Living up to her name

Freshman Moo Hser shares story of how God has blessed her

Moo Hser is a new face around Howard Payne but once you meet her, you may find yourself laughing uncontrollably, singing in the halls, and even running up to strangers and giving them hugs.

Moo will humbly tell you she is just a freshman Christian Studies major from Dallas and that that is all you need to know, but we want to share her whole story.

Moo and her family are refugees from Thailand. Moo remembers the devastation of 2001, she was only 3 years old but she recalls “blood everywhere. People young and old hit the ground. Babies died in parents’ arms from bullets and bombs. My mom carried my baby brother and my dad carried me in his left arm, with my older brother in his right while our oldest brother ran like a cheetah. “I remember my parents’ faces, worried about us, not themselves. I remember I looked back and saw women being tied up and men being shot right in front of their families,” Moo said.

Growing up as a refugee faltered Moo’s faith in the world and in God. She explains, “Me and my family were starving, crying out for hope, freedom, and food. Every night I heard my mother cry, crying herself to sleep, and I witnessed her trying to commit suicide twice.”

Moo shares that the question of “why?” would run through her mind each night. “Why God? Why? If you are there and if you love us, why are you letting these awful things happen to us?”

Later on, when Moo was about 8, sharing in her mother’s grief, she swallowed a handful of all the pills and medicines she could get her hand on. She then explains that God answered her question of “why?” with love and mercy. “Those pills weren’t his plan for me. God made me a person with a will and with a purpose,” Moo said.

“God provided me with strength and hope.” In 2007, Moo and her family escaped the bloodbaths along the Burma-Thailand border and were blessed with the opportunity to come to the United States.

“I saw these lights of the city. I saw this streetlight. Glowing poles and markers along the roads. It was so shiny, so beautiful. I knew everything I dreamed was true — it was Heaven,” Moo said of entering the country.

Sadly, her feelings of enchantment and safety were short-lived. Moo describes her first day at Hotchkiss Elementary School.

“I was lost,” she said. “I did not know where to go. I did not know how to speak English. They made fun of my name. Moo means ‘life’ in my country, but that’s not what it means here. And worst of all, no one was there to help me get through it all.”

This was Moo’s reality all the way through middle school, but once she reached high school, she “received a blessing” and said God had taught her, “the people making fun of you, the meanest ones, are the ones going through the hardest times. “Pain, caused by weapons or words, can be temporary,” Moo said.

Photo by Gabi Diazdeleon

Moo Hser and her roommate, Mary Beth Lane, in front of Veda Hodge Hall.

Every edition of the Yellow Jacket newspaper is available online at www.hputx.edu. Just search yellow jacket newspaper.
Don’t worry freshmen, it gets easier

As the 2017-2018 year begins and I cautiously take the wheel as new editor of the Yellow Jacket newspaper, I wonder what kinds of things I should write about in my editorials. My predecessors left fairly large shoes to fill. I felt a little overwhelmed by the responsibility, combined with the homework and extracurricular activities filling my schedule – but I feel like this at the beginning of every year, and I always figure things out as the semester progresses.

I also realized that there are so many other people feeling the same right now. Maybe even you, reader, may be feeling like you have too many things crowding your sanity.

Sometimes it helps just to realize what you’re feeling is not unusual, that you’re not struggling all alone.

Whether you’re a freshman exploring a whole new world, a senior like me pushing towards the finish line, or even maybe a professor who has lived through more college semesters than any of their students, chances are part of you is still trying to find your footing a few weeks into your classes.

I speak especially to the freshmen of this year. Don’t worry, you will get the hang of it. It always takes a few weeks to find your footing and iron out all the wrinkles in your schedule. Each semester gets easier than the last one to some degree, but there is always and adjustment period right at the beginning.

Believe it or not, this is the first semester I’ve had my room fully unpacked and organized before the last month of school. Granted, I didn’t bring as much stuff as I usually do, but I have gotten better at getting my life together in a reasonable amount of time.

