

2024

Advancement  
& Engagement

# Kingdom Impact Report



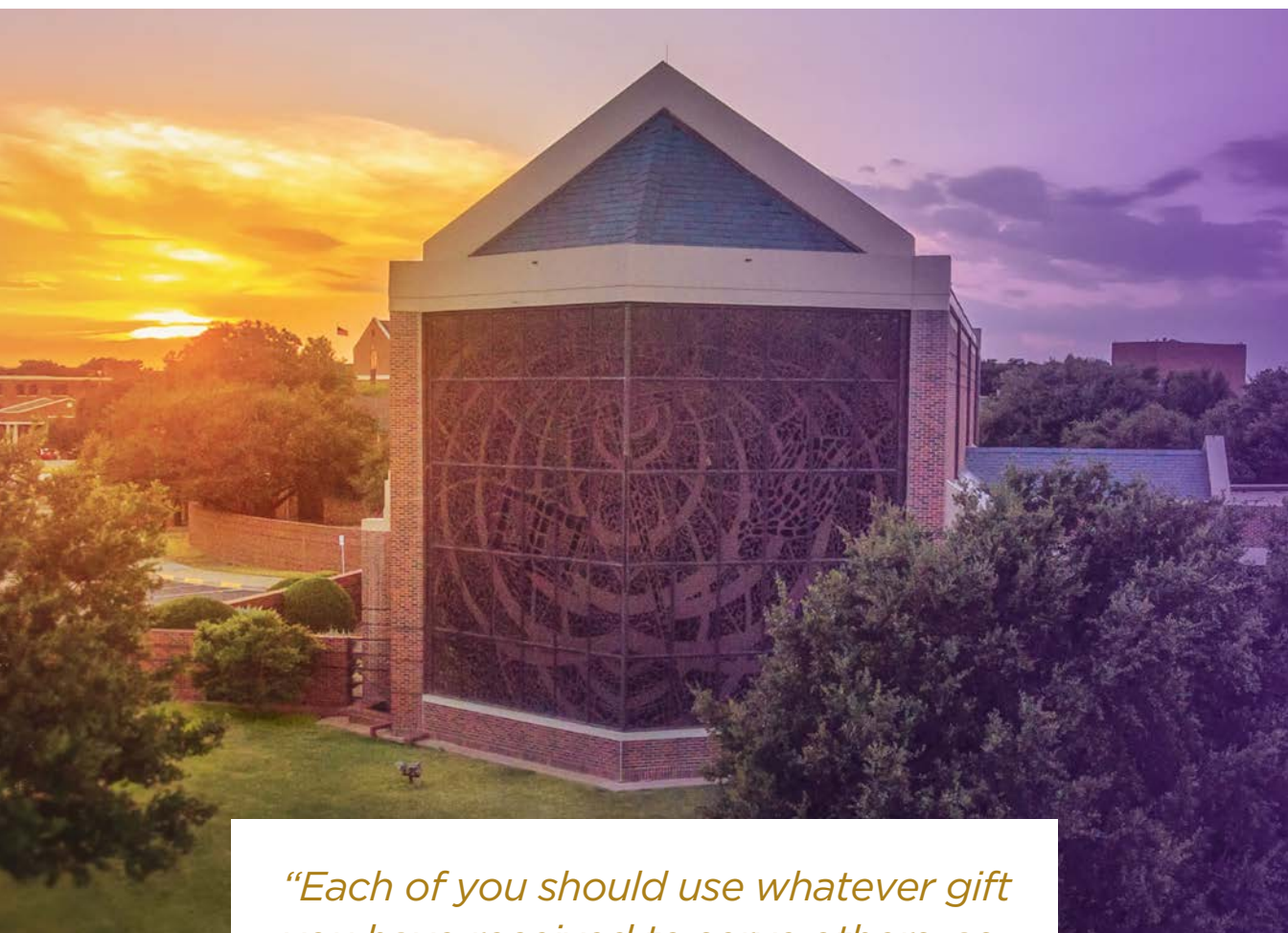
**HARDIN-SIMMONS**  
UNIVERSITY  
A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

**S**ince 1891, Hardin-Simmons University has made a Kingdom impact by providing excellent education enlightened by Christian faith and values. The world needs Christian leaders, and integrating faith into learning is essential to help students develop critical thinking skills, deepen their relationship with Christ, and discover their callings to serve their communities and the world. Our Engagement and Advancement Team are grateful to be part of this Kingdom work.

