

# T<sup>sagu</sup> Today

Fall 2014

INFLUENCE  
MISSION LEADERSHIP  
**un**common  
REACH PERSPECTIVE  
VALUES



SCAN THIS  
COVER FOR  
SPECIAL  
CONTENT

(Details on page 3)

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Planning for tomorrow:** Preview of future dorm and administrative building

**Mission TEN:** The first four years

**uncommon stories:** Students plan for world and cultural impact



SALVATION  
SPIRIT BAPTISM  
DIVINE HEALING  
SECOND COMING

# seven: fourteen

MARCH 3-4, 2015, SHEAFFER CENTER

TUES

7:00 PM Session I: Doug Clay - Divine Healing

WED

8:30 AM Session II: Prayer  
9:30 AM Session III: Alton Garrison - Spirit Baptism  
1:30 PM Session IV: Jim Bradford - Salvation  
7:00 PM Session V: George Wood - Second Coming



KERMIT BRIDGES  
HOST



GEORGE WOOD



ALTON GARRISON



JIM BRADFORD



DOUG CLAY

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# sagu Today

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**11** MEN'S BASKETBALL RETURNS FROM  
TOURNAMENT IN ANGOLA

About **SAGU Today** FALL 2014 · VOL 18 ISSUE 1

SAGU Today is a publication of Southwestern Assemblies of God University, a non-profit institution of higher learning.

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**Statement of Purpose:** The purpose of Southwestern Assemblies of God University is to prepare undergraduate and graduate students spiritually, academically, professionally and cross-culturally so as to successfully fill evangelistic, missionary and church ministry roles and to provide quality educational and professional Christian service wherever needed throughout the world.





**Kermit S. Bridges, D.Min.**  
President

## Endowed Scholarships

Endowed scholarship funds are vital. These funds provide financial aid that enables students of all financial backgrounds to enroll at SAGU.

Additionally, endowed scholarships allow you to honor an individual while designating how the funds will be distributed.

To learn how to setup an endowed scholarship, call Craig Rinas, CFP®, at 1-888-YES-SAGU.

If you prefer to make a simple, one-time gift to SAGU towards scholarships, please call or mail to 1200 Sycamore St., Waxahachie, Texas, 75165, or give online at [www.sagu.edu/give](http://www.sagu.edu/give).



## President's perspective

**W**e are all called to be uncommon – an uncommon light, an uncommon influence or an uncommon voice. Blending into the crowd does not cut it. If we allow ourselves to remain silent and blend in with the common culture, we may find ourselves irrelevant with no voice at all.

These are turbulent times. Terrorist organizations like ISIS make routine missions and study trips a safety risk. Yet, SAGU Lions continue to serve vigilantly in some of the most treacherous countries.

Human trafficking remains a heartbreakingly prevalent problem throughout the world. And SAGU Lions lead the charge to bring women and children out of bondage.

Christians more often than ever see an affront to our religious liberties and Christian values domestically. Just moments up the road in Midlothian, Texas, a school district recently covered a memorial plaque honoring a donor because of a reference to God.

Let us not deceive ourselves to think that the affront comes only from those outside the walls of the church. We have begun to see a change inside the church as well – one where a message of accommodation often replaces a message of purity and an adherence to the Word of God.

The ultimate responsibility put before us is not to be ordinary, common or lukewarm. We are called to lead an uncommon life radically different from anything else this world sees. It is the very thing that will enable us to change the culture.

Your moments – your unique position – affords you perfect opportunities. What does God need you to do with your time to live an uncommon life?

Consider the story of Samuel. Is it your desire to live in such a way that your encounter with God compels you to alter the course of a nation? Is it your desire to have an intimacy and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit?

SAGU remains more committed than ever to our core values – Bible-based education, academic excellence, spiritual formation, Pentecostal distinction, missions-mindedness, servant leadership and community and personal wellness. These values set us apart and give us a global influence.

As you will read on page 20, we have now completed our fourth year toward Mission TEN, with more than 100 destinations reached in that time. Students and alumni continue to sign up for this historic initiative.

Meanwhile, we continue to develop our curriculum and prepare servant leaders who will shake the world. I encourage you to take a fresh look at the leadership programs now being offered through SAGU – a Bachelor of Arts in Church Leadership, LEAD internships, a Master of Arts in Organization Leadership, a Master of Business Administration and a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership and Creative Communication.

Now is the time for uncommon leadership. Partner with us in prayer and financial support to raise up a generation of uncommon leaders. ■



**Irby McKnight**  
Vice President for Advancement

## Thankful, but concerned...

I love missions and am thankful that God has blessed me to be able to support His Mission around the world. One of the great reasons I am thankful to minister at SAGU is our strong commitment to missions. SAGU is producing students in both the marketplace and the pulpit that are making a major impact on this world for Jesus Christ. I believe because of our great purpose in world evangelism He is blessing this University. We are seeing our contributions rise on almost every level.

There is one level of contributions that concerns me – our churches. The level of support from our churches has remained stagnant since 1996. The actual number of churches supporting us has actually fallen since that time. The Lord is providing in other ways, so why am I concerned? I am convinced that with the decrease in support from churches, we are probably seeing a decrease in prayer as well. As a former pastor, I know that my church prayed for the missionaries and missions organizations that we supported. We might make it financially with a decrease in churches supporting us, but we cannot make it without their prayers.

As an alumnus, a pastor, or perhaps even both, would you consider making SAGU a part of your regular support? I am confident that with your finances, we will be the recipient of your prayers as well. We are in need of both. ■

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## Sherman Mountain Boys perform at Assemblies of God Centennial Celebration

SAGU's traveling music group, The Sherman Mountain Boys, performed at the Assemblies of God (AG) Centennial Celebration on August 7-9 in Springfield, Missouri, in front of more than 5,000 visitors from 120 nations.

The Sherman Mountain Boys is a national award-winning bluegrass band from Jasper, Arkansas, that is comprised of four students from SAGU. They were the 2012 Silver Dollar City Youth in Bluegrass Band of the Year, the 2010 International Country Gospel Music Association Bluegrass Band of the Year, as well as three-time National Award of Merit Winners at the National Assemblies of God Fine Arts Festival.

The full AG Centennial lineup included Tom Matrone, SAGU alumnus Clayton Brooks, Angie Miller, The Sherman Mountain Boys and Audrey DeFord. ■



## SAGU sends team for archaeological excavation at Tell es-Safi, Israel

SAGU sent a team of eight students and faculty for archaeological excavation in Tell es-Safi, Israel, from July 5-25, 2014.

Led by SAGU instructor, Eric Welch, the SAGU team worked with more than 100 volunteers from around the world to better understand the history of Tell es-Safi and some of its most well-known inhabitants, the Philistines.

Tell es-Safi is identified as biblical Gath, best known as the hometown of the Philistine champion Goliath (1 Samuel 17). Under the leadership of Professor Aren Maeir of Bar-Ilan University (Israel), the excavations at Tell es-Safi add important new information to the way scholars understand Gath and its place in biblical history.

As a joint effort between SAGU's Ancient Studies program and the Department of Communication Arts, the SAGU team included faculty member Rob Price and a team of SAGU media students who filmed a documentary about the excavation.

