

# today



FALL 2019

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# An MBA At Your Own Pace

## A Fresh Look

As SAGU holds steady to our identity and mission, we also welcome innovation. We embrace opportunities for growth through strategic planning to meet the needs of our undergraduate and graduate students.

That is why we are redesigning our Master's in Business Administration degree.

Beginning January of 2020, our MBA degree program will offer more personalization, course flexibility and the option to complete your degree at an accelerated rate.

**Students will have the opportunity to complete their MBA degree in 12, 18 or 24 months and will have six opportunities to start each year.**

"Offering students the ability to complete the program in a way that fits into their already busy lives is one of the many advantages of our updated MBA," says Dr. Shelly Zaldivar, Business Department Chair.

The new course structure will be **7 weeks**, with A & B sessions each semester and two 6-week compressed sessions during the summer.

Students CAN enroll and start in EITHER the A or B session.

Enrolling in two courses in each A & B session simultaneously allows for the **12-month degree completion** time.

With this update, students will not have to split their attention between several subjects at the same time. With only one or two subjects, the program will offer complete concentration on one course with a relatively manageable course load.

Dean of Distance Education and Extension Sites, Joseph Hartman, says, "I am looking forward to an MBA program which allows students to focus intensely on one course at a time while completing the same number of credit hours as they would in a semester.

## Elective Flexibility

Our elective courses provide an avenue to obtain a skill set specific to a student's career and leadership interests to complement our already strong core set of courses.

This update enables our graduate students to select graduate level electives that align with their career goals and interests. "Students can select courses such as Operations Management or Organizational Strategy," said Dr. Zaldivar. "Additionally, we will occasionally offer Special Topics courses."

## Looking Forward

Hartman shared that even bigger plans are on the horizon with plans to update several other undergraduate degree programs next year.

"Being in such a dynamic industry, these updates place our institution in a favorable position for the future while providing more options for our students."



**VASHTI PITTERSON**  
*Current MBA Student*

"This update allows for students to focus in on one course. When your focus is set on one course of action, it ultimately produces optimum potential, allows for knowledge to apply quickly and concepts to grasp fully rather than partially because you're not splitting time between different course content of varying extremes."



**AARON SANTMYIRE**  
*Current MBA Student & Missionary to Madagascar*

"Our leadership in Africa has encouraged fellow missionaries to strive for stewardship, effectiveness and accountability. I believe this MBA program has helped me to that end. In addition, I think this update will allow students to be focused and provide working professionals with the flexibility that is paramount."



**JARROD LAWLER**  
*MBA Alumnus & Missionary Associate to Ecuador*

"If these options were available when I was in the program, I would have definitely utilized that. Being a military veteran, it would have been more advantageous if I could have completed the program in half the time. That could've saved a whole year of residual benefits." Continue reading Jarrod's story on pg. 3.



## From Rick Bowles

Vice President of Advancement

### Homecoming 2019!

*“SAGU had so many new and exciting opportunities to connect with old friends, new friends, initiatives for the University, and feel the increased momentum. JC Watts speaking at the Alumni Banquet was refreshing and challenging. It is apparent that the new opportunities for alumni to connect to the University are ever-increasing. All I can say is Homecoming 2019 was new, exciting, and inspiring.”*

*-Jeff Andersen, SAGU alumnus*

This Homecoming was a success! It was our desire to create some new experiences, change a few things up and encourage you to come back and support this generation of world changers!

You'll see from the photos in this issue that Homecoming was an incredible time of fellowship and celebration. We had the opportunity to honor our esteemed leaders, alumni, and dear friends of “Dear ole Southwestern.” I want to send a special thanks to staff and volunteers who helped make this a Homecoming to remember!

Please mark your calendar for Homecoming **Oct. 1-3, 2020**. We look forward to what God has in store for next year! ■



## SAGU AIC President Receives Distinguished Administrator Award

Assemblies of God Alliance for Higher Education recognized longtime educator David J. Moore on Aug. 2 with the 2019 Distinguished Administrator Award.

Moore returned as president of the Phoenix-based American Indian College (AIC), now SAGU AIC, in 2013. He held the same post from 1987 to 1994, during which time the school became the only regionally accredited Christian college serving primarily Native Americans.

SAGU President Kermit Bridges, who nominated Moore for the honor, noted that 80 percent of the Native American AG pastors in Arizona and New Mexico are AIC graduates.

“David has spent a lifetime serving the Kingdom and the Fellowship, the lion’s share in service to higher education,” says President Bridges.