God has continued to bless us throughout 2024 in many ways. A few highlights include:

- Raising more than \$13 million in 2024, making it the second-largest fundraising year in the university's history.
- Surpassing the speakLIFE challenge goal of \$45 million a year early.
- Dedicating Prichard Hall, the university's first new residence hall since 1962, along with our new nursing program and facility in Abilene Hall.

*Thank you for partnering with us to impact the Kingdom!*



*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”*

*—1 Peter 4:10*

# Meet our team

*“Engagement and Advancement serves to build and strengthen relationships with our community and support HSU’s mission of providing excellence in education enlightened by Christian faith and values for today’s Cowboys and tomorrow’s Christian leaders.”*

*— Engagement & Advancement Mission Statement*



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*“At its heart, fundraising is not about dollars—it’s about connection. It’s the art of listening well, engaging authentically, asking boldly, and sharing stories that inspire transformation.”*

*—Dr. Vicki House '01/'10/'22,  
Vice President for Engagement and Advancement*



# Why I serve

Serving is a vital expression of the mission of Hardin-Simmons University. We're sharing three stories of how service to the university after graduation helps create a lasting impact, transforming the lives of current and future students while carrying the mission forward.



## Matt Dowling '06

*Board of Development*

"I feel God has called Christians to be the light of the world, and supporting an institution of higher education that centers around Jesus is what our nation needs.

I will always cherish HSU because of the lifelong friendships I developed—we were all like a big family. I want students to have the same great experience I did.

I served as Student Body President and on the Board of Young Associates. I loved my time serving the school and my fellow students. HSU's success needs to continue and the Board of Development plays an important role in this effort."

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## Joanna Cone '92

*Alumni Association Board of Directors*

"My experiences at HSU showed me what it means to live life in a way that advances the Kingdom of God. I firmly believe that HSU is shaping the next generation of Christian leaders, and want to help advance that mission in any way I can.

I want to extend the same connection to the next generation of students that I received through alumni from my hometown and my church family. Serving on the board is one way to do that.

I hope my time serving shows current students that we are connected for life and that they will pass that on to future generations of students."

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## Brittney Dillman '11/'13

*Board of Young Associates*

"As a student, I experienced faculty and staff who cared about me not only as a student but as a person. My experiences showed me how special HSU is, and the people I met helped shape me into who I am today. I wanted to give back to the school that gave me so much.

After I graduated, I wanted to find a way to continue to be connected with the school. Board of Young Associates was the perfect way to give back to HSU and be involved.

As a board member, I feel blessed to be an ambassador of HSU, engaging other alumni, and helping to promote the importance of maintaining involvement after graduation. As alumni, I feel like we can help advance HSU not only with monetary gifts but also by promoting to future students how special HSU is."

# speaK LIFE *update!*

## More than \$13 Million Raised During 2024

In 2024, we raised over \$13 million, marking the highest giving year of our speakLIFE Campaign. This milestone highlights the incredible support of the HSU community for our mission.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to the HSU community, for helping us achieve a monumental milestone in our ongoing journey with speakLIFE!

In the fall of 2022, we moved out of the silent phase of our exciting and ambitious \$35 million speakLIFE Campaign and entered the public promotion phase, setting a challenge goal of \$45 million. With faith in God’s provision and through the incredible generosity of the HSU community, we have already surpassed our challenge goal, raising a total of \$49,453,123 by the end of 2024—more than a year and a half ahead of schedule!

While we are celebrating this incredible achievement, it is important to note that the speakLIFE Campaign is not over.