Sometimes, I don’t even know what day it is. I’m writing this on a Tuesday and I keep thinking I’m about to be late for my Wednesday class. But I have a daily planner and a ton of alarms on my phone so that helps a little bit.

I highly recommend setting alarms for classes on your phone so you don’t get lost. HPU daily planners should be available in the Student Life office, or you can get some nice ones from Walmart. Getting organized can take some effort, but it definitely helps to reduce stress.

Hold on and breathe deep. Naps are not only okay, but sometimes they are essential. Be social, but take some recharge time for yourself. Volunteer where you can, but don’t be afraid to say “no.” Get your homework done early so you have time to relax.

But most importantly, remember that you aren’t alone in this. You live in a commune of students all able to empathize with you on some level. Just stay calm. The homework may get harder, but surviving gets easier.

To submit items and events to this HPU campus calendar, email yjacket@hputx.edu.

Sept. 7: Student-Led Worship, 9 p.m., ORC.
Sept. 10: Disciple Makers Multiplied Bible Study, 8 p.m., Mabee Center.
Sept. 11: 9/11 Memorial Garden, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Bell Towers.
Sept. 11: FCA Huddle Meeting, 7:30 p.m., FLLC.
Sept. 17: Disciple Makers Multiplied Bible Study, 8 p.m., Mabee Center.
Sept. 18-20: Encounter Week, 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Mims.
Sept. 20: “McFarland USA,” film and discussion on immigration, 6 p.m., Mims.

The Yellow Jacket is a student publication of Howard Payne University. Letters to the editor are welcome. Please send any feedback to yjacket@hputx.edu with “Letter to the Editor” in the subject line.
Dr. Nina Ouimette named HPU dean of nursing

By HPU Media Relations

Having served as a teacher and administrator in faith-based educational systems for almost 20 years, Dr. Nina Ouimette, Howard Payne University’s new dean of the School of Nursing, recognizes the importance of holistic nursing care. “This means providing for the whole person—physically, mentally and spiritually,” she said.

As a nursing school administrator, Ouimette has experience in matters of program and curriculum development, recruitment, regulation and accreditation. At HPU, she will lead the university’s efforts in making application to the Texas Board of Nursing to offer a pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Ouimette joined HPU’s faculty this summer after serving 17 years with Abilene’s Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing, most recently as dean and professor of nursing with tenure. She has additionally worked at hospitals and health care systems in Texas, North Carolina, Florida and Washington, D.C. Her career experience and fields of specialization are broad, ranging from women’s and children’s health to nursing informatics.

Ouimette said she feels called by God to the nursing profession and to the education of nurses. “I believe the nursing profession provides a platform of spreading the word of God to others while also promoting healthy living,” she said. “We try to follow the example of what Jesus did Himself—teaching, preaching and healing.”

Dr. W. Mark Tew, HPU’s provost and chief academic officer, said the university is pleased that Ouimette has joined the faculty. “Dr. Ouimette has extensive experience in the areas of administration, education and nursing,” Tew said. “We look forward to seeing HPU’s School of Nursing advance under her leadership.”

Ouimette holds a Doctor of Education degree in instructional technology from Texas Tech University. Her dissertation, which focused on developing and implementing online nurse education, was titled “Community of Inquiry as a Foundation for Academic Success: A Study of Social, Teaching and Cognitive Presence in Undergraduate Nursing Hybrid Courses.” Additionally, she earned a Master of Science in Nursing degree from Hardin-Simmons University; a Master of Science degree in child development and family relations from East Carolina University; and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from George Mason University.

Ouimette has numerous publications to her credit and her professional memberships include the Texas Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Nurses Informatics Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and the Association of Information Technology Professionals.

