

UPDATES FROM THE HILL
TIGER PRIDE
EAST TEXAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



Miss ETBU 2017

ETBU junior elementary education major Taylor Rowlands of Houston was crowned Miss ETBU 2017 April 1. Rowlands competed against 6 other contestants in the 61st Miss ETBU Scholarship Pageant in Baker Chapel of the Ornelas Spiritual Life Center.

Rowlands is the daughter of Jerry and Julie Rowlands. While attending ETBU, she has been a member of the Tiger Cheer Squad, and has invested her time volunteering at Trinity Episcopal School, Marshall Manor, and Kids Club through BSM. She has received scholarships for academics, Christian leadership, and Tiger Cheer. She was part of the Tiger Cheer squad that won first place in the All-Girl Division at the 2016 UCA Cheer Camp. She attends First United Methodist Church in Marshall. After graduation, Taylor plans to become a third-grade teacher, specializing in reading or special education. "I am still in shock," Rowlands said. "Thank you to everyone who voted for me and supported me through this journey. Jesus is so good! I am honored to serve as Miss ETBU 2017."



ETBU Students Travel to State Capitol

Students from East Texas Baptist University visited the Texas State Capitol in Austin, Texas on March 22 for Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) Student Advocacy Day. The students spoke with representatives and senators to thank them for their service and ask for continued funding for the TEG program. While at the Capitol, they observed a session of the House of Representatives and were recognized from the floor by District 9 State Representative Chris Paddie from Marshall. Pictured above with Representative Jay Dean from Longview are Mitchell Penny from Brownsboro; Michael Harris from Lone Star; Maci Brewer from Abilene; Jamie Becker from Jacksonville; and Alex Dorman from Longview.

The Tuition Equalization Grant program was created by the Texas Legislature in 1971, to provide financial assistance for students choosing to attend independent colleges and universities. Currently the TEG program provides over \$1,750,000 each biennium to help students in financial need receive a quality Christ-centered education at ETBU. "Having the opportunity to meet with Texas representatives and senators that support a program that helps students like me was incredible," ETBU sophomore Jamie Becker said. "We had the privilege of thanking them in person for their hard work in our city, state, and for the students at ETBU. It is an experience I will never forget."



HILLTOP UNIVERSITY
A SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE
COME EXPERIENCE LIFE ON THE HILL

Join us for Hilltop University, a spiritual retreat for senior adults May 31-June 2, 2017, on the beautiful campus of East Texas Baptist University. Guest speakers and entertainment include: Al Fike, Rev. Rene' Maciel, Shellie O'Neal, The Foto Sisters, Larnelle Harris and Pastor Sam Dennis. Come with your spouse, your friends, your family, or your Senior Adult group at church. To register or to find out more information go to www.etbu.edu/sac17 or call 903-923-2068.



Time Lapse Video of Ornelas Stadium Renovation

Ornelas Stadium and Taylor Field Moving to Turf

The ETBU Board of Trustees has voted to convert Ornelas Stadium and Taylor Field from natural grass to artificial turf. ETBU has selected Symmetry Turf from nearby Mount Pleasant, Texas as the contractor for the design-build job. Ornelas Stadium is the home of ETBU's football team and Taylor Field is the home of ETBU's softball program, the former NCAA Division III National Champions.

"East Texas Baptist is honored to partner with Symmetry Turf," ETBU President J. Blair Blackburn. "With a reputation as one of the most elite turf installation companies in the nation, Symmetry will provide our ETBU Tiger student-athletes with competition fields of the highest quality and matchless beauty unparalleled by any other turf company in the market." Symmetry Turf is no stranger to performing high-profile jobs, having installed seven NFL fields, over 35 NCAA fields, and numerous high schools across the country. "Adding artificial turf to Ornelas Stadium and Taylor Field are great additions to the already beautiful ETBU campus," said Ryan Erwin, Vice President for Athletics and Director of Athletics at ETBU. "It will positively add to the student-athlete experience and give the Tiger Football and softball programs the opportunity to practice and compete at a high level on a field that is playable in all conditions."

"We are honored that ETBU has chosen Symmetry" Jason Bell, President of Symmetry Turf, said. "ETBU is really a school on the rise and a leader in Christian higher education. The school has outstanding leadership in Dr. Blackburn and Ryan Erwin, their Vice President for Athletics. This job is very personal to us and we believe it will help countless students at their university."

To make an online contribution click [here](#).

If you have any questions please call:

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