Ancient studies major, Kristen Flake, participated in her second excavation at Tell es-Safi. Under the watchful eye

of Welch, Flake trained as a square supervisor, a staff position typically held by those with graduate degrees.

"I'm excited to take what I've learned in the classroom and put it to the test in the dirt," said Flake. "It says a lot about SAGU that we're not just learning archaeology in a classroom, but actually doing archaeological research in Israel."

SAGU joined major research universities from around the world, including Bar-Ilan University (Israel), the University of Melbourne (Australia), the University of Manitoba (Canada) and the University of Kansas.

Loyd Uglow, head of SAGU's History Department, is proud of what the new Ancient Studies program has accomplished in four years. "We constructed the Ancient Studies major to equip students with tools to understand the time and space of the Biblical world. We are thrilled to see our students enter international research environments where they have the opportunity to put their skills into practice while living out a positive Christian testimony to those around them." ■

## SAGU alumni and professor release free youth ministry eBook

SAGU alumni Taylor Johnson, Wade Bearden, Preston Ulmer and professor Dr. Garland Owensby collaborated to write a free eBook, "Depleted: Dealing with Difficult Moments in Youth Ministry."

Johnson, youth pastor at The House of Hope in Waxahachie, Texas, described his motivation for the eBook, "I've had a lot of great conversations with these writers about ministry and the difficult moments they've faced. It was always so refreshing to hear others talk about having the same problems I've gone through. I wasn't alone! I wanted a way to share that feeling with others."

Bearden, a contributor to Christianity

Today and Preaching.com, discusses the ministry and life demands of being bi-vocational. Johnson speaks to the issue of cynicism in ministry and how easy it is to fall into that trap. Ulmer shares about

recovering from the hurt that is often encountered in ministry.

Owensby is a youth and student ministries professor at SAGU. He holds a Master of Science in Practical Theology, a Master of Arts in Bible and Theology, and a Doctor of Educational Ministries.

Owensby says, "Many people find themselves exhausted and emotionally depleted from ministry and this book speaks to those who are struggling." ■



## SAGU alumnus creates "Every Kid Deserves a Ball"

Alumnus David Flores created a non-profit organization called Every Kid Deserves A Ball that hosts El Golazo de Tu Vida soccer camps for students from kindergarten to ninth grade in San Miguel, El Salvador.

Flores gathered a team of skilled American and Salvadorian coaches to travel to his hometown of San Miguel.

The program provides an environment to get students off of the streets. "We want to show them a different way of life

than the gang violence that surrounds them. We want to show them they are loved, give them the time they deserve and promote positive thinking through soccer."

Flores graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and began teaching at Palmer Elementary School in Palmer, Texas,

after graduation. He uses his vacation time every year to give back to the impoverished communities where he grew up in El Salvador. ■



## SAGU offers Chemical Dependency Counseling Minor

SAGU now offers a Chemical Dependency Counseling Minor that leads to licensure as a licensed chemical dependency counselor (LCDC). There is a growing demand for LCDCs. Job growth is predicted to rise much faster than the national average (27% expected growth between 2010 and 2020).

Dr. John Savell, associate professor for counseling and psychology, explains, "This degree will prepare students to help individuals struggling with addictions and allows the opportunity to be licensed in those states that offer an addictions license. This minor doesn't only focus on addictions with drugs and alcohol, but addresses other addictions such as sexual, digital, gambling and many more."

The first stage in obtaining the LCDC includes six courses in the subject area of addictions followed by 300 hours of approved supervised fieldwork. Once completed, the individual may apply to the state to become a counselor intern. This designation allows the individual to begin the second stage, which includes accumulating 4000 hours of approved supervised experience working with chemically dependent individuals. In addition, the individual must pass a written chemical dependency counselor examination and hold an associate degree or higher.

The degree can be completed either online or on-campus. For those interested in obtaining the minor and licensure online outside of the state of Texas, students should contact their local state agency that oversees the LCDC licensure to verify the courses SAGU offers meet state qualifications. ■





## SAGU welcomes first D.Min. cohort

Harrison Graduate School (HGS) celebrated its first Doctor of Ministry cohort during the Fall 2014 semester under the leadership of Robert Harden, D.Min., Dean of Harrison Graduate School.

The 30-hour graduate program offers 3 hours in the fall, spring and summer semesters to complement the schedules of its students, many of whom are active in full-time ministry. ■

## SAGU launches extension sites coast-to-coast

SAGU has added 14 active online extension sites this fall, offering courses across the nation. Vice President of Enrollment and Retention Eddie Davis said, “SAGU has aggressively embraced the strategy of extension sites in order to provide an accessible education to students who do not fit the mold of a traditional on-campus or online student.”

SAGU extension sites present the unique ability to partner with churches around the country that value accredited college level training as well as practical hands-on ministry experience. In many cases, SAGU’s online extension sites allow students to remain close to home and attend college at a reduced cost.

SAGU’s online extension sites include Bethesda Community Church in Ft. Worth, Texas; Christ Church in Ft. Worth, Texas; Griffin First Assembly in Griffin, GA; Impact Now, Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas; Life Church in

Germantown, WI; Visalia First Assembly in Visalia, CA; Life Church in Roscoe, IL; North Little Rock, Arkansas, as well as other locations in Kansas, Pennsylvania, Missouri, California, and Texas. New sites are planned to open in Spring and Fall of 2015.

Davis continued, “Students are trained by highly esteemed, academically qualified SAGU faculty, and also by local church leaders and influencers in the field. The dynamic of extension sites creates an active and exciting learning experience for our



students.”

Most sites offer associate degrees in Bible. The sites in Germantown, WI, Griffin, GA, and Visalia, CA, offer bachelor’s degrees in Church Leadership.

More information is available at [www.sagu.edu/extensionsites](http://www.sagu.edu/extensionsites). ■

## Professor appointed to AG Commission on Doctrinal Purity

Dr. John Wyckoff was appointed by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God to serve on the Commission on Doctrinal Purity.

“I consider it a distinct honor and privilege to serve the Assemblies of God fellowship,” Wyckoff said. “I am pleased that the AG continues to hold strongly to the conviction that Scripture is the final authority for Christian doctrine and practice.”

Dr. Wyckoff graduated from SAGU in 1969 and went on to earn his Ph.D. in Religion from Baylor University. He has been teaching at SAGU for more than 40 years and is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God. ■



## SAGU distributes \$10,000 to hispanic church on behalf of donor

SAGU fulfilled an anonymous estate donors request by giving \$10,000 of the donation received by the Southwestern Foundation to Templo Cristo Para Todo in Alvin, Texas.

Vice President for Advancement Irby McKnight said, “Although the estate was received by the Southwestern Foundation, it is not our money. We are simply distributing the estate to the appropriate establishments.” He continued, “People who donate their estates and trusts to us can rely on us to distribute their wishes accurately, therefore leaving a lasting legacy that helps sustain and grow SAGU. It is truly a blessing.”