In 2016, AIC partnered with SAGU, which allowed AIC students to study additional subjects online. Since then, accreditation standards have been restored and finances have improved. Since Moore’s return, enrollment has increased by 32 percent and the number of students living on campus has risen by 198 percent.

“Influence, not authority, is what drives effectiveness,” Moore says. “If you don’t keep learning and growing, you soon become irrelevant.” ■



## HELP SEND A STUDENT. LEAVE AN ONLINE REVIEW.

There are many ways that you can help be a bridge between SAGU and future SAGU students. Will you leave a comment or review about your SAGU experience on **Google**, **Yelp** or the SAGU **Facebook** page? Your recommendation may make a difference for a student who is deciding.

Don’t forget to follow us on social media! **Facebook: SAGU Alumni** and **Instagram: @SAGUAlumni**

## Social Work Receives Accreditation Candidacy

Our Social Work Bachelor's Degree program has achieved Candidacy for Accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation.

Dr. Sandra Harp, Social Work Instructor and Program Coordinator, says, "Students graduating from a CSWE (Council on Social Work Education) accredited program have the ability to be in Advanced Placement at graduate schools with an accredited MSW (Master's of Social Work) program."

This benefit also allows undergraduate students to complete their master's degree in half the time due to many of the required courses for a master's level degree having been already completed at the undergraduate level. "Half the time, half the cost!" exclaimed Dr. Harp. ■

## Joneses Return to Lead SAGU Worship

We were excited to welcome back two familiar faces to help develop the Worship Arts program this fall. Alumna Meredith Jones stepped into her role as Director of SAGU Worship and the Program Coordinator for the Worship Arts degree while her husband and alumnus, Nathan Jones serves in the critical role of Production Specialist in the SAGU Worship office.

"We are most excited about being able to inspire a generation to fall more in love with Jesus," she said.

The Joneses have served as missionaries in London, England, for the past six years leading worship for a church plant. Both prolific songwriters, the missionary couple looks forward to fostering the God-given talents of our students and influencing students to seek God authentically and wholeheartedly in worship. ■



## Alumni Spotlight: Jarrod Lawler

“Most people were surprised when I said that I was going into missions after getting my MBA. However, having this degree and a background in business provides creative access into a country with a struggling economy.

Going into Ecuador, I am excited to go into the Amazon and bring the gospel to tribes who have never heard about Jesus. My wife will stay in a town bordering the Amazon with our children and will work with women recovering from the trauma of sex trafficking.

Later on, we would like to start a business that helps the community. Through a local business, we can build relationships and help foster those relationships. Having that business training and experience in my back pocket from the MBA really helps bolster me forward in addition to knowing that we have creative access to wherever God calls us. ”



## SAGU Receives 2019 Sports Ministries Award

The NCCAA announced SAGU as the 2018-19 recipient of the Sports Ministries Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize institutions having significant spiritual outreach through the utilization of athletic ministries. Over the course of the year, our teams were involved in missions trips and local continued support of surrounding communities. Our student-athletes served missionaries, police officers, firefighters, nursing homes, elementary schools, the Salvation Army Boy & Girls Club, Operation Christmas Child, the YMCA, and the FCA organization.

SAGU Director of Athletics, Dr. Jesse Godding, says, "This award is a testament to the determination of our athletic personnel to be a part of the mission of SAGU," he says. "God has blessed SAGU with a group of head coaches who are intentional about the spiritual formation of student-athletes." ■

## Micah Rice Announced as Candidate for Texas Teacher of the Year

This past August, alumnus Micah Rice was announced as Region 10 Secondary Teacher of the year. Region 10 spans ten North Texas counties, serves over 130 school districts, and encompasses 56,000 teachers.

As the recipient of this award, he is now one of twenty teachers in the running for Texas Teacher of the Year.

“At my campus and district alone, I am surrounded by so many who deserve recognition for their efforts, so to be acknowledged there, and to move on and be recognized as the Region 10 Secondary Teacher of the Year, there truly are no words,” he said.

Although Micah was stunned by the announcement, his colleagues and administration were not so surprised.

According to a press release from Terrell Independent School District, Michael French, Superintendent of Terrell ISD, said, “I have been doing this a long time, and Micah Rice

is the best I have ever seen. When you love kids and have his work ethic and passion, great things happen for students.” Micah’s favorite component of teaching has always been establishing relationships with his students.

“Each day I get to encounter and engage students who will one day be our future politicians, preachers, teachers, attorneys, mechanics, doctors, and so forth. What an honor it is to get to play a small part in helping them find their way.”