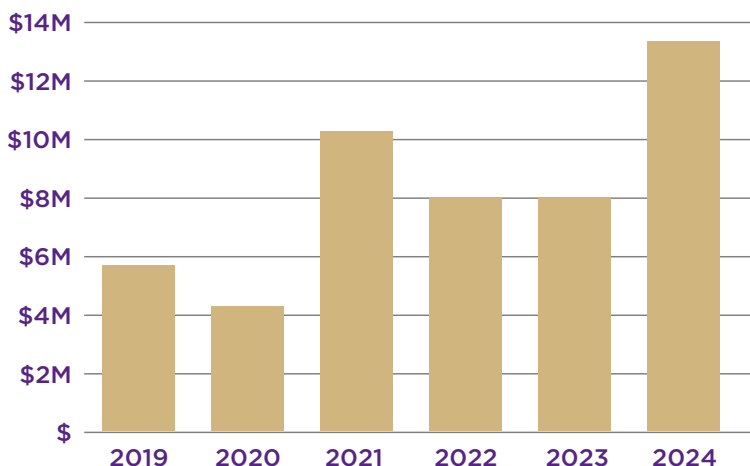
Some of our campaign projects have not yet been fully funded, and with the challenges of a post-COVID economy and the rising costs of construction materials, additional resources are still needed. Our commitment to securing the necessary funding for these important priorities remains strong.

As we continue, we remember Colossians 3:17, which says: “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Because of your generosity, the speakLIFE Campaign will continue to make an eternal impact for HSU and our students, enabling the enhancement of facilities, programs, and opportunities for tomorrow’s Christian leaders.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to completing the remaining speakLIFE projects together!

### 2019-2024 Calendar Giving







# Prichard Hall Dedication

On Tuesday, July 30, 2024, HSU's 164 bed Prichard Hall was dedicated and students moved in mid-August for the start of the fall semester. Located on the northeast corner of Ambler Avenue and Simmons Avenue, the four-story building contains 42 student suites. Each suite has four single bedrooms with walk-in closets, two full bathrooms, and a shared living room.



# Nursing Program and Facility Dedication

The dedication of HSU’s nursing program and facility was held Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, on the top floor of Abilene Hall. In the spring 2025 semester, we proudly launched our inaugural on-campus nursing program, welcoming 30 first-year students who began their clinical nursing experiences and 45 pre-nursing students. This marked a transformative step in HSU’s commitment to healthcare education.

“This new program represents a bold step forward in preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals,” said President Bruntmyer. “By addressing critical healthcare shortages and fostering excellence through faith-based values, HSU combines an innovative curriculum, cutting-edge facilities, and a commitment to addressing critical healthcare needs, positioning us to make a lasting impact on the nursing field.”



## COWBOYS RAISE GOLD

HSU GIVING DAY

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Thank you for giving on our second Annual Cowboys Raise Gold giving day! We are grateful for your loyal support. Because of you and donors like you, we exceeded our 2024 goal of 133 donors in honor of HSU’s 133rd birthday and raised more than \$150,000.



# SCHOLARSHIPS *change lives!*

**A**ccording to CollegeRaptor, HSU has the 24th-largest endowment in Texas, ninth largest among private schools and third-largest among Division III schools.

What is an endowment? Instead of being spent immediately, endowed funds are invested, and a portion of the income they generate is used each year to support the institution. Below, read how endowments and other scholarships have changed the lives of students at HSU:

## Tim Baek '24

*Music | China*

I heard about HSU from my high-school band director, whose best friend had been part of the World-Famous Cowboy Band. Intrigued by the Cowboy Band, I researched HSU and applied.

Receiving scholarships allowed me to focus more on my studies and music practice without much worry about finances. While I still worked to cover expenses not included in scholarships, the assistance with tuition helped a lot.

The music courses I have taken have helped to broaden my knowledge and experiences on the subject. I have learned how to play and teach new instruments and how to conduct instrumental ensembles, all of which are essential skills for my future career.

I don't have a solid answer right now in regard to what is next for me, but I want to teach eventually. I came to HSU to study music so I could teach and influence children for Christ through music. Hardin-Simmons did that for me.