Templo Cristo Para Todos is a bilingual Assembly of God church in the Texas Louisiana Hispanic District. The Church was established in 1984 and is Pastored by Lazarus Gonzales and his wife Evangelina. The Church celebrates its 29th anniversary in August.

Pastor Gonzales said, “It came as such a wonderful surprise when Irby McKnight presented us with the gift. We are so very thankful for this contribution.”

Along with the church donation, the donor gave over \$175,000 to SAGU as a scholarship to be used as financial aid to African American, Latin American and Asian students attending SAGU. ■

## SAGU experiences three consecutive years of \$4 million giving

Outside contributions to SAGU have risen from \$1.6 million to more than \$4 million for three consecutive years.

Irby McKnight, Vice President for Advancement, said, “We are blessed that we have people giving to SAGU. Without their contributions, it would be impossible to grow as an institution. We are very thankful.” He continued, “Although the 2.6 million increase and sustained giving is incredible, this is just a

milestone to where we are striving to be.”

The greatest amount of growth is in the scholarship fund. In the past years, outside contributions to the scholarship fund have increased from \$500,000 to \$1,325,000.

“The contributions toward the scholarship fund are significant because they are need-based. It is money donated from outside of the university that we can give to the students.” ■

## Clarensau named new Dean of College of Bible and Church Ministries

SAGU named Dr. Michael Clarensau as Dean of the College of Bible and Church Ministries to replace retiring Dean, Dr. LeRoy Bartel. After five months of explorations, interviews and vetting, the Cabinet unanimously approved Clarensau effective June 1, 2015.

Vice President for Academics Paul Brooks said, “There is a high enthusiasm for this choice among the District Superintendents who comprise the Executive Committee of SAGU’s Board of Regents.” He continued, “Dr. Clarensau was a highly recommended candidate who served faithfully in his previous roles.”

Clarensau held positions in pastoral ministry, as the District Youth Director in the Kansas District of the Assemblies of God and with the General Council of the Assemblies of God. He now serves as the National Director for the Healthy Church Network. In the last four years, Clarensau has traveled the nation serving AG districts and has built relationships with more than 250 AG churches.

Brooks added, “His wife Kerry currently serves as the Assemblies of God National Women’s Department Director. Both are accomplished leaders and outstanding authors as well.”

Dr. Clarensau will begin the transition during the next two months and will begin serving at SAGU in January. He will work closely with the current Dean of the College of Bible and Church Ministries Dr. Leroy Bartel throughout the spring term to prepare for the transition. ■





## SAGU women's basketball team returns from ministering overseas

Members of the SAGU Lady Lions basketball team recently returned from a trip to Juan Dolio, Dominican Republic. The trip wasn't a search for sand, surf and sun for summer break, but rather a missions trip to spread the love of Jesus to local women and children.

The team held a basketball camp for local boys teaching the basics of basketball and giving out over 100 Spanish New Testament Bibles after the clinic. For junior Taylor Hill coaching at the camp was the highlight of the week, "My favorite part of the trip would have to be the basketball camps. I loved the fact that even though there was a language barrier between me and the boys, basketball was the same. Basketball was a way I could show them God's love."



The week was also spent passing out gifts to girls in the local orphanage and children living in the Lily House, a home for former prostitutes. Coach Arlon Beadles believes the trip had a lasting impact on all that went, "We all cried after loving and hugging the children in

the orphanage. The women on our team fell in love with the children, but more importantly, they now have a greater love for Jesus Christ."

The Lily House works with Score International in reaching women enslaved in prostitution in

the Dominican Republic. Once women walk away from prostitution they are welcomed with their children at the Lily House where they will be provided with counseling, discipleship, vocational training and medical care. ■

## Alumnus Jared Denton signs to play professional baseball



SAGU graduate Jared Denton, who played catcher and left field for the Lions, has signed a contract to play professional baseball with the Brownsville Charros. The Charros are a professional independent baseball team playing in United League Baseball this season.

Denton wrapped up a successful career at SAGU in April 2014, where he set several school records; career at bats, triples in a career and total bases in a career. His senior year he batted .380 while only striking out seven times in over 150 plate appearances.

"The chance to play professional ball is everything that I've worked so hard for. It has been a dream of mine since I was little, and now I am actually getting to live it out," claims Denton.

Coach Sam Blackmon coached Denton his senior year and is thrilled for his opportunity, "Jared had a great year for us and represented our program well both on and off the field. I am extremely proud of him and for him."

The Brownsville Charros are located in Brownsville, Texas. ■

# PROVIDENCE

It was a first. For one week in January 2014 men's basketball made history, rising to no. 1 in the NAIA national coaches poll. At the time, Head Coach Donnie Bostwick acknowledged the milestone but tempered the significance of polls in relation to what happens on the court. Little did he realize that brief stay at the peak would lead to the opportunity of a lifetime.

On January 27, Bostwick received an email from a representative for the Angolan Basketball Federation inviting SAGU to the Taça Victorino Cunha tournament in Angola. Sports Tours International, who has worked with Angolan Basketball for nearly 20 years, extended an offer that would cover expenses for travel, meals and housing for the entire team.

"My first thought was, is this real?" Bostwick explains. Nine months later, 14 players and 2 coaches were on a plane to Angola by invitation of the Angolan Basketball Federation.

How does a small university of 2,000 students end up on the radar of a basketball association 8,000 miles across the globe?

It was on January 21, 2014, when SAGU jumped to no. 1 in the rankings. One week later the team had declined in the rankings. In that brief window, the Angolan Basketball Federation was choosing the non-Angolan team to invite to the Taça Victorino Cunha, an annual preseason basketball tournament contested by professional Angolan basketball teams. The head of Sports Tours International is a former college basketball coach and was familiar with the high level of basketball played in the NAIA.

When the team arrived in Angola, Bostwick reported, "It will be a challenge to beat any of the four teams. The size and strength of their pros is going to be a big challenge."

SAGU's opener was an eye-opener as well. Compared to American college basketball, Angolan club basketball is notably more physical. Referees let the teams play and called few fouls. The Lions fell 71-75 to a physical Petro de Luanda team.

The Lions adapted, winning their next two matches in the final minute. Tired from the week, they faced the powerful 1º de Agosto. Powering

**"How does a small university of 2,000 students end up on the radar of a basketball association 8,000 miles across the globe?"**



through 4 periods, they forced a 95-95 draw. Then, in an overtime stunner, the Lions muscled to a 105-103 victory. By the end of the tournament, the Lions found themselves sitting atop a 3-1 record and no. 2 finish.

Bostwick was appreciative of the hospitality they received, saying, "We are thankful for how gracious the Angolan Basketball Federation and the Angolan citizens were. Premier 1º de Agosto were great hosts. What Angola has accomplished over the past 10 years dominating African basketball is nothing less than amazing."

Because of the pre-season nature of the tournament, SAGU was allowed to add two veterans to the team – Caleb Gentry, a decorated SAGU alumnus who played in SAGU's trips to the NAIA national tournament, and Steve Briggs, one of Bostwick's former players at Oklahoma Wesleyan University.

Briggs, who also played professionally in Germany since graduation, was named MVP for his 26-point showing in the overtime win. Briggs remained in Angola and signed with 1º de Agosto to play this season.

