified for the NAIA Championships for the first time and finished tied for 27th. Schulz was also named All-GSAC after finishing tied for 12th overall helping the team to a sixth place overall finish. Schulz also won three straight individual titles during the season.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL: The Royals finished the year in fifth place with a record of 7-15, 2-8 GSAC. Highlights included two conference victories over Arizona Christian. Julian Zavala was named All-GSAC.

TRACK & FIELD: The men finished 6th at the GSAC Championships which was highlighted by Michael Ventura winning the 800 meter run with the second fastest time in school history. The men also finished third in the 4x800 meter relay with a school record time. For the women Emma Timmermans qualified for the NAIA National Championships and placed 18th in the 5000m. Timmermans also competed at the NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championships finishing 13th and just missing the final.

TENNIS: The women's team finished in fifth place with a record of 6-11 but upset College of Idaho to advance to the GSAC Semifinals where they fell to top ranked Westcliff. Maldini Simic was named All-GSAC for the second year in a row. The men's team also finished in fifth place with a record of 8-13 but upset Jessup to reach the GSAC Semifinals before falling to top ranked Westcliff. Yugo Homma was named All-GSAC.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL: Candice Palmer was named All-GSAC for the fourth year in a row while Rachel Miller also received All-GSAC honors as they helped lead the Royals with a record of 8-5 including helping upset No. 6 Vanguard and No. 7 The Master's. The team overall finished in fifth place with a record of 5-13, 4-6 GSAC.

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SOFTBALL: Allie Puente was named GSAC Pitcher of the Year as well as NAIA and NFCA All-American Second Team as she led the NAIA with 316 strikeouts leading the Royals to third place in the GSAC with a record of 37-17, 10-10 GSAC. The Royals upset then No. 1 Oregon Tech and No. 2 Southern Oregon to start the season and then upset No. 7 Jessup in the GSAC Semifinals before falling to Vanguard in the final. For the second year in a row the Royals advanced to the NAIA Opening Round where they fell to eventual NAIA Champions No. 1 ranked Our Lady of the Lake. Emma McCraw also received All-GSAC honors for the second straight year.

BASEBALL: Larry Mahoney in his third year as head coach was named Rawlings NAIA Coach of the Year as well as ABCA/ATEC NAIA Coach of the Year and NAIA Ball Coach of the Year after leading the Royals to their first ever Avista NAIA World Series Championship and first NAIA Championship in school history. Mahoney was also named GSAC Coach of the Year after guiding the Royals to their fourth GSAC Regular Season Championship with a record of 45-16, 19-4 GSAC. The Royals would fall in the GSAC Tournament Championship but would bounce back to win the NAIA Opening Round Fayette Bracket and advance to the NAIA World Series for the second time in program history. The Royals became the fifth team in World Series history and first since 2006 to lose their first game and go on to win the Championship as they took down No. 13 Tennesse Wesleyan 14-6 in the final after upsetting No. 2 Georgia Gwinett in the semifinals. JJ Cruz was named MVP, David Rivera won the Gold Glove and Trey Seeley was named to the All-Tournament team. Cruz was also named NAIA First Team All-American and All-GSAC while David Rivera, Alex Moreno, Trey Seeley, Justin Drury and Josh Landry were also named All-GSAC and Amari Bartee was named GSAC Gold Glove.

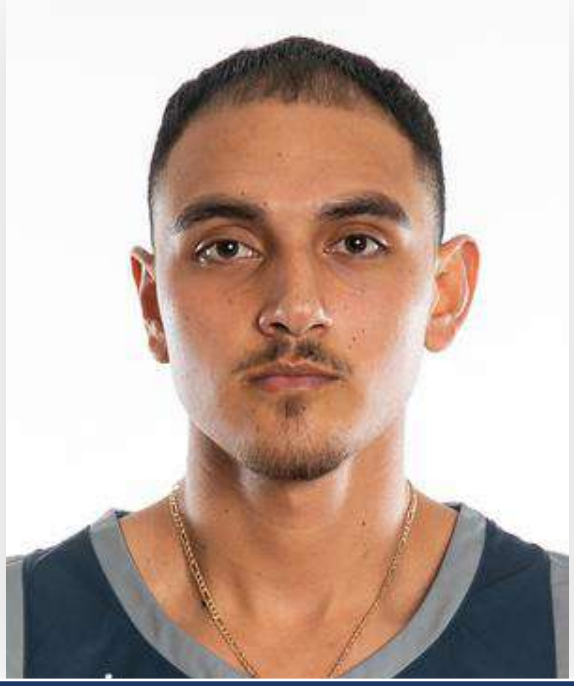
COMPETITIVE DANCE: The HIU Dance program finished 5th at the Midland Invitational and 3rd at the Doane Invitational. Highlights also included a 69-54.6 win over Lewis-Clark State College.

