



The
2027
PROJECT



SAGU CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE

60th Homecoming

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST 2022

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Alumni Worship Collective**
 Thursday, September 29, 2022, 7:00 PM
 Reception: 5:45 pm
 Nathan and Meredith Jones (SAGU Worship Directors), along with other special guests (currently scheduled to participate: Kristy Starling and Clayton Brooks plus more to be added.) will be showcasing our first-ever Alumni Worship Collective concert on Thursday night! Attendees will experience a top tier worship experience that you won't want to miss!
- Celebration Banquet (Friday night)**
 Fri., Sep 30th at 6:00 pm-
 Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jerry Nance



For over 31 years, Dr. Nance has worked with Teen Challenge in various leadership roles and currently serves as Executive Chairman of the Board of Global Teen Challenge, after stepping down as President/CEO in 2017.

Join us FRIDAY NIGHT for an evening of fellowship, fine dining, Alumni Awards presentations and a sharing of vision that will leave you enriched!

EARLY BIRD ALL Inclusive Package: \$25 per person (purchase by Sept 16)

Includes- Celebration Banquet, Alumni Chapel, Ole Frenz Memory Breakfast, Alumni Worship Collective concert, Tailgate Party and Football Game (SWA Brunch is separate).

OR can purchase individual tickets

- Alumni Chapel**
 Friday, September 30 at 10:15 am
 Speaker: Alumni Association President Greg Thurstonson



Pastors Greg & Deena have over thirty-five years of ministerial experience. Greg graduated from Southwestern Assemblies of God University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Christian Education. In addition to being a full-time pastor at Dominion Church in Dickinson, TX, Greg is a board-certified, Faith-Based Counselor.

- Alumni Lunch Party & SWA General Meeting and Brunch**
 Friday, September 30th at 11:30 am
- Affinity Reunions** - (Most held at the tailgate party prior to football game) **Saturday, Oct 1- Tailgate at 10 am/Football game at 2 pm**

NEW!

Come see the new football/soccer/track & field. Alumni flag football game on Friday afternoon!



Summer 2022

SAGU Today and the President's Report are publications of Southwestern Assemblies of God University, a Christian, 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.

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 SACSCOC at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Southwestern Assemblies of God University.

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For Tickets, Hotel Reservations, and Schedule go to: www.sagu.edu/homecoming
 For more Info CONTACT: Alumni@sagu.edu / 972-825-4639



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THE NEXT 100 YEARS...

It is hard to believe that SAGU is only five years away from celebrating 100 years as an institution for students who love the Lord and come chasing God's calling. If you have ever stepped into a campus dorm, participated in lectures, or attended chapel, you are probably like me and look back at your time as a SAGU student as one of the most significant chapters in your life.

I enjoy reminiscing on the friendships made and encounters with the Holy Spirit; however, if I have

learned one thing over the years, it is that we must balance a fondness of the past with hope for the future.

When 2027 comes around, we want that year to be a time to commemorate a century of SAGU history. Additionally, I want to look back and know that those 100 years were the foundation for an even more abundant century to come.

While the Lord tarries and as the Holy Spirit continues to build His Church through those whom the Father has anointed for service, SAGU has a mission to fulfill.

Over the next five years, we have a once-in-a-century opportunity to help ensure that by 2027 SAGU is spiritually and financially positioned to receive students and prepare leaders to advance the work of the Holy Spirit into the ministry and marketplace of the next 100 years.

You may be a recent SAGU graduate or newly transitioned to a different career. You might be moving into your first home or adjusting to life without a certain loved one by your side. Perhaps you have just entered retirement.

No matter who or where you are, you have a part to play leading up to SAGU's centennial.

Giving is not solely a financial gesture. Giving to SAGU is praying for our students. It is bringing your family to campus for homecoming and sporting events or making the University a daily prayer focus. Giving to SAGU is reuniting with fellow alumni, proudly sporting your college sweatshirt, and sharing with potential students how SAGU can prepare them for His call on their lives.

As you turn each page, you will encounter the stories of my friends and yours who have given to SAGU in various ways. You may relate to some more than others, but they all share a few things in common. They each love SAGU students, desire to see the University's mission endure for generations to come, and understand what God has called them to do these next five years to help prepare SAGU for our next 100.

Would you pray about how you might join in what is happening at SAGU as we look to God to further His ministry here? How might you help SAGU prepare for our next 100 years of equipping Spirit empowered leaders?

May the Lord guide you to your answer.

I introduce you to The 2027 Project. ■



**The
2027
PROJECT**

SAGU CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE

What can we do these next five years to prepare SAGU for our next 100?
Become part of The 2027 Project.

In 2027, SAGU celebrates 100 years of equipping Spirit-empowered leaders for this moment. As a fun, faithful family, the university invites everyone at all levels and at every stage of their SAGU journey an opportunity to contribute to the success of this once-in-a-century initiative over the next five years.