It was during Micah’s time at SAGU that he realized teaching was about more than test scores, but rather a mission field on which he could help change the lives of his students.

“It was always about having a heart for people. That’s probably the greatest thing about SAGU to me,” he said. “It’s the same reason I teach. It’s about having a heart.”

Ultimately, it is Micah’s heart that has led him to his recent candidacy for Secondary Teacher of the Year. ■



## Coach Hank Moore Receives Coach of Character Award

The annual NAIA Coach of Character accolade is awarded to a head coach of an NAIA institution who has been outstanding in demonstrating and embracing the five core values of the NAIA Champions of Character initiative, using methods of teaching character through sport and in community leadership through volunteering or service.

After years of continued demonstrations of sportsmanship and integrity on the court, Hank Moore, Head Volleyball Coach, received the NAIA’s annual Coach of Character honor.

Moore’s priorities within the SAGU volleyball program have been focused on the development of the Lady Lions’ faith in God and character, their academic success and the development of volleyball skills, in that order. “Everything Coach Moore does is done with a servant’s heart and his desire to enhance the lives of people he comes in contact with on the court and off,” said Ken Carver, Head Volleyball Coach at John Brown University. “Coach Moore is truly a model of what it means to be a character-driven coach and well-deserving of this honor.” ■



## Holy Land Tour: March 6-15, 2020

Experience the best of Israel through the “Holy Land Tour.” Join us on a **10-day trip** on March 6-15, 2020. The itinerary includes a tour of the the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Megiddo, Bethlehem, Wailing Wall, Dead Sea and the Mount of Olives.

The all-inclusive tour is **\$3,550\*** and includes a Roundtrip air fair from DFW and hotel accomodations.

Visit [sagu.edu/ISRAEL](http://sagu.edu/ISRAEL) for more information!



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All notes are published online at [sagu.edu/alumninotes](http://sagu.edu/alumninotes). Your submission may be featured in the printed March issue of SAGU Today.



## CELEBRATIONS

**Mary Slankster (1965-1967)** facilitates graduate research courses and education courses in Bible colleges abroad. Earlier this year, she administrated courses in both Tanzania and Ghana.

**1 Nancy Dearman (1976-1978)** married Jimmy Dearman in 1977 and they've been missionaries with the AG since 1986. They served 4 terms in West Africa working in Burkina Faso, Togo and Sierra Leone. In 2008, they moved to Springfield, Missouri, to work with Life Publishers where Jim is now the Print and Distribution Coordinator for Fire Bibles.

**2 Reggie McElhannon (1978-1982)** was recently appointed Interim Director of the Family Support Division of the Missouri Department of Social Services.

**Rafael Herrera (1984-1988)** is currently a Teaching Pastor at Armory Church in Fresno, CA. He writes a weekly column for three local newspapers (Lee Enterprises Newspapers). He also has a radio program on KGED 1680 AM, every Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

**3 Kacie Dalrymple (2000-2005)** and her husband, Braden, celebrated their 14 year anniversary on May 28, 2019. They have 3 beautiful children: Caden, 11 years old, Kynzlee, 6-years-old, and Zoee, a 2-year old.

**4 Brandon Morgan (2002-2012)** is a licensed professional counselor practicing in the Woodlands/Conroe area. In addition to operating CourageousCounseling.org, a private counseling practice, he serves as a Court Clinician for the Montgomery County Mental Health Treatment Court.

**Eric Simms (2011-2013)** will start medical school this Fall at Ross University School of Medicine. After graduating from SAGU in 2013, he served as a missionary in Amsterdam for 2 years before the Lord led him to pursue a career as a physician.

**5 Meagan Sellers (2013-2016)** will have the opportunity to serve as a learning coach for a performing arts academy. Although she has been teaching in a traditional classroom for three years, she hopes to one day open her own performing arts academy in Ellis County.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Rev. Gene Wesley Cumpton (1941-2019)** Reverend Gene Wesley Cumpton, age 77 of Jonesboro, went to be with his Lord and Savior on June 15, 2019. Brother Gene was an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God for over 50 years. He pastored four churches over a period of 42 years, including First Assembly of God in North Hodge for 27 years.

**Dr. Thomas E. Wilson (1942-2019)** Dr. Thomas "Tom" Eugene Wilson, age 76 of Red Oak, Texas passed away on Friday, August 2, 2019. He was an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God for fifty-five years pastoring three churches. Dr. Wilson's vision to provide a tuition free charter school launched Life School of Dallas, where he served as Founder and Superintendent from 1998 to 2010.