STUNT: In their third year led by Head Coach Kori Johnson the Royals went 25-6 and won the GSAC Stunt Tournament by going 4-0 and defeating Jessup 13-12. Kaitlyn Kelly, Mackenzie Flowers, Jamie Goldman and Angelina Castanon were all named to the All-GSAC team. The Royals would then advance to the STUNT National Tournament where they placed second.

NAIA
CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER
FIVE-STAR INSTITUTION

The 2023-24 HIU Royals were recognized as a **CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER** Five-Star Institution, receiving a perfect score.

HIU



Sebastian Castro and **Shailissa Jarrett** were named our 2023-24 Cliff Hamlow **Champion of Character** Award winners.

Sebastian Castro, senior guard on the HIU men's basketball team, is a leader on and off the court, showcasing the NAIA's Champions of Character values. On the court he is the team captain, displays great sportsmanship, and respects every one of his opponents. Castro is one of the top players on the men's team starting nearly every game and was the second leading scorer last year while earning All-GSAC honors in the process. This season he has taken on a different role on the team after having his season cut short due to injury, but he is still there to motivate his team as a leader from the sidelines.

Sebastian displays great servant leadership through his activities in the community. The senior helps with cleaning trash and litter in his city through the partnership with his church, Crystal Cathedral. On campus, he showcases responsibility by being a life group leader where he leads his team by integrating God and basketball. Sebastian likes to incorporate the teachings of the Bible into ethical and inspiring motives that are enveloped in the game of basketball. A GSAC and NAIA Scholar Athlete, Sebastian is a leader in the classroom as well. Majoring in financial planning, Sebastian's future goals are to own his own firm and to play basketball professionally overseas.

Shailissa Jarrett, senior guard on the HIU women's basketball team, is the team captain, displays great sportsmanship, and respects all opponents. Jarrett is one of the top players on the women's basketball team starting nearly every game and is the second leading scorer on the team.

Shailissa volunteers for local sports leagues at the Whittier Area Community Church. She also serves as the worship vocalist at her church and has volunteered with Union Creative and The Fathers House Orange County. She has volunteered for Sports Jam, an event featuring Christian pro athletes to encourage young athletes to get involved in sports. She was a featured HIU student athlete for their 2022 event alongside NFL, NBA, and professional soccer players. She was a lead vocalist for the 2023 event and has been invited back to fill the same role for the 2024 event. She serves as the basketball camp director for IE Rain camp coaching kids 7-12 years old.

On campus, she has been a small group leader for the last two years and a worship vocalist for Royals chapel. Academically, Shailissa is a Dean Honor Roll student and renaissance scholar. As a psychology major with a concentration in child and adolescent development and minoring in biblical studies it has been a blessing for her to be able to consider the intersection of psychology and biblical theology, and it has driven her to inspire people of all ages to work hard and passionately pursue their goals. Shailissa would like to get her doctorate in clinical psychology and become a college professor and therapist while also continuing to train basketball players of all ages.

