



## Center of it All

BY DR. JERRY POUNDS - 2025 FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN

**N**ostalgia is a powerful phenomenon. We've all felt the warmth of fond memories triggered, perhaps, by a smell or a song. Or maybe it's a comfort and sense of longing you feel when visiting a particular place.

For me, there are few places in the world that stir up as many happy memories as NOBTS. It's always felt like home. In fact, I grew up on this campus as the son of two professors (Drs. Jerry and Bayne Pounds) and have spent endless hours playing with my childhood and lifelong best friend, Greg Wilton, the current Dean of Leavell College. Now, our children play together on our old stomping grounds, and my kids don't understand why we can't just move to 3939 Gentilly Blvd and live here permanently.



Jerry Pounds (left) and Greg Wilton (right)

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*The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation*

## Center of it All

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I know the Seminary holds a special place in your heart as it does mine. Thank you for giving sacrificially to help train the next generation of pastors, ministers, and missionaries. Your faithful giving is inspiring and infectious. There are several of you who have given faithfully to NOBTS since I was a five-year-old learning to swim in the Seminary pool (thank you, Erik Dukes, for those swimming lessons!)

As much as I loved my idyllic childhood on campus, I'm even more excited about what God is doing and will do in the future in the lives of the students, faculty, and staff.

God has richly blessed NOBTS with such incredible leadership from Dr. Jamie Dew and his all-star cast of administrators and professors. And as we have heard from Dr. Dew, the best chance to push back the darkness in our broken world is the students of NOBTS, and their best chance is us.

“  
When we invest in  
the Seminary, the  
return is eternal.  
”

Jerry Pounds

How amazing is that! God has invited each of us to take part in the mighty work He is doing at NOBTS. I want to challenge us to share the excitement of what He is doing with others so that we can grow this body of Foundation Board members to have an even greater impact in the future.

When we invest in the Seminary, the return is eternal. What would it look like if we all leveraged our relationships for the sake of the gospel in support of NOBTS? How many more pastors, missionaries, teachers, and evangelists could we send?

As we look back to what God has done, we anticipate what He will do through our prayers for the Seminary, our sacrificial contributions, and our efforts to bring others into the work God is doing here on campus. And we trust God's Word to be true: He is going to do “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20). ✿

Jerry Pounds - 2025 Chairman



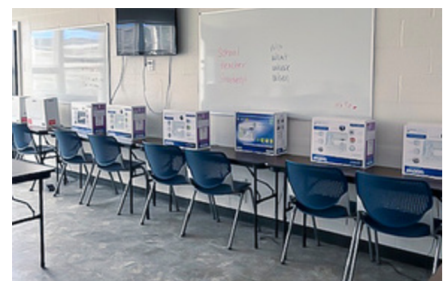
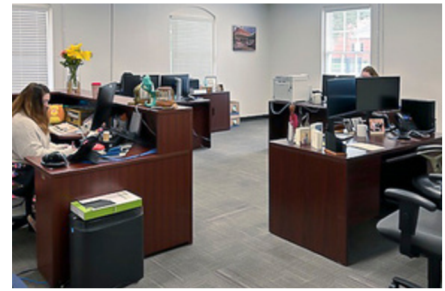
The Pounds and Wilton Families together on campus

## Repurpose; Expansion

Last year, the NOBTS Foundation voted to use the endowment interest of \$142,000 to convert the Louise and Richard Danielson Early Learning Center to office space for The Office of Institutional Advancement and for the Home School classrooms. The total conversion cost was projected to be \$175,000 and the Foundation voted to raise an additional \$35,000 by June 1st to complete the project.

Through the generosity of individual members, this goal was achieved. A total of \$177,000 was dedicated to the Danielson building conversion.

