



INSPIRE

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Photo: Foundation Board - Campus Tour

Our Future; Our Faith

BY DR. MIKE WETZEL

What a difference a year makes. We finally met together as a Foundation Board and had a very productive meeting that produced significant results. The work ahead of us is vital and will help more students prepare here and serve communities worldwide with the compelling message of Christ's grace and forgiveness.

As you read this newsletter, I believe you will appreciate the significance of our work as a Foundation Board. Specifically, you will read about some former Foundation Board members, now in glory, and their estate contributions which have connected us to their families and communities.

These family's estate gifts are transformational as they have created five new endowments elevating our faculty, students, and ministry to the community.



Photo: Greg Wilton - Co-Dean for Leavell College

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The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation Board

Our Future; Our Faith

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Photo: Dr. Jamie Dew,
President NOBTS & Leavell College

Board officers and team leaders have agreed to meet virtually every quarter. April 5 is our first scheduled meeting. I am excited as we kick off a brand new year of collaboration as I expect this year to be a year of transformation and rebirth for this board.

One item that excites me most is the reinstatement of honorary members. You permitted us to ask pastors who have a heart for the seminary to join the recruitment efforts. We have had a spectacular response, and I look forward to sharing the names of these men with you soon.

Following the annual meeting, Dr. Dew and I participated in an NOBTS & Friends Event in Hattiesburg, MS. Multiple Foundation Board members, in concert with members from our Trustees, helped connect NOBTS to their circle of family and friends.

This new group has committed above and beyond to capital improvements and student scholarships. We thank all involved who made this Hattiesburg event a success. This NOBTS & Friends event is just the beginning. On April 28, Dr. Dew and I will be in Baton Rouge with a few board members, as well as alumni. We hope they bring family and friends to hear directly from Jamie and catch his vision for NOBTS and Leavell College. Please pray daily for these unique encounters to bear fruit.

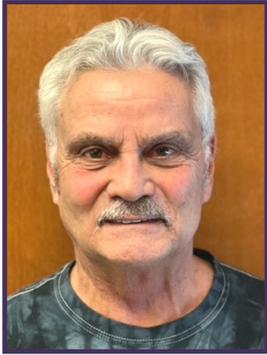
As we get ready to celebrate the Good News of Easter, we need to remind ourselves of the promise of the cross and empty tomb. The risen Christ gives us the motive, power, and command to do all the things we do. The resurrection, for the believer, changes everything.



Photo: left - Dr. Jamie Dew, President; center - Dr. Jim Henry; right - Dr. Mike Wetzel, VP for Institutional Advancement

New Members - We've Got Em'

Foundation Board members provide the backbone by which the seminary stands tall. NOBTS and Leavell College need our members' intentional friend-raising focus.



Bob Donaldson



Dustin Morris



Todd Morris



Charles Pitman

These eight men have joined the Foundation Board! You affirmed the four men pictured above as Trustee confirmed members during our annual meeting. Our NOBTS & Leavell College Trustees will confirm the four men shown below during their April meeting. Welcome to each of you, and thank you for choosing to join us!



Edward Greer



Jerry Pounds



David Martin



Kurt Wamsley

Our membership is made stronger because of you! Dr. Jody Dean is our Recruitment Team Leader. If you have questions or need information regarding recruiting new members, don't hesitate to contact him directly at jdean@nobts.edu. - Jody is the Associate Professor for Christian Education for NOBTS and Leavell College.

Honorary Members

As voted on by all present at the annual meeting, ten pastors with significant influence and love for NOBTS & Leavell College will be asked by Dr. Mike Wetzel to consider joining the Foundation Board's recruitment efforts. These pastors will abide by the exact terms of membership less the annual \$5,000 financial gift to the Foundation Board Endowment. There will be more details from Dr. Wetzel coming in the future. Please pray for the growth of board membership through these new honorary members.



Membership Requirements

The future of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College is bright! As an active member of the Foundation Board, you are vital to our success. When you give your annual Foundation Board gift, your gift will go to the Foundation Board Endowment. We are grateful for your support through the years, and we look forward to serving with you for years to come!