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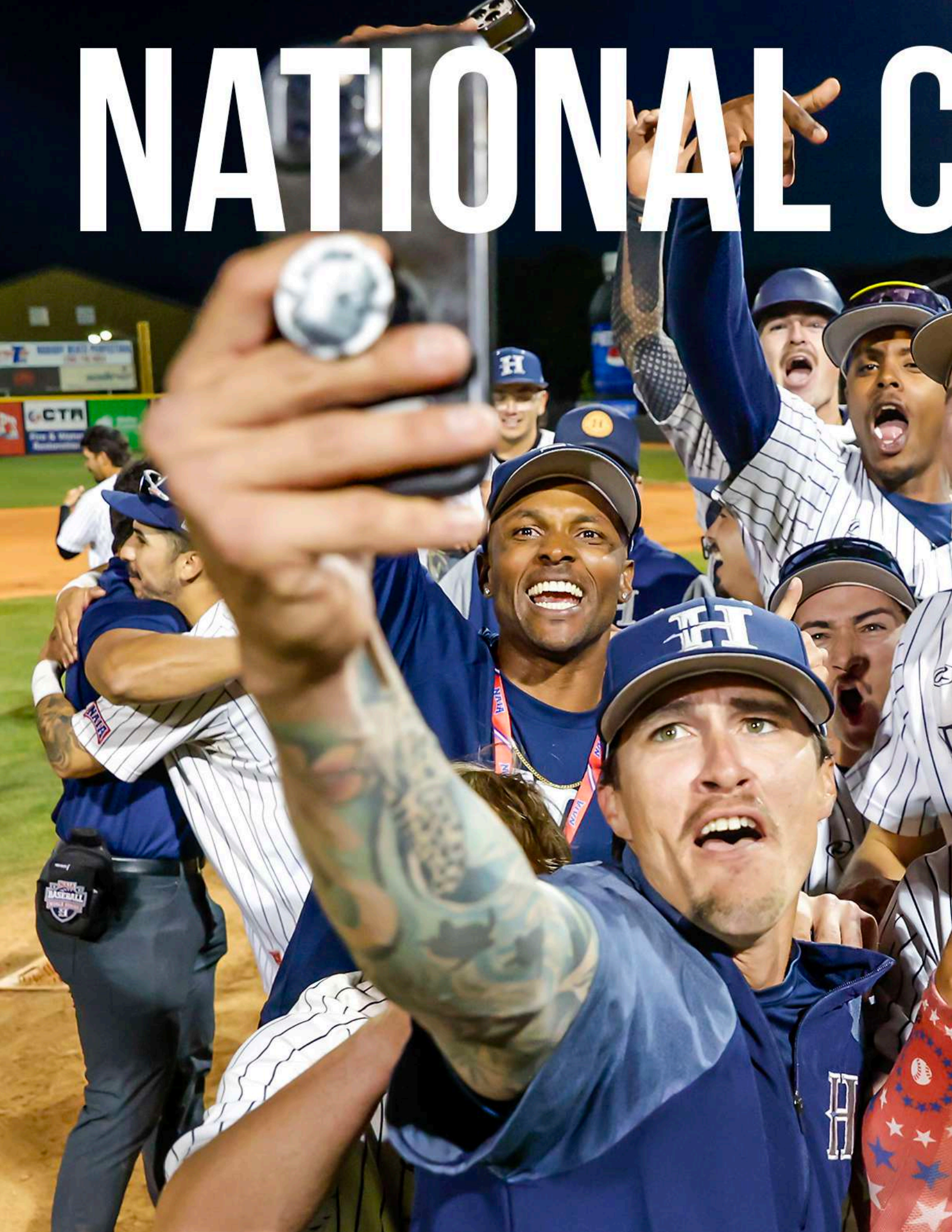


CHAMPIONS!

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

2024

Undaunted by an opening game defeat, our resilient **HIU Royals Baseball** team reeled off five straight elimination victories in their historic run to become NAIA National Champions for the first time in school history. The Royals became the fifth team in NAIA World Series history to lose their first game and go on to win the Championship.

In the Championship game, the fourth-seeded Royals (45-16) rallied from an early deficit to win HIU's first ever Red Banner at the 67th Avista NAIA World Series in Lewiston, Idaho, beating the sixth-seeded Tennessee Wesleyan University Bulldogs 14-6. Senior second baseman **JJ Cruz** was named World Series MVP, and Senior shortshop **David Rivera** earned World Series Gold Glove honors. Junior pitcher **Trey Seely** was named to the All-Tournament team along with Cruz and Rivera.

Head Coach **Larry Mahoney**, who has been with the Royals baseball program since its debut in 2015-2016, was named NAIA Coach of the Year. Mahoney was an assistant for seven years before being named the Head Coach prior to the 2022 season.

FOCUS ON

CLASSROOM EXCELLENCE

Sandy Kavanaugh, Mathematics

Sandy Kavanaugh, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, was honored with the 2023-2024 *Rose B. & Edgar B. McReynolds Faculty Excellence Award*, given each year to one full-time HIU faculty member who exemplifies teaching-learning excellence in the undergraduate classroom. Presented during the Honors Convocation Chapel each Spring, nominations were sought from faculty and students. The final selection was based on those nominations.

Professor Kavanaugh was commended by students and peers for careful class preparation and thoughtful teaching strategies geared to the specific students in each class, and for creatively engaging students in their own learning.

"She always finds interesting and effective ways to overcome student anxiety, explain course material well, and build student confidence in their own ability to learn difficult material, grow, and achieve success," one student remarked. "She makes math fun and genuinely wants her students to improve their math skills and confidence." Another student said, "Professor Kavanaugh actively involves her students in the classroom and help them relate what they are learning to practical applications."

***About the award**: Dr. Paul McReynolds was beloved by several generations of students who learned New Testament from him at Pacific Christian College from the 1960s to the 1990s. Dr. McReynolds was famous for his patient, gracious teaching in Biblical Studies classes and his published Greek/English Interlinear New Testament, with which many of you have become familiar. He was also deeply committed to the teaching and learning process. He was commonly known to his students simply as "Dr. Paul."*

When "Dr. Paul" retired, he funded a Faculty Excellence Award in the names of his parents, Rose B. and Edgar B. McReynolds.