The chart below gives a spending summary of the total project. 🌸



Category	Expense	Sum of Charges
<b>Fixtures and Finishes</b>	Countertops	\$3,640.00
	Electrical Work	\$2,144.12
	Miscellaneous Plumbing	\$176.91
	Siemens Equipment/Installations	\$3,863.58
<b>Fixtures and Finishes Total</b>		<b>\$9,824.61</b>
<b>Major Construction and Repairs</b>	Construction and Major System Work	\$67,900.00
	Flooring	\$30,072.84
	HVAC System	\$39,686.19
<b>Major Construction and Repairs Total</b>		<b>\$137,659.03</b>
<b>Materials and Labor</b>	Building Materials	\$15,006.06
	Labor	\$18,216.90
	Tools and Hardware	\$14,747.10
<b>Materials and Labor Total</b>		<b>\$47,970.06</b>
<b>Professional Services and Other</b>	Design Services	\$540.00
	Miscellaneous and Unclassified	\$13,975.39
	Security Systems	\$426.22
<b>Professional Services and Other Total</b>		<b>\$14,941.61</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$210,395.31</b>

## Faithful Servant; Friend

### Wanda Gregg

For 24 years, Wanda Gregg has faithfully served the NOBTS family as Director of Donor Relations, becoming the heart behind so many of the meaningful relationships we treasure with our alumni and friends. With compassion, grace, and an unwavering commitment to our mission, she has walked alongside countless donors—celebrating milestones, offering encouragement, and inspiring generosity that has fueled Kingdom work across generations.

Her decision to retire, prompted by a courageous battle with acute myeloid leukemia, comes as a moment of deep reflection and even deeper gratitude.

Though the news of her diagnosis was met with heavy hearts, her resilience and faith have been nothing short of inspiring. Even now, she remains active and joyfully engaged as her strength allows—ever the encourager, ever the faithful friend.

We honor her now not just for the years she gave, but for the love she poured out—quietly, consistently, and with a heart fully surrendered to Christ. Her legacy is not only written in donor reports and campus milestones, but in handwritten notes, warm embraces, and uplifting witness.

Wanda has left an indelible mark on the soul of this seminary. Her example reminds us that the most powerful ministry often takes place behind the scenes—with listening ears, open hands, and a heart full of prayer. We truly thank Wanda for showing us what it means to serve with joy, even in the midst of life's hardest chapters. We love you and praise God for the love you share. ✿



Wanda at her retirement celebration

### Wanda Gregg Woman's Auxiliary Endowed Scholarship

The Seminary has renamed the Woman's Auxiliary Scholarship to the Wanda Gregg Woman's Auxiliary Endowed Scholarship, commemorating Miss Gregg's dedicated legacy of faithfulness and support.

This scholarship aims to assist any woman called by God and preparing for gospel ministry, whether domestically or internationally. With an endowment balance approaching \$250,000 and an ambitious goal of \$500,000, it stands poised to create a significant and enduring impact.

Currently, women constitute nearly 32% of our student body, and this fund serves as a crucial resource to ensure every qualified woman receives the necessary support for her journey.

**"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act."**

**Proverbs 3:27 CSB**

# One Voice

## New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the two individuals who have committed to joining us in this worthy endeavor. Their dedication and contributions will undoubtedly enrich our collective efforts and propel us closer to realizing our goals.

Gregg Phillips, Ruston, LA  
Bob Freschette, Metairie, LA

Welcome to each of you, and thank you for joining us!

## mission

*The New Orleans Baptist Seminary Foundation is to raise funds for and awareness of NOBTS and Leavell College, empowering the institution to prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.*

## TOOLKIT



How will they know about the Seminary unless they're told? How will you explain to them what the Seminary is pursuing if we don't tell you? Please use these digital Foundation Essentials booklets to share the work in which you're involved.

Access them by scanning the QR code with your phone or mobile device camera.



Physical copies are available upon request.

## Membership Requirements

- Members are to pray for the Seminary daily.
- Commitment to give or raise\* \$5,000 minimum to the Foundation Endowment per year.
- Enlist new members.
- Attendance at the Annual Meeting is missed only by excused absence.
- Each board member will be asked to help facilitate regional "NOBTS and Friends" events.
- Members give above their annual commitment to the Giving Tuesday Matching Gift fund.
- Members who give a minimum of \$100,000 in a one-time gift secure Lifetime membership.
  - Lifetime members are encouraged to continue providing financial support to meet the Seminary's needs.

\*Membership eligibility is achieved by either recruiting others who meet the membership criteria or securing gifts from external sources that assist you in meeting these criteria. Members are encouraged to make personal annual contributions.

## Alumni Engagement

### Our Director

Christian Townson serves as the Director of Alumni Engagement at NOBTS and Leavell College. In this role, he focuses on four key pillars to strengthen the connection between alumni and their alma mater: communication, experiences, volunteerism, and philanthropy. His primary emphasis has been on increasing communication while also creating new pathways to support alumni in their ministry contexts. This includes producing specialized content, hosting local and regional events for continuing education, and collecting stories that help tell—and retell—the story of NOBTS.