Join us over the next five years as we implement creative and bold strategies to foster affinity, pride, and generous giving for the university. We have an opportunity to reconnect alumni back with SAGU, share stories of SAGU's worldwide impact, and bolster the financial foundation for SAGU's next 100 years. ■

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

- 100 Prayer teams visiting campus
- 100 Year Oral History Project
- 100 Years of Preaching
- 100 Students on missions trips every year
- 100 Stories of lives impacted by prayer
- 100 Faith promises every year
- 100 Hours of Community Service every year
- 100 Student-athlete Alumni Spotlights
- 100 Remarkable moments in SAGU sports
- 100 All-American Athletes



FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

LION PRIDE

ONE 9/27



FIRST GIFTS



FEEDBACK FOR GOOD



STUDENT ADVANCEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS



CHURCH LEADERSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

CENTURY CLUB

CENTURY SOCIETY



SIGLO SOCIETY



REGENTS SOCIETY



CHURCH PILLARS



CHURCH LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

LEGACY FELLOWSHIP

SHARED LEGACIES



CHARITABLE GIFT ARRANGEMENTS



ECHO SOCIETY



CAMPUS PROJECTS

The 2027 Project touches every area of the University; it must. We cannot anticipate that SAGU's next 100 years will be better than the first 100 based on the success of one office or program. The health of one college fosters health in another. The growth of one department encourages growth in another. SAGU's faculty and staff are leading the charge and challenging their teams to contribute to SAGU's legacy in unique ways specific to the health of their department. Along the way, we will celebrate milestones and accomplished goals,

and you will notice that each campus and community project touches another. As a student, faculty, staff, alum, or friend of SAGU, your part might be investing time and energy in one of the following campus and community projects over the next five years.

With your participation, we anticipate each project's success translating into more public awareness and interest in SAGU, greater affinity and pride amongst alumni, and more profound spiritual growth within students. ■

100 PRAYER GROUPS VISITING CAMPUS

The Alumni office will establish the Momentum Prayer Initiative to intercede on behalf of the campus and student body. Over the next five years, Momentum will host 100 prayer groups that will become foundational to the Spiritual Life on-campus at SAGU!

Their prayer focus will include Kingdom Impact, Faculty & Staff, Spiritual Health & Wellness, and Divine Protection & Provision.



100 YEAR ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

With nearly 100 years of SAGU history, we believe every alumnus has a story to tell. What's yours? The SAGU Alumni Association will collect your unique stories and experiences into a historical archive, uniting SAGU alumni across generations, professions, and life experiences. In the end, we will produce a commemorative compilation of our time at SAGU. By sharing your memory, you'll ensure that SAGU's rich history is preserved for the next 100 years.



100 YEARS OF PREACHING

SAGU has produced a vast number of excellent preachers over the last 100 years. The College of Bible and Church Ministries plans to review and select 100 sermons that represent the various decades of the school's existence. These sermons will be archived for ready retrieval by those who wish to be enriched and encouraged by men and women who have been trained at SAGU.



100 STUDENTS ON MISSIONS TRIPS EVERY YEAR

Mission-mindedness is a SAGU core value. Each year, we will inspire 100 students to participate in missions trips by pointing them to opportunities provided by the Southwestern Missions Association (SMA) or local churches.

100 STORIES OF LIVES IMPACTED BY PRAYER

We will foster spiritual formation among students by compiling and sharing the stories of individuals whose lives have been affected by the prayer movement of SMA.

100 FAITH PROMISES EVERY YEAR

We will encourage 100 students to make a faith promise toward SMA missions projects and look for God to provide miraculously.

100 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE EVERY YEAR

We want SAGU students to be known as tangible difference makers and witnesses of God's love in our community. We will encourage and celebrate each student who completes 100 volunteer hours in SMA outreach projects reaching the homeless, refugees, at-risk children, the elderly, and those with special needs.

100 STUDENT ATHLETE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Where are they now? Student-athletes come to SAGU to make a difference on the field and prepare themselves as future leaders in their communities.

Over the next five years, we will highlight 100 student-athlete alumni from around the globe and share how they lead in business, education, ministry, and much more.

UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF SOCCER

In May of this year, the women's soccer team traveled to Egypt as a part of their Soccer Outreach Ministries. The mission trip, led by Coach Hason and Assistant Coach Solorio, presented the players with many opportunities for both learning encounters and ministry opportunities.



The team hosted two children's soccer camps where they trained and played matches. "Listening to one of the boys share his testimony after our match," team member Jessica Lopez says, "made me realize that God is so powerful and even children carry such an immense faith!"

In addition to the soccer camps, the players also visited a Sudanese refugee camp and gave away new soccer cleats. "It was such a blessing to see these kids who didn't have

anything on their feet, walk away with shoes," says player Jordan Shelton.



Along with the expected visits to the pyramids and the sphinx, the team also had the opportunity to visit the Cave

Church, which is the largest Christian Church in Egypt. By far, the team's favorite part of the trip was visiting Egyptian children who had cancer. "My brother recently passed away battling cancer," says player Emily Gonzales. "This was so meaningful to us all."