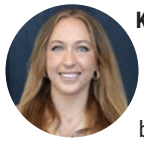
> "**Professor Kavanaugh** actively involves her students in the classroom and helps them relate what they are learning to practical applications." *–HIU student*

FACULTY

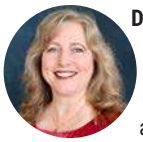
Dr. Jacqueline Mack-Harris (Psychology & Counseling) presented *The Single Story Reset Workshop* in Toyama, Japan, at the International Family Therapy Association's World Family Therapy Congress.

Phil Towne, Ph.D. (Intercultural Studies) presented a paper titled *Theological Reflection in Non-Ecclesial Spiritual Communities* at the American Academy of Religions Conference in November. He and his wife Sarah (BA'99, MA'22) are both ministers at Sunny Hills Church of Christ in Fullerton.

Carl Toney, Ph.D. (New Testament) completed his manuscript for his latest book, *The Good News of God's Reign: An Introduction to the New Testament*. The book will be published with Abilene Christian University Press in 2025. Dr. Toney has also helped teach in the SALT program at Crossroads Christian Church in Corona, CA.

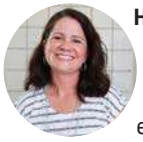


Kasey Philyaw, Ph.D. (Sport Psychology) started working with the 12U Elite Team Holiday boys' basketball team sponsored by NBA brothers Jrue and Aaron Holiday and powered by BallIsLife. Attended the Association for Applied Sport Psychology annual conference in Orlando, Florida. She continues working with Buena Park High School's varsity softball team, ProSkills boys' basketball AAU team and 4WARDMVMT's girls' basketball travel in Los Angeles. Received all A's in 4 upper division and master's courses taken for CMPC certification process. Her journal article, "How do goal orientations and motivational climate interact to affect short-term performance and self-confidence in sport? A test of the matching hypothesis across three studies" was published in the *Journal of Applied Sport Psychology*.



Dr. Lydia R. Knopf (Business & Management) participated in the Nehemiah E-Community Global Forum on Kingdom Business and AI.

Robin Felix, Psy.D. (Psychology & Counseling) has served as a mentor for four MFT and MSC faculty pursuing AAMFT Approved Supervision designation. Dr. Felix has also completed EMDR Certification and is providing consultation for that certification.Dr. Felix is also completing the COAMFTE Self-study report in preparation for a COAMFTE site visit in the spring.

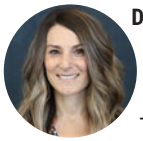


Heather M. Burrow, Ph.D. (Biblical Studies) presented at the 2023 Global Virtual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature a paper entitled "America's Open-source Scripturalization Movement." She presented at the 2023 National Society of Biblical Literature Conference a paper entitled "Reconstructing the Deeper Conceptual World of Ancient Cultures," as well as presided over a session of the program unit Comparative Method in Biblical Studies. Dr. Burrow published an article entitled "Ritualized into Adulthood: The Scarcity of Youth-focused Rites of Passage in America" in the journal *Discover Global Society*. Relatedly, in March 2024, Dr. Burrow published a follow-up article entitled "What rights of passage exist for youth in modern America?" in *The Academic*. In July 2024, Dr. Burrow published a book review of *A Community of Peoples: Studies on Society and Politics in the Bible and Ancient Near East in Honor of Daniel E. Fleming,* edited by Mahri Leonard-Fleckman, et al, in the *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

Dr. Robb Ring (Psychology & Counseling) finished the formal training and novice track time required to acquire his Full Competition Open Wheel Formula Racing license and is now competing in the Formula Atlantic Level in a Pro Formula Mazda Race Car.

Wm. Curtis Holtzen, D.Th. (Theology) presented papers at the University of Edinburgh, School of Divinity: *Love, Trust, and Divine Faith: Why a Trustworthy God is a Trusting God;* and at ORTCON in Wyoming: *The Faith of God*. He taught for CMF/Globalscope in Erlangen, Germany and Edinburgh, Scotland. He published "Love, Trust, and Vulnerability," in From Force to Persuasion, ed. Andrew M. Davis (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2024). Dr. Holzen lectured at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, in Amsterdam, NL, and at Wesley House, Cambridge, UK. He also taught in Maastricht, NL for Thuis, a Globalscope campus ministry in conjunction with CMF Seminary of the Nations.

Nicole Jahne, DPT (Physical Therapy) received the Total Joint Replacement Certification from Summit Professional Education after completing a series of courses on the evidence-based rehabilitation strategies for the shoulder, hip, knee, and ankle joint replacement.

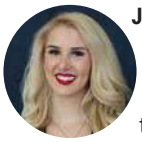


Dr. Natalie Hewitt (English) led a group of current HIU students, alumni, and their families on a 12-day tour of Scotland and England. The trip was the culminating experience for a course entitled "Literature in the British Setting." The group visited several sites of literary, historical, and spiritual significance from St. Giles' Cathedral to Westminster Abbey.