## Mathias Duut '25

*Biochemistry | Molecular Biology | Ghana*

I prayed for guidance to find a small, liberal arts Christian college. Fortunately, God answered my prayers through a friend who lived in Dallas that recommended I apply to HSU.

HSU has enriched my academic and spiritual life, allowing me to form lasting friendships and gain valuable knowledge. HSU has instilled in me the value of being part of a community. During my time at HSU, I had faculty and friends who encouraged and motivated me both academically and spiritually. This wouldn't be possible without the financial support of HSU's Christlieb program.

Classes such as biochemistry, anatomy and physiology, organic chemistry, and genetics provided a solid foundation in medical science, preparing me with essential knowledge needed for a successful career in medicine. The next step for me is to attend medical school and fulfill my dream of becoming a surgeon.



## Madison Lewis '23

*Christian Studies | Goldthwaite, TX*

My journey to HSU began with a campus tour in 2016. My aunt attended HSU, but I had never been to campus until I toured with my brother. I was blown away by the beautiful campus and friendly community. My sophomore year of high school, I knew I was called to ministry and began looking into Christian colleges. Initially, I was afraid my family couldn't afford for me to attend a private University, but we were pleasantly surprised to learn that HSU scholarships made my dream pursuable!

My academic focus at HSU was Strategic Communication and Christian Studies. I served as a ministry leader in the Baptist Student Ministry and as a student worker in both Visual Media and University Marketing. I was also awarded the Altom Christian Service Award. All of this helped me grow while preparing me for church media ministry.





# Meet our donors

We are thankful for the support and generosity of our loyal donors, and are excited to spotlight some of the dedicated and inspiring individuals who choose to ensure that HSU's mission is fulfilled.

## Keith Griffitts '64: Why I Give

Keith Griffitts stepped onto campus in 1960 as a young man eager to fulfill a dream his father never could. Unable to attend college due to the hardships of losing his own father at a young age, Keith's dad instilled the importance of education in both of his children.

This deep appreciation for education has inspired Keith's unwavering commitment to HSU, where he has been faithfully supporting the university for over 40 years, making him HSU's **longest-giving donor**. Alongside his wife, Cherry (Dollins) Griffitts '64, Keith's

generosity has provided scholarships that ensure future generations of students can benefit from the same transformative opportunities they once had.

"Giving to HSU is the best investment in the future of our nation," Griffitts said. "We need more Christian leaders, and Hardin-Simmons produces them. Supporting the school means supporting the students who will go on to change the world."







## **Dr. Stacey (Vaughn) Martin '96/'01/'23**

Dr. Martin gives to the speakLIFE Capital Campaign's Prichard Hall project because Residence Life is near and dear to Dr. Martin's heart. As a student, she was an RA in Ferguson Hall and is now leading Residence Life as the Vice President for Student Life. Living in residence halls was one of the best parts of her college experience. Dr. Martin explains: "I've had the privilege of knowing the Prichard family for many years. Their love, dedication, and service to HSU for so many decades deserves this legacy on our campus."

## **Dr. Chris McNair '84**

Dr. McNair gives to make Newman-Richardson Science Center the best facility possible for HSU's outstanding faculty and students. "The world needs more well-trained scientists, physicians, dentists, physical and occupational therapists, pharmacists, veterinarians, athletic trainers, nurses, physician assistants, science and math teachers, mathematicians, and healthcare providers. Science labs and the technology and equipment that go with them are extremely expensive and require continual upkeep, maintenance, and eventually, replacement."



## Laurie Harris '13

*Director of Alumni Engagement*

Laurie gives back to her alma mater to provide future Cowboys and Cowgirls with the opportunity, like she had, to study what they are passionate about and impact the world. "I chose to give to the nursing program because this program will raise up amazing nurses that love and care for others like Christ loves and cares for us. I can't wait to see how they set the precedence for excellence in nursing in the Big Country and around the world. It is important to remember that every gift makes a difference."