Off-court, SAGU players and coaches visited a school for orphans and special needs children. Austin Freese, who works for Sport Tours International, wrote, "SAGU played a pick-up game with them and the crowd of over 200 children cheered whenever anyone scored. SAGU is graceful and at ease in these situations, which always make them fun."

Bostwick added, "Our service opportunities with two schools and the Living Water Assembly of God Church were life changing. It was great to see what God has done over the past 12 years since the end of their civil war."

The team was invited as special guests for lunch at the US Embassy. For many, it was their first introduction to life in foreign service. Diplomats educated the players on the history of the US-Angola relationship. Bostwick was also able to connect with the President of the Angolan Basketball Federation.

Reflecting on the trip, Coach Bostwick said, "Many times you look back and see God's fingerprint on things. This time we experienced Him unfolding His plan right before our eyes. When you experience God like that, it changes you. We were so blessed through this experience." ■





# uncommon DREAMS

It is an ordinary Sunday – William’s sister to his left and his mother to his right. Sitting in the back of the congregation, he sees his mother’s phone light up. She ignores the call to listen to the sermon. Seconds later, she stands to leave the sanctuary to answer the call.

Moments later she briskly returns, visibly bothered. Her breathing is noticeably deepened as she walks down the aisle. “Get your stuff, we have to go!” Driving quickly, not a word is spoken. The silence seems louder than anything he has ever heard. As they pull up to Audubon Soccer Complex in Garland, Texas, his mother springs out of the car instructing him and his sister to stay put. Through the back window of his mother’s red convertible, he can only see the flashing lights on the front of the ambulance. Five minutes later, his mother returns and exclaims, “We are going to the emergency room. Your father has had a heart attack!”

William’s father was walking back to his truck after a soccer match when he suddenly felt a massive pressure on his chest. He leaned over the back of his tailgate trying to catch his breath. His friend Billy, who happened to park next to him, asked, “Biff, are you alright?” As his father thrust his hand toward Billy clutching his cell phone, he could only utter one word – ambulance.

During transportation from the emergency room to ICU, William catches a glimpse of his hero. With doctors and nurses pushing him quickly down the halls, he sees his mother holding his father’s hand. “I died, I died” his father says. During his emergency surgery, he died on the operating table. The doctors used a defibrillator to revive him and placed a stint in his main artery.

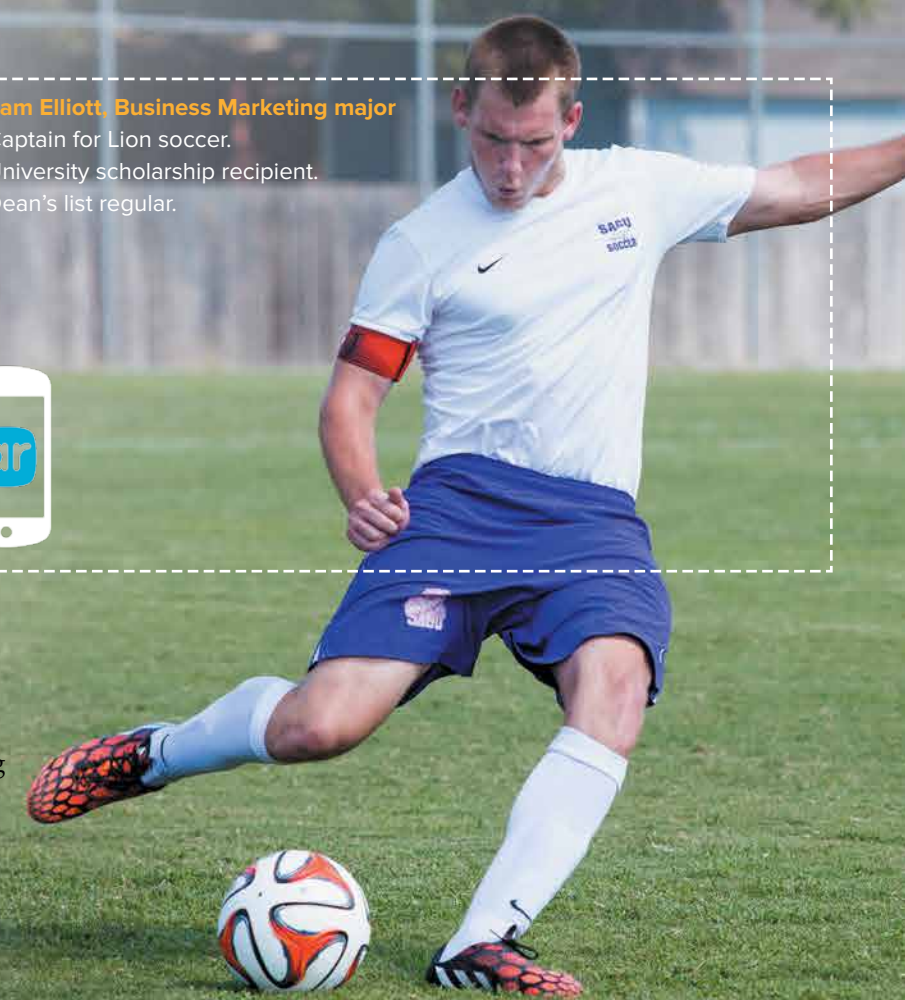
With his father still in ICU and his mother remaining at the hospital, William returns home alone. Not knowing what to do, he picks up his guitar – a moment that proves to be a defining moment – finding comfort in music. Though his father is now fully recovered, William still feels that deep connection with music. He and a friend founded a recreational home studio and began recording music

projects. But, William has also discovered a deep love for marketing. Where do music and marketing converge? William explains that his passion is now to expand their studio and use marketing and networking to help bands go from the basement to the big time.

“The Dallas music scene has unbelievable talent. Living in Dallas is an amazing opportunity to connect with bands and network with the movers in the industry,” he explains. At the heart of William’s drive is a lingering question: How powerful is the song that is never heard? He wants to bring bands from obscurity to the ears of millions. ■

William Elliott, Business Marketing major

- ✓ Captain for Lion soccer.
- ✓ University scholarship recipient.
- ✓ Dean’s list regular.