> > >

MORE FABULOUS FACULTY

Karen McReynolds, M.A. (Natural Science) spent the Fall 2023 semester on sabbatical near Victoria, Chile. She teamed up with a Chilean nonprofit that connects Christians with the outdoors and environmental concerns and got to speak with local university students, be a plenary speaker at a conference on science and faith, and work with retreats and outdoor education groups among other things. Since then she was a Reader for AP Biology in Kansas City, Kansas and also attended the American Scientific Affiliation's Washington D.C. conference on science, faith and diversity.

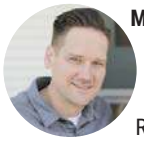


Jessica Journeay, Ph.D. (Communication Studies) had a research paper titled "Examining Heterosexual Women's Social Comparisons and Perceptions of Sexual Competition with Porn Stars" that was presented by a co-author at the International Communication Association conference this year in Gold Coast, Australia.

Laura Steele, PsyD (Psycology & Counseling) serves as Executive Director of the EMDR Research Foundation, a non-profit that provides grants to support research in EMDR Therapy. Dr. continues to provide consultation for EMDR certification and along with Dr. Luhmann, participates in ongoing research with the Trauma Response Network on EMDR as an early intervention strategy.

Susan Hastings, PsyD (Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Programs) presented at START Global's 11th International Educational Symposium: The Futuristic Archetype for Global Education in Chennai, India on July 19 & 20, 2024. Dr. Hastings presented on Philosophical and Psychological Foundations in Education.

James W. Yuile (Ministry and Biblical Studies) has been busy! He taught on Romans and Covenant at Wineskins, a multi-denominational gathering. James served as museum coordinator for the artwork of Carl Bray and his photography of indigenous peoples. At the same time, he has been an active Chair and Taskforce member for the Society of Biblical Literature, helping to coordinate sessions in their Global Virtual Meeting and Annual Meeting 2024. He is the editor for a volume to be published in 2025 by University of Illinois Press, titled Reforming Scriptures: Theories, Transformations, and Experiences across American Religions.



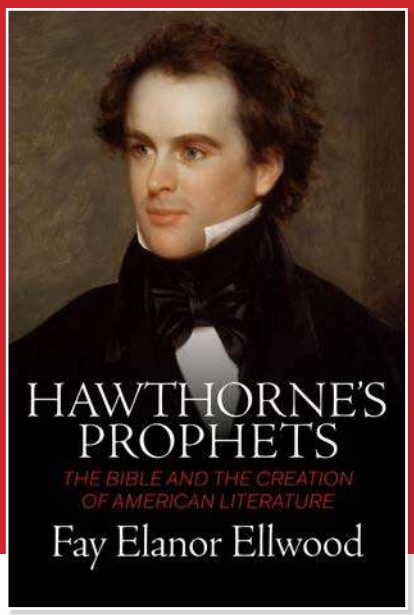
Matt Thompson, M.A. (Worship Arts) is writing his thesis for a Doctorate in Worship Studies at the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies. He also leads worship at Olive Branch Community Church in Corona, CA.

Brian Luhmann, Psy.D.(College of Psychology and Counseling) voiced Wall of Shame on the series Oh, Bubba. Dr. Luhmann's debut was in Oh, Book Club (2023) Season 1, Episode 4 on Amazon Video & YouTube. His role was also featured in the Christmas Special (2023) on YouTube.

PUBLISHED!
DR. FAY E. ELLWOOD

Dr. Fay Ellwood, HIU Associate Professor of English and English Department Chair, completed writing and publishing her first book, "Hawthorne's Prophets: The Bible and the Creation of American Literature" ***(now available on Amazon).***

Nathaniel Hawthorne helped to establish and validate American literature by creating a mythology of America's origins - a mythology that features prophetic themes and figures. Just as biblical prophets emerge at the dawn of ancient Israel, Hawthorne's prophets emerge in stories of the beginnings of America. Thus, an understanding of biblical prophetic writings enhances the reading of these texts. In "The Minister's Black Veil," Reverend Hooper carries out a sort of prophetic symbolic action in the wearing of the black veil. In The Scarlet Letter, Hester Prynne is a prophet along the lines of Isaiah's Suffering Servant. She is rejected by her community, silently endures their criticism, but ultimately offers consolation to those who once rebuked her. In viewing Hester (and others) as prophet, we see Hawthorne crafting American literature as self-questioning, probing its relationship with its original (often Puritan) ideals. In so doing, Hawthorne's prophets revise old ideologies, making new symbols for a new world. Grounded in biblical research, each chapter of Hawthorne's Prophets explores prophet figures and themes in a different short story or novel. Most of these stories - like much of biblical prophetic literature - are retrospective: they look back to an earlier time, embodying the views and biases of a nineteenth-century writer engaged in creating tales laced with shadows and questions of identity. A national literature must have origin stories-mythical roots that go backward as well as forward. Just as England had legends of King Arthur and Beowulf, Hawthorne's prophet stories shape the formation of American literature



CONGRATS TO OUR 2024 GRADS!