The impact of this trip on the team will be realized for many years, and each player holds a deep sense of gratitude for all that God did.

100 REMARKABLE MOMENTS IN SAGU SPORTS

SAGU athletics has developed amazing athletes over the years. Throughout The 2027 Project, we will look back at 100 of their most outstanding individual and team performances.

100 ALL-AMERICAN ATHLETES

We think our SAGU student-athletes are exceptional, and so do many others. Together let's count up and celebrate the first 100 student-athletes to receive national recognition as All-American and Academic All-American athletes.

LION PRIDE

CAMPAIGNS

FIRST GIFTS

GOAL: 100 first-time Donors each year



Are you ready to make your first time gift to SAGU students?

Each year of The 2027 Project, SAGU seeks 100 first-time donors to make a generous first gift of at least \$25 to the University. But no matter the size of your gift, when you give to SAGU, you can be sure your donation goes to equipping Spirit empowered leaders for this moment. Whether you're a relative or friend of a SAGU student, or a graduate yourself, your generosity makes a lasting impact.

www.sagu.edu/2027firstgifts



CHURCH LEADERSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

5-YEAR GOAL: 100 Church Participants

SAGU created the Sutton Family Church Leadership Golf Tournament to raise awareness of the University's Church Leadership Degree Scholarship fund.

Area pastors, church staff, and SAGU alumni compete for top golf prizes, a year of bragging rights, and learn all about SAGU students who major in Church Leadership degree programs and the University's charge to inspire more young men and women to answer the call to church ministry. Gary Sutton, chairman of the commission on advancement, shares the vision behind the Church Leadership Degree Scholarship fund and why he and his family have committed \$100,000 annually to SAGU students. SAGU wants to see 100 churches participate in the golf tournament over the next 5 years of The 2027 Project.

www.sagu.edu/2027golf



ONE 9/27



5-YEAR GOAL: \$100,000

It's an opportunity for the SAGU family around the world to use our collective power of generosity to support SAGU's mission of equipping Spirit-empowered leaders for this moment.

Since 1927, the year of SAGU's founding, every gift that has come into the University has played a part in constructing SAGU's financial foundation. Each year of The 2027 Project, we are calling on each and every person that is part of the SAGU family to give ONE gift on September 27 to build upon the firm financial foundation that prepares us for our next 100 years.

Everyone has something to give and every act of generosity counts. Be a part of SAGU Giving Day and impact the lives of hundreds of students.

www.sagu.edu/2027givingday



STUDENT ADVANCEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

5-YEAR GOAL: 100 Individual Contributions

The Advancement Office fulfills the mission of SAGU by building the financial stability of the University and providing for the financial needs of its students. Each year, students who find themselves in a financial bind come to our office needing assistance with completing payments for the current academic year or starting the next one.

When you give an undesignated scholarship to SAGU, it places our office in a position to award Advancement Scholarships to such students in need. We are seeking 100 undesignated scholarship donations from now through the end of The 2027 Project.

www.sagu.edu/2027advance

FEEDBACK FOR GOOD



5-YEAR GOAL: \$100,000

A student-led campaign. SAGU Residential Life (ResLife) is challenging students to give \$100,000 to the University by the end of The 2027 Project.

How? By partnering with the innovative company Hundred X, SAGU students give feedback on brands they use and generate \$2 for each survey they complete. ResLife places dorms vs. dorms, in a spirit of friendly competition, to see who can complete the most surveys until they reach their yearly goal of \$20,000.

www.sagu.edu/2027hundredx



Recipients of Donor Scholarships 2022



FAITHFULNESS & COMMITMENT

Building a legacy requires faithfulness and commitment, two qualities recurring donors possess. Many of SAGU's partners have journeyed alongside the University through the decades and supported its various stages of development and growth. The devotion and sacrifice of these individuals and organizations who persistently invest in SAGU make the University what it is today.

Victory Life Church located in Fruita, Colorado, has been a faithful partner of SAGU for more than 25 years. Lead pastors Josh and Sara Jane Cook proudly continue the giving trend set by pastors before them. Their church admires not only the spiritual foundation present at SAGU but also the academic excellence the institution offers.

As a church, we support SAGU financially because we believe it is one of the best places students can learn and grow in their faith and calling.



Pastor Josh, an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God, graduated from Bethany University but is proud that his oldest son Elijah enrolled at SAGU right out of high school and is thrilled at the education and spiritual community he receives. "We encourage all of our students to leave Colorado to go to SAGU, but only temporarily," he says in jest, "and then come back and help us reach our Valley for Jesus."

The Cooks have been the lead pastors of Victory Life Church since May of 2017 and in full-time ministry for over 20 years, serving as youth pastors, associate pastors, and senior pastors. Both Josh and Sara Jane, married for over 20 years and parents to three amazing kids, are passionate about seeing followers of Jesus grow in their relationship with Christ. Victory Life Church has pastors who are gifted communicators, love to

preach and teach God's word, and remain committed to SAGU. Victory Life Church includes SAGU in its monthly missions giving portfolio and joins a host of Bible-believing, Spirit-empowered congregations that believe in and uphold the mission and vision of SAGU.