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# uncommon CREATIVITY



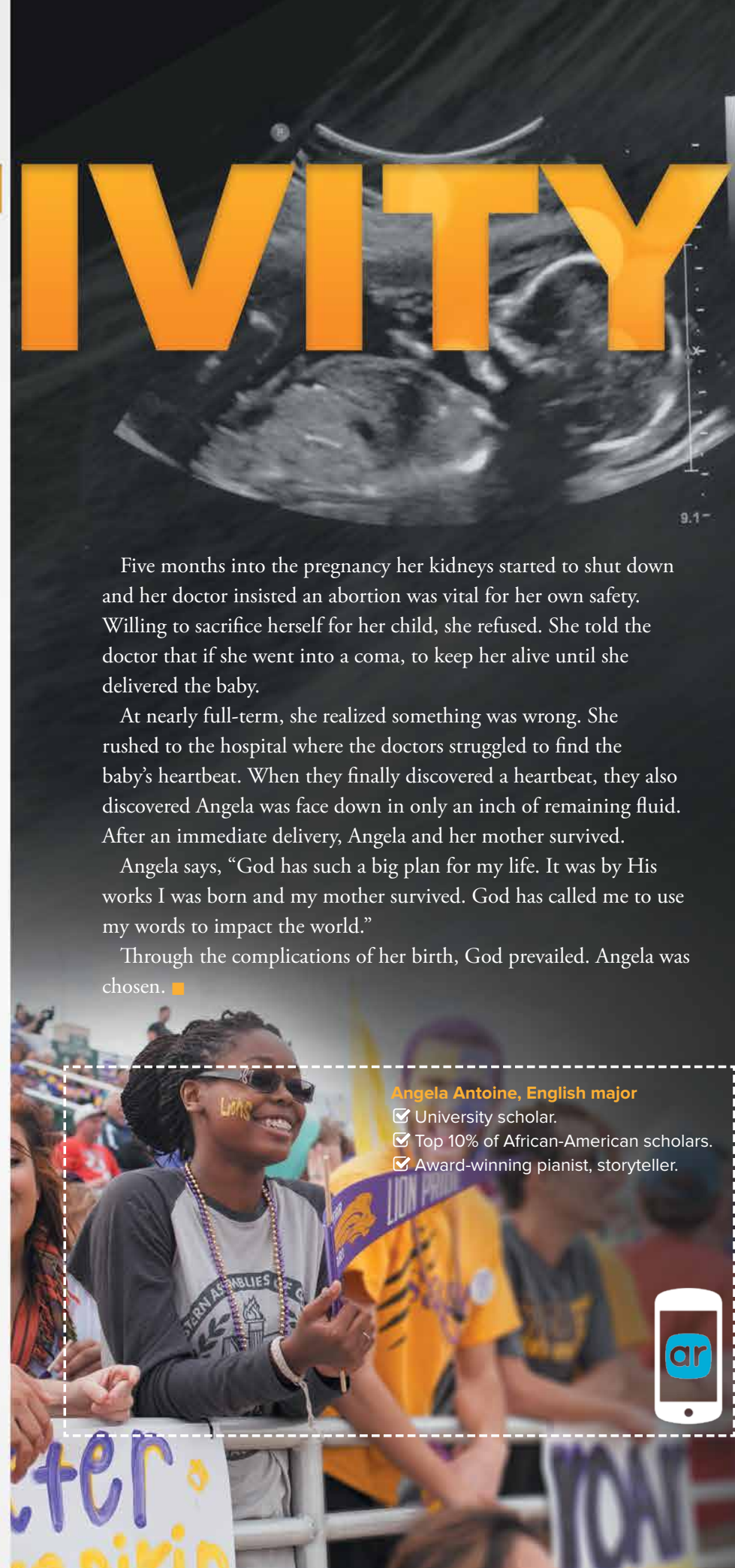
Angela is a creative. Quiet and watchful, she isn't one to attract attention. But, when she explains a plot or her characters, something changes. They take life in the room. She has such a deep connection with her creations that they become a part of her. In the way God created man, she creates characters to deliver an underlying message of Christ.

**"AFTER THE BIRTH OF HER OLDER SISTER, ANGELA'S MOTHER PARTHENIA WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A SERIOUS DISEASE AND WAS ADVISED NOT TO HAVE ANOTHER CHILD"**

Angela's passion for writing came at a young age. Sitting in her living room, she improvised stories for hours. With her family gathered around, she described the conflict and struggle of her characters and how the resolution of the story correlated with a Christ-like nature.

It is amazing to think that her voice might have never been heard.

After the birth of her older sister, Angela's mother Parthenia was diagnosed with a serious illness and was advised not to have another child. Being a doctor, Parthenia understood the gravity of the situation when she learned she was pregnant with Angela.



Five months into the pregnancy her kidneys started to shut down and her doctor insisted an abortion was vital for her own safety. Willing to sacrifice herself for her child, she refused. She told the doctor that if she went into a coma, to keep her alive until she delivered the baby.

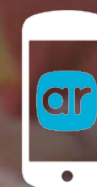
At nearly full-term, she realized something was wrong. She rushed to the hospital where the doctors struggled to find the baby's heartbeat. When they finally discovered a heartbeat, they also discovered Angela was face down in only an inch of remaining fluid. After an immediate delivery, Angela and her mother survived.

Angela says, "God has such a big plan for my life. It was by His works I was born and my mother survived. God has called me to use my words to impact the world."

Through the complications of her birth, God prevailed. Angela was chosen. ■

**Angela Antoine, English major**

- ✓ University scholar.
- ✓ Top 10% of African-American scholars.
- ✓ Award-winning pianist, storyteller.



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[www.sagu.edu/uncommon](http://www.sagu.edu/uncommon)



# PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

Each of the last two years SAGU has set records for the number of students choosing to live and attend classes on campus. If growth continues, it is evident that SAGU will require new facilities for students to live and learn.

Planning is already underway for a new phase of development involving two new facilities.

## 6-STORY DORMITORY

First, SAGU is evaluating a new dormitory with two possible building sites. The new facility would provide amenities similar to those of Teeter and Bridges Halls.

## ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

A new administration building would replace the current Davis Hall, which is located at the center of campus. When constructed, the position of the new building would open room to create a central mall from the entrance of the newly constructed Hagee Communication Center to the Barnes Student Center.

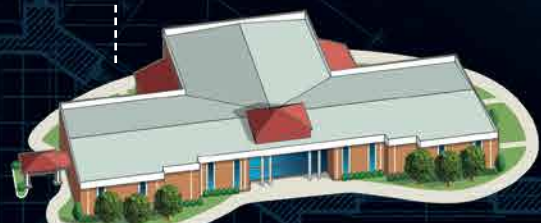
## THE NEED

Miraculous provision paved the way for the Hagee Communication Center. President Bridges explains that for these new facilities to be possible, the university will need key donors who believe in the purpose of SAGU to step forward and help prepare SAGU for a new era of growth.



## 1999 SHEAFFER CENTER

**COST:** \$7 million  
**SIZE:** 127,000 sq. ft.



## 2006 TEETER + BRIDGES RESIDENCE HALLS

**COST:** \$17 million  
**SIZE:** 155,488 sq. ft.



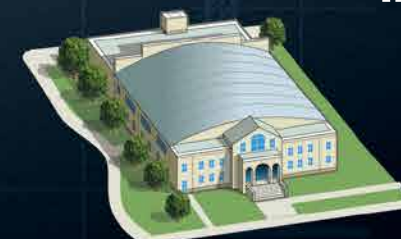
## 2010 GARRISON WELLNESS CENTER

**COST:** \$5.5 million  
**SIZE:** 33,900 sq. ft.



## 2010 CLAXTON LOCKER ROOMS

**COST:** \$900,000



## 2013 HAGEE COMMUNICATION CENTER

**COST:** \$22 million  
**SIZE:** 80,000 sq. ft.





# uncommon TRUST



***“This is the value of the teacher, who looks at a face and says there’s something behind that and I want to reach that person, I want to influence that person, I want to encourage that person, I want to enrich, I want to call out that person who is behind that face, behind that color, behind that language, behind that tradition, behind that culture. I believe you can do it. I know what was done for me.”***

**- Maya Angelou**

Two short years into his teaching career, Justin had earned Hudson Middle School Teacher of the Year, Sachse Teacher of the Year and Rookie of the Year. He sets foot in the classroom each day with a cheery disposition and a desire to do more than simply expand minds.