Last May, Hope International University celebrated its 114th Commencement Ceremony in the Darling Pavilion of the Lawson-Fulton Student Center. The Class of 2024 is the second largest group of graduates in HIU's 96-year history. Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral degrees were conferred on students who successfully completed their course of study. A capacity crowd of loved ones and supporters joined with HIU faculty, staff, administration, and trustees to witness and cheer the graduates on their momentous achievement.

HIU President Paul Alexander, Ph.D., delivered an inspiring Commencement Address about trusting God in every circumstance, noting that many of the 2024 graduates began their college experience during the COVID global quarantine. Dr. Alexander, a 2-time HIU alumnus, has been serving the University for 30 years in various leadership capacities. He was appointed President in August of 2019, less than an year before COVID caused the suspension of on-campus classes.

Three graduating students shared reflections on their HIU journey: Mackenzy Jespersen (traditional undergraduate), Jeanette Cronk (online undergraduate), and Ellysen Johnson (graduate studies). The Medford B. Jones Servant Leader Award was presented to Frank Fierro (undergraduate), Andrea Priebe (graduate), and James R. Gordon (graduate) for exceptional service outside the classroom.

Founded in 1928, the University moved to the Fullerton campus in 1973. HIU maintains a diligent commitment to its mission of empowering students through Christian Higher Education to serve the Church and impact the world for Christ. The Spring 2024 graduates join thousands of HIU alumni around the globe who embody our ongoing legacy of servant leadership and the priesthood of all believers.

Photo Peggy Sirota

MEREDITH WILLSON'S THE MUSIC MAN

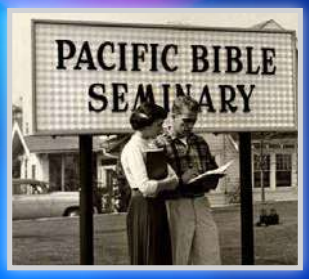
2024 SPRING MUSICAL

Alumni & Friends VIP Night

HIU + SPERO Program for the Performing Arts proudly staged Meredith Willson's Tony Award-winning Broadway musical comedy, ***The Music Man***, under the direction of HIU alumna, **Ember Williams (BM '00)**. HIU's annual musicals are a popular event for the local community as well as alumni and friends of the University.

This rollicking story follows the fast-talking traveling salesman, Harold Hill, as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band that he vows to organize – despite the fact that he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian, the local librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by curtain's fall.

Alumni and Friends gathered for a special V.I.P. Reception prior to the final performance, enjoying themed desserts, refreshments, and lively conversations with HIU staff, fellow alumni and Student Ambassadors.



ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

1990's >>>

Matthew Keane (BA '99) has worked for over 20 years as a Data Protection & Security professional. Due to his distinguished accomplishments, he was selected for inclusion in *Marquis Who's Who* in September 2024.

2000's >>>

Kayleen (Edgington BA '07) and Jeo Acevedo want to introduce their second child, Norah Lynn Acevedo born on 12/30/2023. Big brother Owen and grandparents, Steve and Teresa Edgington welcome the new addition to their family.

2010's >>>

Joseph "Joey" Aszterbaum (BS '15) is living in Oceanside with his wife Keisha and their pup Teddy. Joey is a real estate agent specializing in buying homes in San Diego County.

Idalia Valle Galdamez (BS '13) is currently the Preschool Director at KidWorks CDC in Santa Ana, California. Idalia loves her work, mission, and impact her job has around the community. Idalia is still serving as the church secretary for Templo Emanuel, a small church located in Santa Ana since 1956. She will be celebrating 28 years of marriage this December 2024. Her daughter Salma, is currently getting a Masters in Education online at HIU. She works as an Outreach Coordinator for the Light House in Minnie St. in Santa Ana for Mariners' church. Son **Samuel Galdamez-Valle (BA '23)** just obtained his Bachelors Degree in Education through Hope as well. He's currently substituting within the Garden Grove Unified School District and loving the impact he's having.

Ausden (BM '14) and **Megan (Ore/ BA '14, MA '17) Lemmons** welcome their first child, Izaiah Lemmons, born on May 27, 2024. Ausden is the Worship Pastor at Hope City Church in Milwaukie, OR while Megan is the Community Life Pastor at the Willamette Christian Church in West Linn, OR.

Faith (Wilson/BA '15) Schierholt was ordained on January 21, 2024, in the Presbyterian Church of the USA. She serves as the Associate Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Westlake Village. Her family and friends are estatic about her call, including her one year old daughter, Amelia.