Nursing arrangement dissolved with Ranger College

By HPU Media Relations

Howard Payne University has announced its plans to dissolve a collaborative arrangement between HPU and Ranger College on nurse education. Dr. Bill Ellis, HPU president, informed the Ranger College president, Dr. Bill Campion, last week of the university’s intent to end the arrangement. HPU has two primary reasons for this action: lack of student interest and confusion regarding HPU’s stance on Ranger College’s efforts to make Brown County a taxing district. The agreement originated in August 2016 and was designed to allow students admitted to Ranger College’s pre-licensure Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program to live on the HPU campus, participate in the university’s student life activities and, on completion of the ADN program, apply for admission to HPU’s post-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program.

Despite publicity about the agreement between the two institutions and some initial interest expressed by students, no students took advantage of the arrangement. “As part of our university’s culture of assessment, we regularly evaluate the way we deliver course offerings and other programs,” said Ellis. “After being in place for a full year without any students, it is obvious to us that this collaborative arrangement is not of interest to students.”

Additionally, HPU has not taken a public stance on the matter regarding the proposed taxing district, preferring to leave the decision entirely in the hands of the citizens of Brown County. However, Ellis expressed concern that the agreement has been misconstrued as an endorsement by HPU of Ranger College’s tax referendum, which is not the case. “Based on these issues, HPU has decided the best course of action is to dissolve the formal arrangement,” Ellis said. The procedure for terminating the agreement by either party is included in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the presidents of the two institutions.

Graduates from Ranger College or elsewhere who are registered nurses (RN) with unencumbered licenses to practice in Texas may continue their education at HPU through the post-licensure RN-to-BSN degree program, and HPU will admit each of those students on a case-by-case basis. HPU’s post-licensure RN-to-BSN program is directed by Dr. Nina Ouimette, new dean of the university’s School of Nursing. Her career includes 17 years with Abilene’s Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing, most recently as dean and professor of nursing with tenure. In addition to overseeing HPU’s post-licensure RN-to-BSN program, Ouimette is directing HPU’s efforts to pursue a pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. “I have known Dr. Ouimette personally and professionally for more than 15 years,” Ellis said. “I am absolutely confident Brown County will be very pleased with the high quality of nurse education we are working diligently to bring to our area.”
College brings change, which can lead to stress

Howard Payne wants to welcome all its returning students and those just now joining the HPU family. We are proud and happy you have chosen HPU as your educational school. We will do everything we can to make it a place for you to find new friends and pursue your missional and vocational goals in an atmosphere that is enjoyable, purposeful and fulfilling.

The HPU administration wants each one of you to know you are important. Your success academically, the expansion of your social network and your positive spiritual growth are intertwined and make up the development of your years in college. The HPU faculty and staff hope you are able to benefit from your time here and are committed to encouraging and supporting you in every possible way.

Most of us don’t like change. But change is the order of the day in college. We realize college, with all its activities and demands, can be very stressful at times. For freshmen, leaving your family of origin, moving, meeting new people while losing contact with old friends, establishing new routines and study habits are all potential reasons for stress, development of depression or exacerbation of fragile emotions – which may already exist.

Returning students are not immune to stressors as each year a new set of classes, activities and demands lay ahead. The honeymoon is over. Upperclassmen are entering the “grind” of their chosen vocational classwork while assuming more leadership roles and functions. Relationships developed during the first two years may be deepening or becoming more and more a contributor towards stressful emotions. The unknowns of the future are becoming more evident and adding stress.

Faculty, support staff, coaches, mentors and others are always open to providing what they can in the way of encouragement and support. But, sometimes, more training and experience may be necessary. HPU wants to help you when you need something more.

One way – of which students are often unaware – is the university counseling resource. As a HPU student, counseling services are available to you at no expense. Your identity and the content in counseling are strictly confidential. You determine who, if anyone, can have access to the counseling that takes place. You are a legal adult and will be treated as such.

Those students who have been in counseling previously can use this benefit as a way of continuing their counseling while away from home. This can be very helpful so that students can continue their university experience and succeed in their goals.

Last year about 40 students took advantage of the counseling services offered. I am licensed in several disciplines and have over 35 years of professional experience with a large variety of issues and concerns. I am located on the second floor of Mabee, and I am accepting appointments: Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 12-5 p.m. I can be reached at 325-649-8195 or at jleslie@hputx.edu.