Yet, Justin’s own childhood led through rough terrain – a journey that weaved the fabric of his character. As a small child, Justin was thrown into the role of being a pillar for his younger sister, mother and grandmother.

Justin’s parents were alcoholics, one of several circumstance leading to him living with his grandparents. Briefly recounting some of the trying experience, Justin describes an incident in 2001. When his grandfather passed away, his mother again turned to drugs and alcohol. Justin recalls as a high schooler having to pick up his drunken mother at the side of the road.

But, God had already laid a path for Justin’s life. It was during the time living with his grandparents that Justin recalls a knock at the front door. “With a big smile, seven year-old Justin opened the door to find a man holding a gift and a Bible. “What’s your name?” the man asked. “Justin,” he replied. The man then began to explain his Christian faith.

The idea of Jesus was familiar to Justin. His grandparents previously attended church, but drifted away. He was so interested in this man and his message. So, when the man offered a weekly ride in the church bus to service, Justin was compelled to go.

Every Sunday from the age of 7 Justin would set his alarm, wake up, get dressed and eat breakfast before the bus arrived. After a few months of attending, one of the church leaders noticed Justin and said, “I can’t believe how motivated that young boy is to hear God’s word. God has a special calling on his life.”

One afternoon when Justin was still a boy he returned home and proclaimed to his grandmother, “I want to be a youth pastor!” Justin observed the difference that his youth pastor was making in the lives of others – the same man who invited him to church two years before – and he wanted to do the same.

That simple declaration is emblematic of Justin’s determination and focus.

***The transformative power of teaching as a career has the potential to directly impact more than 700 students, and indirectly impact thousands more students, parents, administrators and teachers.***

When he chose to attend SAGU, he knew he wanted to make a difference and wouldn’t stop until he discovered his precise calling. He ultimately realized that education was the path he needed to follow.

According to the Department of Education, the average public classroom size in the United States is 20 for elementary schools and 23.4 for secondary schools. The transformative power of teaching as a career has the potential to directly impact more than 700 students, and indirectly impact thousands more students, parents, administrators and teachers. Justin’s goal is to show them that there is always hope. ■

**RECEIVE FIXED &  
SECURE INCOME  
FOR LIFE**

**WHILE SUPPORTING  
THE WORK OF SAGU!**



Age	Rate
60	4.4%
65	4.7%
70	5.1%
75	5.8%
80	6.8%
85	7.8%

Deferred until 65	
Age	Rate
50	7.5%
55	6.4%

This is not legal advice. Any prospective donor should seek the advice of a qualified estate and/or tax professional.

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personal benefits profile.**



# MISSION TEN

TO EVERY  
NATION

TRIBE & TONGUE



## AT A GLANCE

● 2011 ● 2013  
● 2012 ● 2014

## 35 NEW DESTINATIONS PLANNED FOR 2015

Angola  
Antigua  
Austria  
Canada  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
Greenland  
Guyana

India  
Lebanon  
Lesotho  
Mozambique  
Palau  
Papua New Guinea  
Paraguay  
Portugal

Russia  
Samoa  
South Africa  
South Korea  
Suriname  
Switzerland  
Taiwan  
Togo

United States  
Vanuatu  
Vietnam and  
Yunnan Province  
Zimbabwe

*(additional sensitive countries  
excluded for protection of  
partners and students)*

BY THE YEAR 2020, SAGU WILL SEND TEAMS TO  
**EVERY COUNTRY AND EVERY CHINESE AND INDIAN STATE.**

## ALUMNI NOTES

### 1930s

**1 Doris Annette (Baldrige) Harris (1937)** celebrated her 95th birthday. She was born January 14, 1919, in San Antonio, TX. Ann graduated from Shield of Faith High School in Fort Worth, TX, in 1937. Ann married Thurman David Harris in October 1944. Ann has 2 daughters and 1 grandchild.

**2 Dr. Verna (Hall) Linzey (1939)** is a Bible translator, evangelist and author. She recently translated Proverbs for The Modern English Version, published by Charisma Media. She is chief editor of the New Tyndale Translation New Testament published by the Military Chaplains Fellowship.

### 1970s

**3 Pam (Berry) Anderson (1976)** recently began working with Christian Health Service Corps as the Missionary Chaplain for medical missionaries around the world. She now lives in Rowlett, TX.

**4 Kathy (Eidson) Thompson (1978)** works at Frito-Lay as the Senior Coordinator in Marketing Services. She was recently recognized by the Women's Inclusion Network at Frito-Lay as one of several women of "Character, Courage and Commitment" for a campaign called "The Bucket Brigade." The campaign involved collecting buckets, practical items and gift cards to distribute to the victims of the 2013 Moore tornadoes.

### 1980s

**Christine (Frigoli) Meza (1986)** is a National ICI Director and teaches at her church in Peru.

### 1990s

**5 Amber Rhoads (1996)** is worship leader in the Dallas area at Gateway Church. She was also the worship leader for the Women of Faith tour in 2013. When she's not at Gateway, she travels and ministers to churches and worship teams.

**DeWayne Adcock (1999)** is a Composer-Arranger/ Music and Leadership Consultant for choirs and orchestras around the world.

**6 Jimmy (1996) and Priscilla (Scott) Abrams (2009)** are AGWM Missionaries to Tanzania.

### 2000s

**Tiffany Shoemaker (2010)** is a special education teacher and lives in Frisco, TX.

**Neil Farrar (2011)** was recently awarded a Master of Divinity, and is finishing another master's degree in counseling. He trained as a chaplain and is the former pastor of the now-defunct Church on The Rock in Topsham, ME. Farrar is now the director of Operation Resilient Hope, a faith-based organization that offers support to veterans and their families suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues.

**7 Kayla (Taylor) Hall (2011)** is Marketing Coordinator at EFL Associates. She was awarded 2013 Associate of the Year.

**Vernon Koonce** is sports announcer for the pro arena football team the New Mexico Stars.

**8 Karlan (Fields) Osorio (2011)** is a social worker, helping families and investigating allegations of child abuse or neglect. She and her husband now reside in Hilo, HI.

**Sandra Castro (2012)** is the Director of Education at Impact Now School of Ministry in San Antonio, TX.

**9 Amanda Lepard (2013)** recently completed a management training program through Copart Auto Auction. She is now Assistant General Manager in Amarillo, TX.

**10 David Jonker (2014)** recently accepted the position "Technical Director" at Legacy Church in Albuquerque, NM. Legacy Church is a non-denominational, but A/G-affiliated church of 10,000 people with 3 campuses in the Albuquerque Metro Area. He is in charge of lighting and audio at Legacy Church.

**Joshua Kinney (2014)** is children's pastor at Calvary Church in Delran, NJ.

**11 Joshua Rivera** is the pastor of Fuego De Dios church in DeSoto, TX. They recently celebrated the four-year anniversary of the church plant.