Regina Siegel (BS '10) moved to El Paso, TX in June of 2023. She is no longer teaching preschool after 23 years at two churches in California. Regina is currently working at Ascension Lutheran Church as the Administrative Assistant and teaches Sunday School. The children range from age 3 to 10 years old. Regina still continues to teach and share the word of God with others

Kristin (Baird/ BA'13) Sorensen and husband Cody welcomed their second child, Hailey Grace born on January 3, 2024.

2000's >>>

Dylan Ferguson (BA '23) relocated to Ethiopia, Africa, in December of 2024 to pursue full-time missionary service through Christian Missionary Fellowship International. Dylan will be using music and other outreach methods to serve an impoverished area in the capital city of Addis Ababa. Dylan is asking for prayer and/or financial support as he pursue this mission.

Bernie Naranjo (BA '20) moved to Vacaville, CA where he is the Assistant Program Director at Caminar. Bernie is currently working on his clinical doctorate in healthcare and systems.

Share your updates and pics *online at hiu.edu/alumni or via email to alumni@hiu.edu*

18TH ANNUAL HIU GOLF CHALLENGE

Hope International University hosted its 18th Annual HIU GOLF CHALLENGE at the Western Hills Country Club. Our generous donors and sponsors teamed up to give nearly $50,000 to help fund student scholarships and departmental programs. To date, HIU's tournament has raised more than $900,000 to benefit Hope students.

The Men's and Womens' HIU Royals Golf Teams served as ambassadors throughout the event. Participants enjoyed the beautiful Carbon Canyon setting, clear blue skies, and friendly fellowship throughout the day, which including a putting contest and opportunities to win great prizes. Following the round, the partcipants convened at Cedar Creek in the Brea foothills for a fun and delicious awards dinner.

The HIU community extends deep gratitude to all who came out this year to support the University and our students. Special thanks to our generous sponsors who made the 2024 HIU Golf Challenge a huge success!

PLATINUM: Dr. Paul & Leslie Alexander, The Solomon Foundation
GOLD: Chicago Title
SILVER: First Christian Church Huntington Beach, The Refinery Christian Church, Rizio Lipinski Heiting Law Firm, David Lewis
DINNER: Cornerstone Management
LUNCH: Hanmi Bank
HOLE: B&B Carpets and Flooring, Tom McGlinchey

For more information about HIU's annual golf fundraiser, contact Shawn Dettmer, Assistant Director of Developent & Church Relations (ext. 2210).

DONOR HONOR ROLL

On behalf of the entire HIU administration, faculty, staff, and student body, THANK YOU to each and every donor. Your gifts are very much appreciated and vital to the success of our scholarship recipients, many of whom otherwise could not afford to attend HIU. You have impacted their lives, as well as countless lives they will touch as they take Hope to their corner of the globe.

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2023

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$30,000 & Above

Central Christian Church, Mesa, AZ

$10,000 - $29,999

Canyon Ridge Christian Church, Las Vegas, NV
Christ's Church of the Valley, Peoria, AZ
Eastside Christian Church, Anaheim, CA
First Christian Church, Huntington Beach, CA
One&All, San Dimas, CA
Shepherd Church, Porter Ranch, CA
University Christian Church, Los Angeles, CA

$5,000 - $9,999

Kingsway Christian Church, Omaha, NE
Landmark Christian Church, Diamond Bar, CA
Newbury Park First Christian Church, Newbury Park, CA
Norco Christian Church, Norco, CA
Rainier View Christian Church, Tacoma, WA
West Valley Christian Church, West Hills, CA
Yorba Linda Friends Church, Yorba Linda, CA

$2,500 - $4,999

Northwest Christian Church, Newberg, OR
The Refinery Christian Church, Goodyear, AZ

$1,000 - $2,499

Compass Christian Church, Colleyville, TX
Discovery Christian Church of Moreno Valley, CA
Hope Christian Church, Fairfield, CA
Lighthouse Christian Church, Oceanside, CA
Parkcrest Christian Church, Long Beach, CA
The Crossing, a Christian Church, Las Vegas, NV

$500 - $999

Christ's Church of the Valley, Bakersfield, CA

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Colton Christian Church, Colton, CA
Rosemead Christian Church, Rosemead, CA

RESTRICTED CHURCH GIVING

$10,000 & Above

CrossCity Christian Church, Fresno, CA
Shepherd Church, Porter Ranch, CA

$5,000 - $9,999

First Christian Church of Owasso, Owasso, OK
Landmark Christian Church, Diamond Bar, CA

$1,000 - $4,999

Calvary Chapel Westgrove, Garden Grove, CA
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Compass Christian Church, Colleyville, TX
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$10,000 - $29,999