## Kisemei Kupe '20

*International Student Services Coordinator and Ministry Liaison for Africa, Antarctica, Asia, North and South America, and Europe*

To *speak life* is to encourage, promote, nurture, support, and bless. Giving, like speech, positively impacts students; and, the SpeakLIFE Capital Campaign is breathing life into many areas of our campus. One such area that Kisemei supports is the Christlieb Program and Scholarship which assists independent, self-supporting students with tuition and living expenses. Kisemei lives by Acts 20:35: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." He feels constantly reminded of how the HSU community supported his education and has chosen to give back to help new generations of students: "I want others to know that no matter how small or big their gifts to HSU seem, by giving to this or any SpeakLIFE project, they speak millions of words of life to our campus, mission, and students."

# Our newest giving societies

The generosity of Hardin-Simmons donors helps the university fulfill its mission to prepare tomorrow's Christian leaders today. It is our privilege to recognize donors at every level of philanthropy whose generosity and commitment makes our mission possible.



The Heritage Society honors loyal donors who give consistently over a generational span of 20 years. Loyal donors are the cornerstone of success, providing the means by which HSU can carry out its mission of educating tomorrow's Christian leaders.



The Pace Setters giving society honors individuals who have committed to support the university through recurring monthly gifts. These automatic contributions offer a convenient way to give smaller amounts that add up over time, providing steady and ongoing support. Pace Setters who maintain their monthly giving for five or more consecutive years (i.e., 5, 10, 15, etc.) will be recognized in the *Range Rider*.

**Click to read more about giving societies.**

[www.hsutx.edu/alumni/giving-to-hsu](http://www.hsutx.edu/alumni/giving-to-hsu)



# Awards

As a part of a long-standing university tradition, each year we honor alumni and friends who exemplify the university's mission through lives of service, and meaningful contributions to their communities.



## *Dr. James B. Simmons Dinner* — honoring — **SENATOR JAMES LANKFORD**

Inspired by the values of HSU's founder, the Dr. James B. Simmons Dinner honors a legacy of education, faith, and service while raising funds for student scholarships. On Nov. 15, 2024, at The Statler Hotel in Dallas, HSU presented the Dr. James B. Simmons Award to Senator James Lankford, recognizing his unwavering faith, leadership, and commitment to breaking barriers. The award honors individuals who use their God-given talents to serve others with courage and determination—principles reflected in both Lankford's life and Dr. Simmons' legacy.

Before entering public service, Lankford spent over 20 years in ministry, serving with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Baptist Convention of Oklahoma. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 2014, where he has been a strong advocate for

government transparency, religious liberty, and policies that empower families.

In his acceptance speech, Lankford emphasized the importance of leading with faith and conviction. "We should spend our days talking about what Jesus talked about, the way He talked about them," he said. "I'm honored to stand here, but my challenge to all of us is to lead well—not just be a leader, but to lead well."

Thanks to generous donors, the evening raised over \$100,000 for Christlieb Scholarships, advancing HSU's mission to make Christ-centered education accessible to students in need. HSU President Eric Bruntmyer reflected, "Senator Lankford embodies the heart of this award. His life of service reflects the same bold faith and commitment to education that Dr. Simmons demonstrated."

# HALL OF LEADERS

## 2024 HONOREES



**Mr. George Robert  
(Bob) Bryan '67**

*Businessman, Utility Executive*

Bob graduated from Harvard's Advanced Management program after graduating from HSU and used his training to rise through the executive ranks of Enserch Exploration, Lone Star Gas and Enserch Corporation.

A committed community leader, he served on the boards of the Dallas Petroleum Club and Texas Commerce Bank - Brookhollow, as well as at HSU, where he chaired the budget and audit committee and later served three years as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He was also a deacon at both Richardson Heights and Wilshire Baptist Churches, and raise Beefmaster cattle on his ranch in Grand Saline.



**Dr. Robert Mangrum '70**

*Educator, Public Servant*

Serving 43 years at Howard Payne University, Robert has held the title History Department Chair, Assistant Director and Director of the Academy Honors Program, and the Burress Professor of American History and Genealogy. Currently he is the Coley Professor of American History and University Historian.