Alletha Mae Barnett has had interests in SAGU since Shield of Faith Bible Institute moved to Fort Worth in 1935. Her nearby church, Rosen Heights Assembly, would host a score of students, faculty, and even the late Rev. P. C. Nelson, who, when called upon, would stand and deliver words of wisdom and passages from the Bible.



Alletha's late husband Lawrence graduated from SAGU in 1948 and later became an ordained minister. They were active in ministry for more than sixty years, serving as evangelists and pastors and in leadership and stewardship ministries within the Assemblies of God. The Barnett's supported their ministry with marketplace work and founded and operated various businesses. "We had to work hard and be good stewards to achieve our goals," says Alletha. "God blessed us in ministry, business, and life."

With God's help, the Barnett's contributed to numerous projects, such as the Southwestern Foundation, Great Commission Fountain, music and computer labs, and general operating costs, to name a few. When Lawrence passed away in 2013, Alletha carried on the mission of supporting SAGU with the help of her son David, also an alum of SAGU.

I give to SAGU because God has richly blessed me, and giving is an act of worship for me. I give because I believe I am investing in the Kingdom, helping equip generations to continue the declaration of the Gospel and the work of the Church. I see the tangible results in the students who leave their mark worldwide in service to the Great Commission.

For more information, contact Girien Salazar, Director of Development, advancementoffice@sagu.edu (972) 825-4869. ■



CENTURY

CLUB



CHURCH LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

5-YEAR GOAL: 100 Churches or Individuals Giving \$100 a Month

In 1992, one in three pastors was under the age of 40. Today, that number is closer to only one in seven. Fewer young men and women are answering the call to church ministry, but SAGU is on a mission to change that with Church Leadership Degree Scholarships, which provide a 50-100% tuition discount for students in the 15 different Church Leadership programs. At SAGU, we equip Spirit-empowered leaders for ministry, and our goal for The 2027 Project is for 100 churches or individuals to help SAGU students step boldly into their callings by making a 1-year commitment to give \$100 a month to the Church Leadership Degree Scholarship fund.

The goal for year 1 is 20 churches or individuals, which equates to \$24,000 in new annual financial support for students majoring in Church Leadership.

By year 5, 100 donors will produce an annual financial boost of \$120,000 for students majoring in Church Leadership.

www.sagu.edu/2027lead



CHURCH PILLARS

5-YEAR GOAL: 100 New Churches Giving Monthly

Make SAGU a part of your church's missions giving portfolio with a recurring donation.

The fellowship and local churches that give regularly to SAGU have always been the pillars of the University. By giving monthly to SAGU, your church will join a host of Bible-believing, Spirit-empowered congregations that believe in and uphold the mission and vision of SAGU. From now through the end of The 2027 Project, we are seeking 100 new churches to make a 1-year commitment to giving \$50, \$100, or \$200 monthly.

If your church gives less than \$50 a month, consider bringing your monthly giving up to \$50. If you currently give \$50, please consider going above and beyond.

The goal for year 1 is 20 churches, which equates to \$12,000 in new annual financial support to the University. By year 5, 100 church donors will produce an annual financial boost of \$60,000 to SAGU.

www.sagu.edu/2027pillars

CHURCH LEADERSHIP DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT:



Keyon Rodriguez
Intercultural Studies

SAGU is the perfect place to develop the ministry and leadership skills that I need to make an impact in our nation and the world today. Growing up, my mom would speak over my life that I was a missionary, a prophet. I would share prophetic words with strangers, and one time, one of those strangers ran into me years later and thanked me for the words I had spoken. She told me that afterward, she gave her life to follow Christ. God has called me to reach people with the Gospel, to be a missionary.

Because of the financial help that I receive from the Church Leadership Degree scholarships, I can attend SAGU and become better equipped to reach people from around the world with the love of Christ. Thank you for your faithful and generous giving to the Church Leadership Degree Scholarship fund at SAGU.



SIGLO SOCIETY

5-YEAR GOAL:
100 Hispanic Donors Giving Monthly



“My investment at SAGU is personal as it was life-changing for me. We hope through the Siglo Society we can continue to build on those foundations and in our Hispanic Community.”

Palomo currently serves as the Assistant Pastor of North Dallas Family Church in Carrollton. He and his wife Daisy live in Carrollton, Texas, along with their seven children.

David Martinez, also a founding member of the Siglo Society, is equally enthusiastic about the formation of the Society. “During my years at SAGU, there were but a few Latino students on campus, yet so many of us have stayed connected over the years,” he says. After graduation from SAGU, Martinez entered the automotive industry, where he has faithfully worked for over



For the growing SAGU Latino community, celebrating the legacy of the previous hundred years isn't just a recollection of distant memories but a rekindling of deepened gratitude, renewed community, and a commitment to give back. The fast-approaching anniversary of the University has ignited the gathering of Latino alumni culminating in the formation of the "Siglo Society." The word "Siglo" means "century," explains founding member Luis Palomo, "and it has a connotation of legacy."