Christ's Church of the Valley, Peoria, AZ

$5,000 - $9,999

Eastside Christian Church, Anaheim, CA
First Christian Church, Huntington Beach, CA
Kingsway Christian Church, Omaha, NE
Newbury Park First Christian Church, Newbury Park, CA
One&All, San Dimas, CA
Shepherd Church, Porter Ranch, CA
University Christian Church, Los Angeles, CA
West Valley Christian Church, West Hills, CA

$2,500 - $4,999

Norco Christian Church, Norco, CA
Northwest Christian Church, Newberg, OR
Rainier View Christian Church, Tacoma, WA
Real Life Church, Valencia, CA
The Refinery Christian Church, Goodyear, AZ
Yorba Linda Friends Church, Yorba Linda, CA

$1,000 - $2,499

Discovery Christian Church of Moreno Valley, Moreno Valley, CA
Friendship Baptist Church, Yorba Linda, CA
Lighthouse Christian Church, Oceanside, CA
Parkcrest Christian Church, Long Beach, CA

$500 - $999

Camarillo Christian Church, Camarillo, CA
Christ's Church of the Valley, Bakersfield, CA
Colton Christian Church, Colton, CA
Hope Christian Church, Fairfield, CA
Rosemead Christian Church, Rosemead, CA

RESTRICTED CHURCH GIVING

$10,000 & Above

CrossCity Christian Church, Fresno, CA
First Christian Church, Huntington Beach, CA
Northwest Christian Church, Newberg, OR

$5,000 - $9,999

Compass Christian Church, Colleyville, TX
First Christian Church of Owasso, Owasso, OK
Shepherd Church, Porter Ranch, CA

$1,000 - $4,999

Calvary Christian Church, Bellevue, NE
Crossroads Church, Corona, CA
First Christian Church, Yuma, AZ
Irvine Onnuri Church, Irvine, CA
South Side Christian Church, Springfield, IL

$10,000 & Above

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$2,500 - $4,999

Players Trust
Big Bear Mountain Resort

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Hondo500, Inc.
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In Honor of

Marcus S. Glimpse
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Robert N. L. Stone
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Meet REBECCA PACIFICAR

Our V.P. for Business & Finance

Rebecca Pacificar was appointed HIU's **Vice President for Business & Finance** last May. She brings over 20 years of experience in Accounting and Finance, primarily in Higher Education.

A team of four outstanding College of Business undergraduate students scored 12th in a **global GLO-BUS online business strategy competition** that included 1591 teams from 98 colleges/universities participating in the simulation worldwide. Chandler De Jong, Cassidy Koffroth, Omar Rodriquez, and Noah Stevens competed as co-managers of "Company C" as part of Professor Tom McGlinchey's capstone Strategy & Policy class.

HIU's College of Education is pleased to announce the official launch a new **Teacher Induction Program** (TIP). TIP provides mentoring and support of new teachers during their first two years of teaching.

Forbes Advisor recognizes Hope International University among the 10 Best Online Colleges in California for 2024. Forbes Advisor chose the 10 highest-scoring schools to display, which includes HIU. All of the schools on the final list offer at least five fully online bachelor's degrees.

University Headquarters (HQ) named Hope International University among their Top Ranked Colleges for 2024. Two of HIU's academic programs have been recognized for exceptional excellence and value:

:: Best Addiction Counseling Programs in California **- #3**
:: MBA Programs in Nonprofit Management **- Top 25**

Each year, NAIA schools use the Champions of Character core report to measure the pursuit of character-driven athletics. The HIU Royals scored among the top schools and have been honored with the **NAIA Champions of Character® Five-Star Institution Award** for 2023-2024, earning a **Gold Medallion**.

Intelligent.com congratulates Hope International University on earning a place on their respected Best Online Master's in Ministry Degree Programs list for 2025. In their comprehensive 2025 report, Intelligent.com analyzed over 3,000 academic institutions to select the most remarkable.

Under the direction and leadership of Ember Williams ('00), Erin Koshay ('14), and Gina Ridgley ('15), **Spero Program for the Arts** has flourished and continues to expand its programs and reach, offering performing arts education on the HIU campus for youth and young adults in Fullerton and the surrounding communities.

HIU PODCAST from the President of Hope International University

HOPE for the BrOKen Leader

[pod.link/1700511923]

Hope International University is pround to announce the creation and release of a brand new podcast: "**HOPE for the BrOKen Leader,**" now available on all major podcast platforms, including YouTube (video), Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeart Podcasts, and more.

- "**Grief, Loss, and Trauma**" (2 parts)
- "**Dealing with Depression**" (2 parts)
- "**Leader Loneliness & Isolation**" (2 parts)
- ...and many more relevant topics