**Robert Garner Slaton (1935-2019)** Robert (Bob) Garner Slaton, 83, of Benbrook, went home to be with the Lord on February 21, 2019 in his home surrounded by his loving family after a year-long battle with cancer. The majority of his pastoral ministry was spent at First Assembly of God in Amarillo where he served for 21 years before being elected to serve as District Superintendent of the West Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters in Lubbock, serving in this position for 21 years.

**Rev. Robert Neel (1955-2019)** passed away in Lufkin Hospice in the Pines. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1978 as a civil engineer, working for the Texas Department of Transportation for 30 years was an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God for fifty-five years pastoring three churches.

Update your  
contact information!

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



# Spiritual Saturation

Spiritual Saturation Week was so encouraging and insightful for all of our students! Something special happens when we intentionally set time aside at the beginning of the school year to focus on what matters most. Here were a few highlights.

- 1 **Darin Stroud, Ministries Director for AG Kansas Ministry Network**, dared students to filter their perspective through biblical lenses. He emboldened us to let God renew our minds and spirit as we strive to live a Christ-like life.
- 2 **Monica Hortiales, Assistant Youth Director for AG Arizona Ministry Network**, led a prayer of thanksgiving, abundance of Spirit, and bestowed blessings upon our students.
- 3 **Our new students gathered to pray over one another.**
- 4 **David Maxwell, AG District Youth Director for Mississippi**, spoke on the subject of awkwardness and the importance of breaking through our comfort zone boundaries. "We are merely wanderers on a nomadic journey to bring us closer to Jesus, acceptance, and then completeness."
- 5 **Nick Rodgers, AG District Youth Director for West Texas**, encouraged students to let go of the hold that they have on their lives and let God have His moments.
- 6 **Students sought the presence of the Lord during worship.**
- 7 **Charles Allo, Family Life Director for the AG Louisiana Network Ministry**, demonstrated the difference between resistance and submersion in regards to the full submission to God's call on our lives.
- 8 **Efrain Pineda, Lead Pastor & Co-Founder of Vida Church**, prophesied over SAGU sharing that the greatest days and years are to come.
- 9 **Josh Wellborn, AG National Youth Director**, shared his personal testimony with the congregation. He described how he attempted to renegotiate his journey with God and through that struggle, he discovered his identity in Christ.
- 10 **Alexa M. Pineda, Co-Lead Pastor of Vida Church with husband, Efrain Pineda.** Pastor Alexa Pineda led our students into a time of intense worship and focused prayer. During this special night of revival, every student in attendance prayed over leaders and staff of the university.



# A New **HOMECOMING** Experience



**Dr. Tony Garza**  
Director of Development  
and Alumni Relations

“This was my first Homecoming as the Director of Development and Alumni Relations and it was an amazing, immersive experience! It was such a joy to connect with alumni and friends of the university and hear how the Lord has gone before them in their respective careers. What an encouragement and inspiration it was to listen to their stories about SAGU’s impact in their lives even many years after stepping off the graduation stage and into the next chapter of their lives!”

This Homecoming was especially unique because we had the opportunity to commemorate numerous alumni and introduce some new events and reunions! Here were a few special moments!

**1** J.C. Watts: American politician, clergyman, and former professional football player was the Celebration Banquet Keynote Speaker. Watts served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 2003 as a Republican, representing Oklahoma’s 4th Congressional District. He is a dedicated Christian and businessman.

**2 3** Homecoming reunions

**4** Brigadier General (Retired) Michael W. Miller received the highest award granted by the Alumni Association - the P.C. Nelson Distinguished Alumnus Award

**5** Many laughs were shared as Dennis Swanberg performed stand-up comedy during Saturday night’s “Comedy Night.”

**6 7** SWA Coming Home Fall Market

**8 9** Students & alumni enjoyed the Homecoming Football Game at Lumpkins Stadium.

**10 11** We celebrated the legacy of former SAGU President, Dr. Delmer Guynes, through a special dedication service of the “Divine Servant” statue. This incredible work of art depicts the biblical setting in John 13:14 in which Jesus washed the disciples’ feet. It is a symbol of Dr. Guynes’ commitment to servant leadership.

Mark your calendars for next year’s Homecoming experience





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# Leave your **LEGACY!**

Honor friends, family, or church members with a scholarship in **THEIR** name! Your gift can be an answer to prayer for students and an *affirmation of God's call on their lives.*

**Invest in the future with an endowed scholarship.**

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**For more information, contact:**

Rick Bowles, VP of Advancement  
rbowles@sagu.edu | 972-825-4880