- Initial three-year commitment to give or raise \$5,000 minimum per year.
- A commitment to continued giving on an annual basis.
- Attendance at the Annual Meeting is missed only by excused absence.
- Members are to pray for the Seminary daily.
- A person is eligible for membership by enlisting others who meet the membership requirements or securing gifts from an outside entity that matches the membership requirements. These persons are encouraged to give personally on an annual basis.
- Members who give a minimum of \$100,000 in a one-time gift secure Lifetime membership. These persons are encouraged to continue providing to meet the Seminary's needs.
- Members are encouraged to enlist new members within three years.
- Each board member will be asked to help facilitate a regional "NOBTS and Friends" event in their region.
- Members give above their annual commitment to the Giving Tuesday Matching Gift fund.

Until Christ Returns

Milburn and Nancy Calhoun were faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Nancy was a Foundation Board member in the 80s. She and Milburn both loved the Bible and were avid believers in the power of God's Word.

During their lives, they passed their faith along to their two children, Kathleen Calhoun Nettleton, who passed away last year, and David Calhoun, a professor of philosophy at Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, and a frequent speaker at the yearly NOBTS apologetics conference, Defend.

Pointing back to his father's humble beginnings, David said his father taught him the importance of giving back. "It was clear to my father that as God blesses, we find ways to give."

In December 2021, David dissolved his father and mother's foundation giving \$880,000 for the NOBTS Apologetics programs. Their contribution is transformational in three ways:

1. The Calhoun Family Endowment for Christian Apologetics bolsters NOBTS Apologetics by providing funding for events, guest speakers, workshops, and conferences.

2. The Calhoun Ph.D. Fellowship for Apologetics and Philosophy aims to attract leading Ph.D. students in Christian Apologetics and Philosophy.

3. The Calhoun Defend the Faith Scholarship fosters real growth for fledgling apologetics students who desire to master the defense of the scriptures.

This gift from the Calhoun family is not their first. In 2010, they purchased a high-tech facsimile of the Codex Sinaiticus -- the oldest copy of the Bible. In 2011, the Calhouns graciously donated the facsimile to the seminary. As a result, you can tour NOBTS's Museum of the Bible and see it today.

“It was clear to my father that as God blesses, we find ways to give.”

DAVID CALHOUN

Milburn and Nancy understood and instructed their children, Kathleen and David, about the importance of securing the future of theological education.

We thank the Calhouns for loving the seminary and David for establishing these endowments in memory of his parents and sister. NOBTS & Leavell College prepare servants to defend the faith today and continue until Christ returns.

Prolific Productivity



Recruitment Team - Jody Dean, Captain

Each active, voting Foundation Board member has committed to the membership requirement of giving or influencing \$5,000 per year towards the endowment, along with working to enlist new members. The term is three years for each member.

There is no better time to use your influence to increase our membership to 200 members (currently our bylaw limit). Reaching this goal begins when we tell our family and friends about partnering with the seminary's Foundation. Please email Jody - jdean@nobts.edu



Events Team - Carol Wilken, Captain

NOBTS & Friends Events are a way to introduce your circle of friends to the Seminary. Are you ready to schedule an event? Here are four steps to follow: 1. Confirm Your Guest List; 2. Date and Location; 3. Pray for the Event.; 4. Contact Carol Wilken!

To contact Carol:
carol.wilken@metairiebc.org
 (504) 444-3722



Board Training Team - Chris Townson, Captain

When you commit to growing the Foundation Board's reach, you commit to training at the highest level. Whether this is the first board you have been part of or you have participated in many, remaining teachable is vital to success.

Chris is leading the way for each board member to understand their role and responsibility.

Please email Chris with any questions - ctownson@staff-dtc.com



Giving Tuesday Team- Mike Haley, Captain

The Foundation Board's membership was the catalyst for last year's Giving Tuesday success! Your commitment to increasing this year's matching gift to \$150,000 is inspiring! We hope to see an unbelievable response from each member and prayerfully anticipate God moving the hearts of NOBTS & Leavell College alumni and friends.