The Society is designed not only to foster deeper connections between Latino SAGU alumni but also to facilitate practical ways to contribute to the future of the University.

SAGU's impact on many Siglo Society members is monumental. "SAGU saved my life," says Palomo. "The life I was leading until then was leading me to a total path of destruction. I was involved heavily in gangs and other negative situations, if it was not for SAGU, I genuinely know I might not be here today." He recalls his difficult childhood in Oak Cliff and the devastating death of his brother just two weeks after Palomo's graduation from high school. "I somehow ended up helping a current SAGU student...", he recalls, "move into her dorm at Collins. College was not a word in my vocabulary and was not even a consideration. But GOD!" Palomo mentions that he doesn't recall the application process. "Before I think I even realized, I was enrolled. I deemed it a miracle from the Lord!"

Palomo recounts that his relationship with the Lord grew exponentially during his four years at SAGU. "I felt a strong calling in my life to ministry, specifically, ministry to at-risk youth. SAGU prepared me for the service I continue to work in until today." Palomo is deeply grateful to be able to contribute back to his Alma Mater.

CENTURY CLUB *cont.*

CENTURY SOCIETY



5-YEAR GOAL:
100 New Individuals Giving \$100 a Month

A recurring gift is a commitment to providing regular, ongoing financial support for SAGU and its students, and when multiple numbers of individuals remain faithful in their giving, SAGU leadership can better gauge the University's financial vitality and more robustly establish short- and long-term vision. The need for recurring monthly donors becomes even more crucial as SAGU prepares to move into our next 100 years. For The 2027 Project, we are seeking 100 new donors to make a 1-year commitment to giving \$100 a month, or if you're currently giving less, to increase your monthly giving to \$100.

The goal for year 1 is 20 individuals, which equates to \$24,000 in new annual financial support to the University. By year 5, 100 donors will produce an annual financial boost of \$120,000 to SAGU.

www.sagu.edu/2027century

REGENTS SOCIETY



5-YEAR GOAL:
100 Staff, Faculty, and Board Members Giving Monthly

Go above and beyond.

SAGU faculty, staff, and board members who give a recurring financial gift to SAGU, in any amount, go above and beyond what's required of their spiritual and academic leadership to the University. They represent what it truly means to both love SAGU and its students and desire for each a strong and firm foundation for years to come. Our goal for The 2027 Project is for 100 faculty, staff, and board members to make a 1-year commitment to giving a monthly recurring gift of any amount to SAGU.

The goal for year 1 is 20 individuals and 100 by year 5.

www.sagu.edu/2027regents

two decades and is an integral part of the dealership team. He attributes his success to his earlier years at SAGU. "I'm grateful for the spiritual foundation of Southwestern," he says, "and also the endless amounts of friendships that were fostered during those years, friendships that have lasted decades, even to today."

Martinez explains that his involvement in Student Congress was the foundation of the formation of self-confidence and leadership. Martinez enjoys contributing back to SAGU by serving in New Student Orientation, having his dealership sponsor SMA outreach events, and providing vehicles for the SAGU Golf Classic and Church Leadership Golf Tournament.

“I feel personally, it's time for us to rally and give back together as SAGU nears its 100 Year Anniversary.”

SAGU Latino alumni have expressed to the University that they want to be remembered as a giving community. The Siglo Society not only realizes that dream but has also inspired a goal of uniting 100 Hispanic alumni to make a 1-year commitment of giving \$50 a month to SAGU.

For more information, contact Girien Salazar, Director of Development, advancementoffice@sagu.edu (972) 825-4869 or visit www.sagu.edu/2027siglo. ■

YOU ARE THE DIFFERENCE



Rick Bowles,
VP for Advancement

Sometimes you read portions of a book that just jump out at you. This is one of those times. J.P. Moreland wrote a book entitled Love Your God with All Your Mind, and this excerpt says what is on my heart much better than I can try to verbalize on my own.

“We need to increase our individual and congregational giving to support Christian

scholarships. When I speak in a church, I sometimes challenge people to ask themselves just how much of their individual giving, or church budget, goes to support the development of Christian scholarships? Most people have never even thought of such an idea.

Evangelical colleges and seminaries are grossly underfunded. As a result, many such schools are tuition driven. Their faculties are underpaid, strapped with inordinate teaching loads, and left with inadequate library sources and funds for professional conferences compared to their secular counterparts.

And we expect those schools and their faculties to compete in the war of ideas! Moreover, there is less scholarship money available to students who attend evangelical colleges and seminaries compared to those who attend secular institutions. Unfortunately, students at evangelical seminaries face high tuitions and, therefore,

must work part-time jobs when they could be in the library improving their educational experience and ministerial training.

