



## 2016 WINTERNEWSLETTER

# Greetings

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Happy New Year! It has been said that great things take time. Our great event this fall was the Fall Coffee which was held in the lovely home of Sharon and William Morris. Thank you Bobbi Robinson, Madeline Collier and your committee for making this event so enjoyable for all of us.

Our annual Christmas Luncheon was held December 9 at River Oaks Country Club.

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Christmas spirit and joy and were entertained by fabulous Christmas music provided by Mon'Sher Spencer, JJ Worthen and piano by Mac Gervais. Scholarship recipient Joshua Hilburn thanked the ladies of The Guild for the opportunities provided to him by the Guild's generous gift. Our guest speaker was TV star and former criminal prosecutor Kelly Siegler. Kelly delivered a very heartfelt message and testimony titled "Waiting on God." Thank you Jan Rule, Nancy Shomette and your committees for your tireless efforts in putting together this grand event! It truly was a huge success.

As we begin a new year, let us be reminded of the mission of Houston Baptist University which is to provide a learning experience that instills in students a passion for academic, spiritual and professional excellence as a result of our central confession, "Jesus Christ is Lord."

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events.

John 12:26 - Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

1Peter 4:10 - Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

To God be the Glory,

# Fall Coffee

The 2015 Fall Coffee chairmen were thrilled to learn

# Guild Christmas Luncheon Celebration

On December 9, more than 400 Guild members and guests arrived with holiday spirit to enjoy the Guild Christmas Luncheon at River Oaks Country Club. A crystal clear day and the beautifully appointed setting helped set the tone for another successful event.

Following welcoming remarks by Guild President Jan Witham, HBU alumni Mon'Sher Spencer, JJ Worthen and Mac Gervais performed a beautifully planned and executed music program which included lovely presentations of "Mary Did You Know?" and "The Prayer." Joshua Hilburn, recipient of the Dr. Robert B. Sloan, Jr. Endowed Scholarship, expressed gratitude to The Guild for providing him the opportunity of continuing his graduate studies at HBU. Jan then presented a \$20,000 gift to Dr. Sloan for The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies. As he thanked The Guild for their generosity and support of The Guild Institute, Dr. Sloan also shared that the University is continuing to grow in recognition and accomplishments in many areas, as well as in student enrollment.

Keynote speaker Kelly Siegler captured everyone's attention with her presentation of "Waiting on God," sharing experiences she encountered while working as a former Houston prosecutor as well as those she encounters currently in solving real-life cases on TNT's program, Cold Justice. She noted that life can be ugly, good people do get hurt ... and we don't always understand why. She referred to the lyrics of

an old hymn – We're trusting in the Lord, and according to His Word, we will understand it better by and by. Kelly E J Á V Q I H X L E X J V S Q L I V I \ T I V M I R G I W L I that sometimes good can come from bad. The framed Bible page presented to her by Dr. Sloan came from the book of Amos – a perfect selection as according to those scriptures, justice will be served.

The centerpiece angels that graced our tables were purchased and taken home to be enjoyed year round as the perfect reminder of this most special time of year. Christmas Luncheon Co-chairs Nancy Shomette and Jan Rule thanked all their committee members – stating that it takes a team to plan and execute a beautiful event. We ended the celebration singing our traditional luncheon close – "Joy to the World." It truly was a memorable event!

Martha Turner, Grace Gandy, Judy Graham,  
Sharon Saunders and Kandy Brittain

Dr. Sloan and Jan Witham present Bible page to guest speaker Kelly Siegler.

Luncheon Co-chairs Jan Rule and  
Nancy Shomette

# Faculty & Staff Christmas Open House

Christmas Spirit was in the air on December 11 as Dr. and Mrs. Sloan welcomed HBU's faculty and staff into their beautifully decorated home to celebrate the season and enjoy a festive holiday luncheon. The Sloan's annual hosting of this delightful event, The Christmas Open House for Faculty and Staff, is always enjoyed by the ladies of The Guild who are privileged to sign up and assist Sue Sloan, our gracious First Lady.