Robert earned a B.A. in history and political science from HSU and was commissioned as a U.S. Army officer. Robert served 28 years of active and reserve duty, retiring June 1998 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Along with extensive civil and community engagement, including involvement with the Kiwanis Club of Brownwood, Brown County Museum, and Lehnis Railroad Museum, he was elected mayor of the city of Early in May 2005.

Currently, Robert is serving his tenth term as mayor. He will seek reelection in May of 2025.



## **Mrs. Laura (Warren) Moore '86**

*Non-Profit Executive, Civic Leader*

As a public servant, Laura has given her time as the chair of Leadership Abilene, the Downtown Development Committee, and Together 2011, which, among other things, brought the first splash pad to

Abilene. Additionally, she has chaired the HSU Board of Trustees and the Abilene Chamber of Commerce and served two terms on the Abilene City Council.

Highlights of her career include serving on staff at HSU for 12 years, as Director of the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, and as Director of Development with Hendrick Health System Children's Hospital.

Following her service at Hendrick, Laura spent several years as a consultant and worked with a variety of non-profits. Since 2012, she has served as Executive Director of the Grace Museum in Abilene.

Her most valuable gift in life is her family—her husband Jay '82/'96 and daughters, Madison, London, and Annelise.

# **John J. Keeter Jr. Alumni Service Award**

*The Alumni Service Award is the highest alumni honor HSU can bestow. Since 1943, this award has been presented to alumni who have contributed the most in their field of endeavor toward the betterment of HSU.*

## **Ms. Dorothy (Houston) Kiser '65/'92**

Ms. Dorothy (Houston) Kiser dedicated 30 years of service to the university, holding key roles such as secretary to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Assistant Registrar, Registrar, and Associate Vice President of Student Records and Registration. She earned a Bachelor of Science in religious education from HSU in 1965 and later completed an M.B.A. in 1992.

Dorothy currently serves on the Academic Foundation and remains actively involved in campus life through HSU Fellowship, where she is Vice President for Programs. She has also contributed her time to the Board of Development and the Alumni Association Board of Directors.





# Distinguished Alumni Awards

*This award, given since 1970, is presented to alumni whose personal and professional accomplishments are exemplary of the ideals and aims of the University and thus bring honor to HSU.*

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## Dr. Tracy (Sheehy) Manly '93

Dr. Tracy (Sheehy) Manly earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from HSU in 1993. Her career in higher education has spanned 25 years. Since January 2023, she has served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Administration at Southwest Baptist University after serving as the Acting Provost / Senior Vice Provost for Academic

Initiatives and Albert Rogers Professor of Accounting at the University of Tulsa. Dr. Manly has published more than 25 refereed journal articles and book chapters on topics related to business ethics, accounting instruction, and tax compliance and policy. She was recognized as one of HSU's Outstanding Young Alumni recipients in 2009.

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## Mr. Matthew Morris '02

Mr. Matthew Morris earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance from HSU in 2002. Hired by Gus Bates Insurance & Investments as their sixth employee, Matt helped them grow from \$900K in revenue to \$15 million. While serving as President of Gus Bates Insurance & Investments, Matt navigated their merger with HUB International in 2020. Matt

now serves as Area President of HUB International over the Fort Worth Market. In 2019, Matt was recognized by the Fort Worth Business Press as one of the 40 under 40 honorees. Matt has stayed connected to HSU over the years and served on the Board of Young Associates from 2006-2011.

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## Dr. Sarah (Jones) Morris '02

Dr. Sarah (Jones) Morris is the owner of Sarah J. Morris, DDS and Associates in Fort Worth, Texas. She holds membership in multiple local, state, and international dental associations and has been voted by peers as one of Fort Worth's "Top Docs" and "Top Dentists" each year since 2007. Among the top 4% of dentists in the USA, Dr. Morris was selected as a fellow in the

International College of Dentistry. Sarah earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from HSU in 2002 and served on the HSU Board of Young Associates from 2006 to 2011.



# *Thank You!*

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our mission during 2024. The HSU Engagement and Advancement Team is incredibly grateful for the loyal support of our alumni and friends.



## HARDIN-SIMMONS

U N I V E R S I T Y

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ADVANCEMENT

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