If we evangelicals are tired of being underrepresented in the media, the university, and the government, then we need to support evangelical scholarship(s), especially solid evangelical colleges and seminaries, because such institutions nurture the intellectual leaders of the future.”

Do you agree? Does this challenge you or get you excited about what can happen at SAGU if we come together for a common purpose?

The 2027 Project is not just about raising much needed money for Southwestern. It is about serving others together as we celebrate our incredible history and legacy of 100 years! It is about connecting with those of you who SAGU has impacted at some level, personally or through other relationships. And, yes, we boldly ask you to consider a financial partnership prayerfully. But we also greatly appreciate your prayers as well as you sharing information about SAGU with your family and friends.

Are you willing to join us as we seek to advance God’s Kingdom through the ministry of education and continue to train up Spirit-empowered leaders to make an impact on this world? Please go to www.sagu.edu/2027 to read more about the 2027 Project and to choose one of our online giving partnership opportunities.

Thank you, and we hope to see you at Homecoming 2022! ■



"Being part of the soccer team has given me the privilege to be a leader on and off the field. To be a person the team can look up to for motivation, support, and encouragement!

Being surrounded by this positive team environment, I deepen my relationships with my teammates and even call them my family. Not only that, but I also strengthen and grow in faith with the soccer team and go to another level spiritually!"

Sergio Valegra
Mens Soccer

ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

is automatic upon graduation from SAGU. However, additional memberships are available that will keep you connected to campus and provide you with opportunities to give back to your Alma Mater! This year we are launching a Centennial Level Lifetime Membership tier. This tier will only be available through 2027 and a part of your membership dues is considered a charitable contribution.



Greg Thurstonson,
President
Alumni Association

I can't say enough good things about the Alumni Association! This network is a wonderful opportunity to advance your future by staying connected with your past. Many people have shared stories with me about relationships built and resources gained because of their ability to connect at these events. I've gained insight and comradery through my participation in this association, including reading articles in the newsletter,

listening to SAGU podcasts, and spending time in conversation with other SAGU graduates.

SAGU has been a launching pad for so many; I'm inspired now, more than ever, to give back to the place that is continuing to raise Christian leaders. It is incredible to watch the newer generations come through here as they choose to build their lives on a biblical foundation, and we should support them in every way possible.

Joining the Alumni Association is a practical yet powerful way to grow the influence of your life and your alma mater.



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

BASIC General Membership, Monthly Alumni Connection Newsletter, SAGU Today Printed Newsletter, Access to Alumni events	FREE
PURPLE Basic + Alumni Association Member T-Shirt, Membership Card	\$25/YR
GOLD Purple + Exclusive Alumni Gift, Priority Access to Alumni Events and Discounted Pricing	\$100/YR
PLATINUM Gold + Yearly Sport Pass, VIP Ticket to Homecoming	\$250/YR
CENTENNIAL Platinum + Advisory/Input into Alumni Projects & Events with Quarterly Zoom Call	\$2750/ LIFETIME

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

As SAGU prepares to celebrate the collegiate centennial, the campus blueprint is being enhanced with the addition of a new athletics venue. Phase I construction is well underway and is set to be completed by the Fall of 2022. The project has three phases, with Phase II beginning when the necessary funds have been raised. The completion of this venue has been long-awaited by hard-working SAGU athletes who have excelled in competition despite the lack of on-campus facilities. Currently, Waxahachie ISD Lumpkins's Stadium plays host to SAGU's home games. SAGU deeply appreciates WISD's generosity and partnership and is looking forward to transitioning SAGU athletes to a facility all their own.

The completion of Phase I will include an artificial turf field, an eight-lane competition track, field lighting, and practice fields for the football, soccer, and track and field programs. The capabilities afforded in this phase will also allow the soccer team to play evening games. The benefits of Phase I, however, reach much farther than just immediate advantages for the athletes. "The impact to SAGU of Phase I will be seen in enrollment management and the student-athlete experience," Dr. Jesse Godding, Director of Athletics, comments. The advancement of Phase I would not be possible without the

generous support of SAGU partners. VP for University Advancement Rick Bowles says,

"We are thankful for the many business partners, churches, ministries, and individuals who have donated to help us get to the point we are at developing this first phase."

As the completion of Phase I quickly approaches, the focus from the President and Advancement Offices will shift to funding Phase II with new support from alumni, churches, and businesses.

"The impact of Phase II will incorporate the student-athlete, fan, and total campus experience," says Dr. Godding. This phase will include grandstands and visitor bleachers for approximately 3,000 people, allowing SAGU to host football games. This phase will also include a press box and LED video board, which are practical prerequisites to hosting home games. Additionally, a South Pavilion will feature concessions, restroom facilities, a conference room, and a baseball and softball press box overlooking the softball field.