## Celebrations

**12 Bailey Johnson (2014)** and Micah Frye were married on June 7, 2014, in Princeton, TX. The couple now lives in Albuquerque, NM, where they

serve as youth pastors at Harvest Fellowship.

**13 Braden Pollard (2010)** and Ashley Bernal were married on April 1, 2014. The couple lives in Walnut Creek, CA, where Braden is the Senior Acquisitions Manager/Project Manager for Black & Veatch.

**14 Lowell and Vanessa (Valle) Perry (2011)** welcomed their second son, Solomon Miles Perry, on July 9, 2014. Vanessa is founding the organization Mothering Wellness toward Maternal and Perinatal Mental Health for the state of Alaska. She is certified through the Agency for Excellence in Christian Counseling in the state of Alaska and hopes to open her private practice within the year.

**15 Lawrence Alix Foster (2007)** and Brittany Foster were married on September 6, 2014. The couple lives in Dallas, TX, where Alix works as a Retirement Income Professional.

## In Memoriam

**Rev. Larry Eugene Henderson** passed away December 12, 2013. He was born October 8, 1942, to Everett and Ruth Francis (Baxter) Henderson. On August 19, 1961, he married Atha Janette Johnson. Larry pastored several churches in Oklahoma (Boise City, Mangum, Tulsa, Enid, Beaver, Shattuck and Mooreland) and traveled as an evangelist as well.

**J.W. Eaves (1953)**, age 79, of Navasota passed away Friday, February 22, 2013, at his residence. J.W. was born in Mooreville, TX, on August 8, 1933, the son of James Weldon and Ruth Carolyn (Robertson) Eaves. He married Lillian McNary on May 19, 1956, in Channelview, Texas. J.W. later served his country in the U.S. Army before beginning his career as a minister.

**16 Magnus Scott Hjalmanson (1989)** passed away Saturday, May 3, 2014. He was pastor of Flagstaff First AG in Arizona, and moved to Texas to be close to his father. In his new home, he was the leader of a CARES ministry, which seeks to build relationships and community within apartment complexes.

**Doris Marie (Green) Dunlap (1939)** of Owasso, OK, passed away on August 21, 2013, two days before her 91st birthday. She and her late husband Rev. Lee B. Dunlap were graduates and long-time supporters of SAGU. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Patricia and Robert





Polvado and son, Don Dunlap. Their youngest son, Weldon Dunlap, preceded his parents in death.

**Leonard Negrin (1959)** passed away February 2, 2014. He and his wife Maxine were married for 60 years. Survivors include his wife, their sons, Dan, Joe and Rob; four grandsons; one granddaughter; brother Dave; and sister Linda.

**Ruth (Sorrow) Ayres (1939)** passed away March 6, 2014, in Venice, FL. Ruth and her late husband Earl enjoyed traveling and were known for their hospitality, acts of kindness and service. She is survived by 3 step-children, 11 step-grandchildren, 20 step-great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

**Thomas R. Collins**, age 88, went to be with the Lord on April 4, 2014. He was born in Mannsville, OK, on Nov. 4, 1925, to L.B. and Ethel (Gibbs) Collins. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Jessie Lee Collins; brothers Eugene Collins and J.B. Collins; and sisters Geneva Walker, Thelma Hembree and Jewel Eileene Collins. He leaves precious memories with his wife Pat; son Tommy Collins and his wife Nancy; daughter Shirley Bohanon and her husband Gary; sister Mattie Conley; 4 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

**James Utsey II (1991)**, age 45, passed away September 1, 2014. He was born on July 18, 1969, in Kermit, Texas. At the time of his passing he resided in Rancho Mirage, California, where he worked for Luxury Homes by Keller Williams Realty.

**17 Orie M. Davis**, age 82, passed away on March 22, 2014. He was a draftsman by trade and worked in the steel and construction industry for 57 years; for 31 of those years, he was self-employed. He is survived by his wife of 41 years Gail Rogers Davis; his children Marlin (Gladys) Davis, Eileen (Bruce) Kimble and Brian (Teresa) Davis, George (Dondra) Davis, and Ruth Davis-Rogers; 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Chance Hamilton**, age 30, passed away June 28, 2014. He was born in Houston, TX, on April 11, 1984, to Richard and Glenda Hamilton. He married Molly Steele on October 19, 2008. He is survived by his wife Molly Hamilton; sons Jack Marshall and Jesse Tyler Hamilton; parents Richard and Glenda Hamilton; sister Amanda Perez; brother-in-law Nickolas Perez; and nieces Audrey and Caelan Hamilton. Chance was preceded in death by his brother Jesse Thomas Hamilton. ■

Former President H.A. Brummett passes

**Hershel A. Brummett** passed away on Monday, June 23, 2014, in Tulsa, OK. He was 84 years old. He was born Saturday, September 7, 1929, in Broken Arrow, OK. He married Miss Patsy Darlene Cobb on October 1, 1949, in Jenks, OK. Dr. Brummett was ordained as an Assemblies of God minister in 1953. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Southwestern College, Oklahoma City, and a Master of Arts from Bethany Nazarene University. He received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from SAGU.

Dr. Brummett served as chairman for the Department of Christian Ministries at SAGC, teaching Bible and Theology until July 31, 1978, when he succeeded Dr. Blake Farmer as president. He is remembered fondly for his dedication and commitment to the college's students. He was awarded the Honorary Alumnus Award at SAGU Homecoming in 2004. Dr. Brummett and his wife pastored churches throughout Arkansas, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Minnesota before retirement in 1995.

President Kermit Bridges said of the passing: "H.A. Brummett impacted the lives of thousands of students at SAGU during his service as a faculty member and president from 1978-1982, and



through continued support in his subsequent years of pastoral ministry. I am proud to have attended SAGU during his presidency and privileged to have been influenced by his life and ministry." ■



David Bush passes, leaves legacy through scholarship

**David Bush (2004)** passed away on March 17, 2014. He was a mighty warrior who fought cancer up to the very end and is now enjoying the glory of the Father. He graduated from SAGU

with a Master's of Theology in 2004, and later became the IT Director. He married Joy Golter (2010) on June 16, 2006. David's priorities in life were faith, family, and friends. He will be missed by his wife, Joy Bush; mother, Anne Bush; father, Dan Bush; brother, Daniel Bush, Jr; sisters, Elizabeth Bencheck and Janece Ann Partney; and many more. **Donations to the David Bush Endowed Scholarship can be made at [www.sagu.edu/giving](http://www.sagu.edu/giving)** ■

Pearl Ellis leaves lifetime legacy

SAGU alumna and former staff member Pearl Ellis passed away at age 99. She was born August 9, 1915, in Paden, Oklahoma. In 1939, she attended the Shield of Faith Bible School in Fort Worth, Texas, and worked in the library as a student. After graduation and the merger of Shield of Faith Bible Institute, South Central Bible Institute and Southwestern Bible School, M.E. Collins approached her to take a full-time librarian position.