“At NOBTS and Leavell College, we call students to prepare here and serve anywhere. In the same spirit, we aim to serve our alumni—anywhere and everywhere they go in the various spheres of Christian service.”

Christian is also a Ph.D. student in Christian Leadership. He lives on campus with his wife, Danyel, and their newborn daughter, Lottie.



**Christian Townson**

*“I am grateful to serve in this role and excited to continue to lead, serve, and make a difference for our alumni.”*

## Future Fundraising

### Giving Tuesday Campaign



*Your contribution to the GTMGF exceeds what is expected from your Foundation membership.*

Once again, the Foundation has set a Giving Tuesday goal of \$500,000 and committed to raising half of that—\$250,000—through the Giving Tuesday Matching Gift Fund (GTMGF). Your contributions and pledges to the GTMGF play a vital role in motivating NOBTS & Leavell College alumni and friends to give generously. Thank you for leading the way and inspiring others to join this important initiative!

### **Dates to remember:**

**August 1 - Gifts and pledges begin.**  
**September 30 - GTMGF gifts and pledges are due**  
**December 2 - Giving Tuesday Campaign**

## Foundation Member Portal

### New Membership Features

We're excited to introduce a new online member portal designed exclusively for Foundation members! This secure and easy-to-use platform will be your central hub for staying connected to the work of the Seminary.

Through the portal, you'll be able to update your personal information and manage your giving—especially helpful for those who give by credit or debit card. You'll also find event details, access to the online Foundation member directory, and news about what's happening at NOBTS and Leavell College.

An email with your personal access link will arrive by May 1. Once inside, you can explore the many ways to stay informed and engaged with the Foundation and the mission we share.

We're grateful for your continued partnership and hope this new tool helps you feel even more connected to the seminary you faithfully support.

## Fundraising Success

### Spring Giving Days

Our fourth annual Spring Giving Days was a tremendous success! It is with overflowing joy that we share this year's Spring Giving Days goal of 150 participants was exceeded because of 170 alumni and friends making a gift!

Spring Giving Days is about helping students through scholarships. This year we added a little fun with a faculty, staff, and student putt-putt challenge called Putt 4 Providence. Nearly 50 administrators, faculty, staff, and students participated by making a gift and playing for prizes!

We are grateful to have the prayers and encouragement from those who choose to help NOBTS and Leavell College students.





## DEMENT SOCIETY

### Taking Stock

Over the past five years, we have seen God's blessings unfold at NOBTS, often in unexpected ways. Some of our past faithful Foundation members made decisions that have significantly impacted our ability to train students today—providing nearly \$7 million through their estate plans.

When Foundation members choose to include NOBTS in their estate plans, they leave a lasting legacy that advances God's Kingdom through theological education. If you're considering this kind of gift or would like more information, we would be honored to start that conversation with you today.

### Gone Before Us

For those who once walked among us and now dwell in heaven, beholding their Lord and Savior, Jesus, face to face:

Stacy Adams (wife of Steve) June 5, 2024

Jeff Victory (husband of Nancy) September 26, 2024

Bob Brooks (husband of Donna) December 21, 2024

Stacy, Jeff, and Bob lived lives marked by love—for their families, their churches, and their communities. We are deeply grateful to have known them as cherished members of the NOBTS & Leavell College family. May their legacy continue through us, bringing glory to God and bearing witness to His righteousness.

### Board Officers

Jerry Pounds - Chairman

Ben Humphries - Vice-Chair

Scott Ramsey - Recording Secretary

Larry Lyon - Treasurer

Mike Wetzel - Executive Secretary

### Team Captains

Recruitment - Ben Humphries

Stewardship - Errol Wilken

Alumni Engagement- Gil McKee

DeMent Society- Chuck Simmons

### Institutional Advancement

Mike Wetzel

*VP for Institutional Advancement*

Mark Hagelman

*Director of Development*

Christian Townson

*Director of Alumni Engagement*

Lindsay Holder

*Director of Development Services*

Carla Ross

*Director of Stewardship*



### Contact Us!

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or by email at

development@nobts.edu



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