Phase II is a 5 million dollar project that SAGU looks to fund through donations and advertising sponsorships from partners. Currently, opportunities exist for naming rights on the LED video board, South Pavilion (baseball and softball press box, donor suite, and conference room), and the turf field itself. "SAGU competitions, outreaches, summer camps, and revenue generation opportunities will all be impacted by the completion of Phase II," says Dr. Godding, "SAGU Athletics is hopeful that continued generosity and vision of donors will make Phase II a reality on the SAGU campus."

If you would like to request more information, please contact Rick Bowles, Vice President for University Advancement at rbowles@sagu.edu or (972) 825-4639. ■

LEGACY THAT MATTERS

When it comes to leaving a legacy, former Dallas Cowboy defensive player Greg Ellis certainly isn't lacking. Ellis joins the SAGU family as head football coach after his career of twelve seasons playing in the NFL, as well as the University of North Carolina and the Oakland Raiders, and more recently, coaching at Texas College.

Ellis is excited to be in an environment where He can openly express both his passion for football and His love for the Lord. "It's like a breath of fresh air..." says Ellis, "...to get to be in an environment that you enjoy - which is football - and it's a Christian environment! It's the best of both worlds." Ellis mentions that over his lifetime, he's seen many people who seemed to "have it all" but were still empty. He's constantly reminding the team,

"Make sure you nurture that relationship with Jesus because if you don't, you can gain all this stuff, and you're still empty."

The current spiritual groundwork at SAGU is a strength Ellis is looking forward to building on to leave an eternal legacy. "We want football players to embrace their identity as SAGU students and what the University stands for. These players are in the spotlight, and we want to see them set the example as servant-leaders on campus."

Coach Ellis is excited about starting the year with current recruits and building on last season's victories. "Looking at our roster," he says, "I think we have a very talented football team. However, it's not the only thing that matters. We all love football, but above that, we want young people to be developed into great people who live productive lives. We're going to work hard and push ourselves. Not miss an opportunity to do something special."

The construction of SAGU's new athletic facilities is an additional blessing for Ellis and the team. "I'm humbled that God allowed me to be placed into this situation," he says, "it's a tremendous opportunity for these young guys to get a chance to play in SAGU's stadium." Coach Ellis is committed to setting each player up for success in life, long after the scoreboard numbers fade. His lifestyle of "Seeking the Kingdom first" is evident in the decisions he makes and the lifestyle he lives.

Living that example along with the football team is something Coach Ellis is looking forward to. "In seeking God first, everything else will work out better," he reminds us. In the end, that is the legacy that matters - the legacy of a life well-lived in pursuit of the Kingdom. ■



30 40 50

A GENEROUS LEGACY

In preparation for our 100th year anniversary, we spotlight several partners whose gifts today will carry into the next 100 years. Proverbs 13:22 says, “a good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children.” Part of that legacy is ensuring that future generations will have access to Christian education.

John and Myrna Wyckoff, members of the Echo Society, have committed a \$20,000 endowment that year after year will provide a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving SAGU student. The Wyckoff’s involvement and contribution to SAGU span over six decades.



By giving this endowed gift, John and Myrna’s generosity will “echo” for the next 100 years. SAGU seeks 13 new endowed gifts to reach our goal of 100 fully endowed scholarships by 2027.

Joyce Bridges, another Legacy Giver, has chosen to give through a Charitable Gift Annuity. Joyce’s involvement with the University is part of four generations of SAGU students, beginning with Joyce’s parents. Joyce has had a heart for the Lord since she was very young. In early adulthood, she was a member of a street ministry team located in Houston, where she met her late husband, James Bridges.

They married and moved to Waxahachie to attend SAGU, where the Lord placed a deep hunger in Joyce’s heart for the Word of God. Throughout the following years, the Bridges continued to support the school through prayer, leadership influence, and generous gifts to advance the development of the school.

“We’ve had this prayer through the years, Lord, help us to find a way to make a significant gift, to make a good contribution.”

With a simple gift arrangement known as a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA), you provide a charitable gift to SAGU while also receiving a permanent income stream for life. CGAs are a suitable choice for anyone

living on a fixed income or concerned about outliving their retirement — but still wants to give generously.

David and Elizabeth Brazell Nichols have elected to give a Shared Legacy Gift by donating the proceeds of their home after they have gone to be with the Lord. This gift is among many given to the University by the Nichols family.

Elizabeth’s father, Rev. George Brazell, served as Vice-President of SAGU for 12 years and is known for bringing a live lion cub onto campus, which became SAGU’s “Lion of Judah” mascot. The Nichols family realizes that they hold the honor and responsibility to give back to SAGU.



“We believe if Christians do not support Christian education, then Christian education will cease to exist. It is an extraordinary joy for us to support our SAGU family.”



A deferred gift is a perfect way to impact students beyond the life of the donor. SAGU believes for 100 generous individuals to commit a legacy gift to SAGU in either their will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy.

Will you join these Legacy Givers and reap the joy of knowing that your gift leaves an earthly legacy and carries an eternal impact and reward?