Ellis was instrumental in moving the library of 11,000 volumes to the Waxahachie, Texas, campus. Upon her retirement in 1991, the library's holdings numbered approximately 100,000. During 48 years of service to SAGU, she studied or worked under every SAGU president from P.C. Nelson to Dr. Delmer Guynes.

For as long as she was employed at SAGU, half of her salary went to world missions. Director of the Nelson Memorial Library Eugene Holder said, "Pearl Ellis had a heart for missions like no other. She visited all 50 states, Canada, Europe and the Middle East." He continued, "She prayed for over 100 missionaries each week and supported many of them financially. She truly had a biblical world

view." During the early stages of SAGU, she would sleep in the library during forecasted rain to put buckets around the leaks of the building in order to keep the books dry. One night that rain was forecasted, there was a fire in the library that she extinguished with water and blankets, burning her hands and arms in the process. Holder explained, "It is because of her that the library as it is today exists."

She received the Distinguished Service Award in 1990. The Pearl Ellis Archive Center was named in her honor for her contribution. It is located within the Nelson Memorial Library building. It contains a collection of SAGU memorabilia and documents the history of SAGU and the early Pentecostal movement in the south-central part of the country.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charlie and Tela Ellis, her brothers Roy, T.E., Calvin, Robert, and Linton; sisters Liz, Valery, Ima, Mimma, and Trudy. She is survived by her brother Louie Ellis of Bedford, Texas, several nieces and nephews, and her adopted family Earl and Darlene Teeter, David and Christy Teeter,



Darla Teeter, DeAnne Teeter and husband Chris Arrant, Brooks Teeter, Landry Teeter, and Jasper Arrant, as well as scores of friends around the world.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, November 6, 2014, at University Assembly of God in Waxahachie, Texas. ■



Dr. Clyde Gene Brown goes to be with the Lord

**Dr. Clyde Gene Brown** went to be with the Lord on June 29, 2014. He was born in Anadarko, OK, on December 26, 1935. He is survived by his wife, Grace Hurd Brown; son Christopher Brown and wife Diane; daughter Andrea Brown; and four grandchildren, Noelle, Ryan, Savannah, and Mason. He began his ministry preaching in Amarillo County jail and on the street corners when he was nineteen. He graduated from SAGU with a B.A., Duke University with a Master of Divinity, Brooklyn University with an M.A. in counseling and Vanderbilt University with a Doctor of Ministry.

In 1966, he entered the army as a military chaplain to be of service during the Vietnam War. He continued that career for 30 years until May, 1993, when he retired as a Colonel. During his

tour of duty in Vietnam in 1967, he was exposed to Agent Orange which led to Lewy Body Dementia.

After retiring from the army, he taught at SAGU for ten years as Chair of the Church Ministries Division.

He was at the forefront of the Jesus People revolution during the 1970s while in the Army. At one post, Fort Sill, OK, he was able to lead over three thousand troops to the Lord during a 3-year period. Many of these are in active ministry today.

His awards included Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Award (5th Award), Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3d award), Air Force Good Conduct Medal and National Defense Medal (w/1 Bronze Star). ■



Add your info to future editions. Tell us about career achievements, additions to your family and more. [www.sagu.edu/update](http://www.sagu.edu/update)





1200 Sycamore Waxahachie, TX 75165

## Quick Facts

**Enrollment**.....1,984

**Student/teacher ratio** .....21:1

**Cost per year** .....\$25,790

*Based on full-time tuition with room and board for 2014-2015.*

## Cost per hour

*Undergraduate on-campus*.....\$619

*Undergraduate online*.....\$560

*Graduate*.....\$560

**Doctoral dissertation fee**.....\$1,000

**Financial aid**.....92% awarded financial aid

**Phone** ..... 1-888-YES-SAGU

**Web page**..... www.sagu.edu

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**Instagram** ..... @saguedu

**YouTube**..... www.youtube.com/sagu

**SAGUtv**..... www.sagu.tv

## Accreditation

Southwestern Assemblies of God University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Southwestern Assemblies of God University.

\* Degrees in **purple** are **newly offered** beginning 2014.

## Doctorate

Leadership and Creative Communication <sup>2</sup>

## Master's

**Business Administration** <sup>2</sup>

**Counseling Psychology**

Counseling Psychology (Clinical) <sup>2</sup>

**Human Services Counseling (Non-Clinical)** <sup>2</sup>

**Education** <sup>1</sup>

Curriculum Development

Christian School Administration

Early Childhood/Elementary Education

Early Education Administration

Middle and Secondary Education

Principalship

School Counseling

**History** <sup>3</sup>

Education Track

Thesis Track

Non-thesis Track

**Master of Divinity** <sup>1</sup>

**Organizational Leadership** <sup>2</sup>

**Theological Studies** <sup>1</sup>

Bible and Theology

Children and Family Ministries <sup>3</sup>

Intercultural Studies <sup>1</sup>

Practical Theology

## Bachelor's

Accounting <sup>2</sup>

Ancient Studies <sup>1</sup>

Bible and Theology <sup>1</sup>

Biblical Studies <sup>1</sup>

Business Administration <sup>1</sup>

Children and Family Ministries <sup>1</sup>

**Church Leadership** <sup>1</sup>

Church Planting and Revitalization <sup>1</sup>

Communication Studies <sup>2</sup>

Counseling <sup>1</sup>

Counseling Ministries <sup>1</sup>

Criminal Justice <sup>1</sup>

Digital Media Arts <sup>2</sup>

Education <sup>1</sup>

Elementary Education <sup>1</sup>

Middle and Secondary <sup>1</sup>

English Language Arts/Reading <sup>1</sup>

**Mathematics** <sup>1</sup>

Social Studies/History <sup>1</sup>

Music Education (Instrumental, Piano, Vocal) <sup>2</sup>

Physical Education <sup>2</sup>

Theatre Education <sup>2</sup>

English <sup>1</sup>

History <sup>1</sup>

Human Services <sup>1</sup>

**Human Resource Management** <sup>1</sup>

Intercultural Studies <sup>1</sup>

Interdisciplinary Studies <sup>1</sup>

Management <sup>1</sup>

Marketing <sup>1</sup>

**Mathematics** <sup>1</sup>

Media Ministries <sup>2</sup>

Music Ministries <sup>2</sup>

Music Performance (Instrumental, Piano, Vocal) <sup>2</sup>

Occupational Leadership <sup>1</sup>

Pastoral Leadership <sup>1</sup>

Professional Development <sup>1</sup>

Psychology <sup>1</sup>

Social Work <sup>2</sup>

Sports Management <sup>2</sup>

Theatre <sup>2</sup>

Theological Studies <sup>1</sup>

Youth and Student Ministries <sup>1</sup>

## Associate

Bible <sup>1</sup>

Business Administration <sup>1</sup>

Early Childhood Education <sup>1</sup>

Education <sup>1</sup>

English <sup>1</sup>

General Business <sup>1</sup>

General Studies <sup>1</sup>

Media <sup>2</sup>

Music <sup>2</sup>

Psychology <sup>1</sup>

Social Studies <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Offered on campus or online.

<sup>2</sup> Partially offered online; some on-campus coursework required.

<sup>3</sup> Offered online only.