Red, green, blue and orange mingled throughout the house as a delicious lunch of ham, potato casserole, and salad was offered on the buffet. Then there were the dessert tables, (there were three!) laden with the sweet offerings of the Hospitality Committee of the HBU Guild. No one was watching their waistline today as there were plenty of enticing desserts to please any palate!

Many thanks to Co-chairs Cyndi Jacobson, Brittney Jacobson, Justin Jacobson and Mon'Sher Spencer and members of the Hospitality Committee who prepared desserts and hosted the luncheon to provide the HBU faculty and staff with a wonderful, holiday reprieve.

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so they all had a great time visiting with their peers and tasting the holiday treats. The staff greatly appreciated having a time to relax and enjoy the holiday cheer

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ladies of the Hospitality Committee, thank you for taking time out of your busy, holiday schedule to be a blessing to the HBU faculty and staff.

Yearbook UU edsm 4.315 315i7612.2231 Tf313.953 34(NEW/RE

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## First Lady Events

Throughout the year, Houston Baptist University student groups enjoy the hospitality offered by First Lady Sue Sloan, who opens her home to various campus organizations. These students, who usually arrive in groups of 50-75, are invited for refreshments and fellowship and are welcomed by Ms. Sloan, assisted by First Lady's Events Committee Co-chairs Odette and Cathy Wheatley and their committee members.

**Please consider recycling this  
newsletter. Recycling paper, cans,  
glass & plastic is taking care of  
our God's green earth.**

STEWARDS OF GOD & THE EARTH

Please visit [hbu.edu/guild](http://hbu.edu/guild) for information concerning upcoming events, general information, and for pics from previous events!

# THE GUILD INSTITUTE IN CHRISTIAN FAMILY STUDIES



The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies welcomed Dr. Hunter Baker as speaker for the HBU Convocation and Faculty Luncheon in the Morris Cultural Arts Center on October 14, 2015. In his talk at Convocation, Dr. Baker presented 19 points of advice for the students, ranging from choices in life to choices for their future careers. The speech, which he titled "A Graduation Speech before Graduation," was well-

received by both the students and his fellow professors.

Following Convocation, The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies hosted a luncheon in McNair Hall to honor the HBU faculty. The program featured Dr. Sloan and Dr. Baker in a very interesting and informative discussion on the future challenges for a Christian University, as well as the importance of family,

the relationship of the family to politics and freedom, and raising children in the church.

Prior to Dr. Baker's position at Union University in Jackson, TN., he served as director of strategic planning and as a member of the faculty at HBU, where he co-founded The City, the University journal. Currently he holds the position of academic dean and associate professor of political science at Union University where he serves as an associate editor for the Journal of Markets and Morality and as a contributing editor for Touchstone: A Journal of Mere Christianity. Dr. Baker is also a research fellow of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and is the author of three books: The End of Secularism; Political Thought: A Student's Guide; and The System Has a Soul.

HBU faculty members were very gracious in their enthusiasm and expressed gratitude to The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies, represented by Guild Vice President Ruth Alford, Executive Director Sharon Saunders, Event Co-chairs Tommie Lejeune and Jane Caldwell and their committee.

~ SAVE the DATE~

Join us in supporting graduate scholarships for outstanding Christian students!

## Silver Tea

April 14, 2016

honoring

## Patti Bailey

for her loyalty, service and longtime commitment to The Guild and Houston Baptist University.

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Home of Rhonda and Michael Graff  
35 E. Stillforest Street  
Houston, TX 77024

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## INSTALLATION COFFEE

Friday, May 13

10:00 AM

e

At the home of Robert and Sue Sloan  
HBU President's Home  
7706 Fondren Rd  
Houston, TX

## Congratulations!

Guild Board member Mosher Spencer was named recipient of the 2015 Meritorious Service Alumnus Award which honors alumni who K D Y H P D G H V L J Q L A F D Q W V X V W D contributions of time, energy and creativity toward the advancement of Houston Baptist University. Congratulations, Mosher!

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