Do you have questions? Contact Mike at mhaleysr@gmail.com



Directory/ Fellowship Team - Becky Wallace Harris, Captain

You care deeply for NOBTS and Leavell College, but do you know everyone who serves on the board? Look for the new directory coming in May.

If you have not added your information to the directory, don't hesitate to contact Becky Harris today.

call her cell phone at 903-530-3635, or email her - tbharris@sbcglobal.net



DEMENT SOCIETY

Heart, Soul, Mind, & Strength

In the gospel of Mark, chapter 12 verse 28, Jesus is asked by a religious leader, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" Christ replies in verses 30-31, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these." Our dear friends John and Alice Henderson understood Christ's commands and lived them out.

The Hendersons met and married in New Orleans in 1967 and spent many years here. While in New Orleans, they were First Baptist New Orleans members and were introduced to the Seminary Foundation, becoming actively involved in the '80s.

John and Alice believed in investing in the work of theological education, but a father's declining health demanded that they move to Jackson, Mississippi. Once there, they became members of First Baptist Jackson.

With strong ties to New Orleans and the Seminary Foundation, the Hendersons opened their hearts and home to their family, friends, and neighbors, intentionally sharing God's love with all those around them. The communities of New Orleans and Jackson were important to John and Alice, and they believed Christ was the answer to strengthening them.

John passed away on February 7, 2011, but before he went to heaven, he and Alice chose to include NOBTS & Leavell College in their estate plans.

We are grateful for the steadfast support and the enduring legacy of John and Alice Henderson. At the same time, we prepare servants to proclaim the message of Christ, their legacy gift of \$2.8 million funds a faculty chair in Church and Community Ministries and an additional endowment focusing on changing families with the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

For John and Alice, including NOBTS and Leavell College in their estate plans was an easy decision. Their transformational donations will strengthen New Orleans and Jackson communities until Christ returns.

Like the Hendersons, you may have included the seminary in your estate. Thank you for your decision. Maybe you have questions and want to talk about making similar arrangements like John and Alice. Please contact Mark Hagelman to begin the discussion today at 504-816-8002.

We mourn the loss of our dear friend and Foundation Board member Alice Henderson, who passed away on Sept. 15, 2021. Please join us as we pray for her family.

Soar to New Heights

BY MARK HAGELMAN

Eagles have always symbolized freedom, strength, and power. They were adopted by several ancient cultures, including Rome, to signify that country's leadership and immortality. The United States declared the bald eagle its national bird in 1782 due to the eagle's courage and longevity.

Courageously in 1965, nine men founded the seminary's Foundation Board. In that year, the seminary's buildings were 17 years old, and the upkeep and expansion of the property were vital to the seminary's mission. Knowing the need to support the seminary's mission through fundraising efforts, these men introduced their family and friends to the school, asking them to help.

Inspired by their foresight, today's members likewise participate in elevating awareness of the seminary. The Foundation's audited endowment balance is \$4.08 million. The annual interest earnings of the endowment are used for capital projects. The most strategic way to make a lasting difference is by adding to our endowment.

Today we have 97 members. If every member asks one person to join the Foundation by August, we will go into our new fiscal year with a packed membership roster and nearly \$500,000 added to the endowment!

Like the men and women who have gone before us, what family member or friend can stand alongside you for a three-year term? Invite them to be part of this great work. In addition, you might choose to sponsor a member; what a gift!

The purpose of the Foundation is to propel the seminary's work until Christ returns. You have read in this newsletter about the impact of past Foundation members like the Calhouns and the Hendersons. Now we have new and honorary members who join you in expanding the power of the Foundation into the future

Momentum is building, and we can soar to new heights with your help.

NOBTS Advancement Team

Mike Wetzel

VP for Institutional Advancement

Nancy Whatley

Administrative Assistant

Betty Lynn Campbell

Director of Development Services

Wanda Gregg

Director of Donor Relations

Mark Hagelman

Director of Development

Lindsay Holder

Data Secretary

Shann Phillips

Project Manager

Meagan Stedman

Gift Processor



The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation Board

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