For more information, contact Girien Salazar, Director of Development, advancementoffice@sagu.edu (972) 825-4869. ■

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



“I’m a missionary kid from the Dominican Republic, and I’ve spent four years of my life doing ministry alongside my parents. This season of life has been more difficult than expected, because I almost lost my dad to COVID last year. It was a journey of faith for me and my brother, who also attends SAGU, but we believed God for a miracle. After days in ICU, Restorative Care, home-health care, and hours of prayer, my father is completely healed! I know that during and after my time here at SAGU, God will continue to do miracles in my life and I’ll get to share those stories with many others!”

Abigail Tvedt
Church Leadership



“When I had the opportunity to study English in Texas and go to SAGU, my family and I knew that it would be a financial challenge. However, we also knew that if God really wanted me here that he would provide. I have a burden and passion to apply the knowledge I learn here at SAGU to help business people back in Russia and to serve the local church. My people need to be delivered from Atheism and return to God, and I’m called to show my fellow Russians the love of Christ. I know there is nothing God cannot do.”

Artem Gorbenko
Business Management

LEGACY

FELLOWSHIP

ECHO SOCIETY



5-YEAR GOAL:
100 Fully Endowed Scholarships

Can one gift really echo for 100 years?

With an endowed gift, you establish an enduring scholarship or fund that blesses SAGU students year after year. An endowed scholarship provides the donor an opportunity to name the scholarship in memory of a loved one or heartfelt burden and help establish criteria for the scholarship recipient or use of funds. A fully endowed scholarship begins at \$20,000 and can be created with a one-time gift or through contributions over the course of two to five years.

We currently have 87 endowed scholarships. Throughout The 2027 Project, we seek 13 new endowed gifts to reach our goal of 100 fully endowed scholarships by 2027.

www.sagu.edu/2027echo

CHARITABLE GIFT ARRANGEMENTS



5-YEAR GOAL:
100 Charitable Gifts Annuities

Take care of yourself and take care of SAGU.

With a simple gift arrangement known as a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA), you provide a charitable gift to SAGU while also receiving a permanent income stream for life. CGAs are often viewed as a suitable choice for anyone living on a fixed income or concerned about outliving their retirement — but still wants to give generously. When you give through a CGA, you receive an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of the amount you give. Plus, a percentage of the fixed income is tax-free for the duration of your projected life expectancy. As part of the 2027 Project, we are seeking 100 CGAs by the year 2027.

www.sagu.edu/2027cga

SHARED LEGACIES



5-YEAR GOAL:
100 Individuals including SAGU in their will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy

If The 2027 Project is about building a firm foundation for SAGU's next 100 years, then a planned or deferred gift is the perfect way to impact students beyond the life of the donor. SAGU is bold enough to believe that God can lead 100 generous individuals to commit a legacy gift to SAGU in either their will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. No matter the amount you commit to the University, SAGU will be a part of your legacy and you will forever be a part of SAGU's.

www.sagu.edu/2027legacy

THE FUTURE

STARTS NOW



Girien Salazar,
Director of Development

The 2027 Project is an opportunity for me to invest in SAGU's future.

My time as a SAGU student began in the Fall of 2003, and I absolutely enjoyed the journey toward receiving my undergraduate degree in 2007 and my masters in 2013.

The youngest of four, reticent and hesitant, I found my voice and discovered myself on campus. I

joined a traveling worship group, served in student congress, went on missions trips, and even found a place on the soccer team.

SAGU gave so much to me; a traveling ministry scholarship, student congress stipend, and athletic scholarship, to name a few. Additionally, the University's buildings, such as Guynes and Teeter Halls, Sheaffer Center, McCafferty Hall, and Foster Center, were where I had hundreds of encounters with the Holy Spirit that shaped and prepared me for a variety of professional roles.

Now that I work in the advancement office, I see that everything my alma mater provided for me was made possible through

the generosity of so many faithful friends of SAGU. For nearly 100 years, every gift that has come through SAGU has provided students with transformative moments in their walk with the Lord; built firmly on the continued prayers and generosity of others, we will advance this legacy for another century.

You have read what others are doing for The 2027 Project, and now I ask you to consider:

What can you do these next five years to prepare SAGU for the next 100?

Will you visit campus to pray over the student body or share your stories and testimonies with the Alumni Association? Will you bring your family to campus or reunite with your dormmates during homecoming? Will you commit to giving \$25, \$50, or \$100 monthly for one year? Or will you make a donation that leaves an earthly legacy for future SAGU students?

Now is our moment to ensure a healthy foundation for SAGU, the Spirit-empowered University that equips leaders and world-changers. Join us over the next five years.

Go to www.sagu.edu/2027 and become part of The 2027 Project today. ■





1200 Sycamore St., Waxahachie, TX., 75165



Scheduling My way.

When your family needs care, you should be able to set up appointments ASAP. Manage all your healthcare on your schedule with the MyBSWHealth app. Scan the QR code to get the app and find a doctor at Baylor Scott & White Waxahachie.