“Let’s Talk.”

Features was anything but random. It was more than friends, was a part of something is what is real and permanent. “God is a faithful God.”

“It’s God’s plan,” said Moo with the big smile on her face. Moo never thought she would be where she is today, and she gives God all the glory.

Coming from a life of hardships, uncertainty, and living just to survive the night to where she is today, Moo says she knows “God is a faithful God.” Moo now attends First Baptist Church Brownwood and is a photographer for the Yellow Jacket newspaper and Swarm yearbook. She is also always looking for more ways to help and serve on campus.

“I’ve never been around so many kind and beautiful people,” she said of her fellow students. “Moo is truly one of a kind! She is so kind and caring, and goofy too. I’m so blessed by her,” said Mary Beth Lane, Moo’s roommate.

Moo hesitated to share her story because she didn’t want to boast about herself, which shows what kind of person she is. She only agreed to speak out to show not what she has over-

Vivian Nguyen (left) and Moo Hser during Daze of Payne.

Come, but what God has freed her from and blessed her with. “We are born weak, but in His presence, we are almighty,” she said. Welcome to our HPU Family, Moo. Expect lots of hugs from one of our newest Yellow Jackets.
Excited to show off Howard Payne University’s Walker Memorial Library, Dean of Libraries Alexia Riggs is encouraging every one to take advantage of the new resources available on campus this semester.

With doors wide open, metal detectors removed, and smiling faces of the staff to greet you at the entrance, the library welcomes its visitors with friendly arms.

“We want to create that home away from home,” said Riggs. “So, our goal was to make the entrance less imposing.”

In addition to a self-serve coffee bar and vending machines, there are now two stylish and comfortable sofas available for lounging in the foyer away from study areas, provided by the funds earned from last semester’s used book sale.

Riggs emphasized that the money received “really does go back into the library.” Each book sale averages between $700 and $1,500. Riggs is hoping to use the next sum to replace the water fountain downstairs next to the elevator.

Aside from an updated entrance, more improvements and additional resources seem to be popping up in every room.

Beginning this semester as part of a piloting program students now have access to Amazon Kindle Paperwhites for their reading experiences.

The Kindles come in handy carrying cases, and each is equipped with a battery life of up to three weeks. There are currently two available for check out, but if the response is positive, Riggs plans to expand that number to six.

A mixture of different reading material has been uploaded to the devices, ranging from New York Bestsellers to English, History, and Philosophy books and articles.

“We want students to let us know about any fun reading requests they have,” said Riggs.

The library wishes to offer casual reading material in addition to its academic supply. Adding to the Kindles, a new book display is located just inside the Reference Room as well.

The HPU library is not only for use of the campus, but also for the community.

Riggs stated that people use the library for all kinds of activities and knowledge. Riggs laughed as she recounted the time she received a phone call from a Brownwood citizen who needed to know how to make lemonade in a silver punch bowl.

“She was worried she would poison her guests,” said Riggs. “So I researched – probably more than I should have – and found that she could indeed make lemonade in a silver punch bowl as long as she did not use actual lemon juice.”

While the Reference Room is open to members of the community as well, students are welcome to find more privacy in the Multi-Purpose Room.

There are additional computers available, plenty of movable and stationary whiteboards, tons of fun, new chairs to try out, and an 80-inch plasma television screen with what Riggs calls a “decent sound system.”

Tucked away behind the reference room, seniors will find the Graduate Research Alcove. It is a place where seniors can reserve an area for themselves for the length of the semester.

Pointing out that each space has a desk, whiteboard material, power strips, and shelving available to store their belongings and materials, Riggs stated that “each space comes with a little piece of personality.”

While more changes were made upstairs as well, the elevator is one thing that remains the same.

“I always tell everyone that before you graduate you have to ride the elevator,” said Riggs. “It has that 1950s look that just doesn’t exist anymore.”

On the second floor visitors have access to the Teacher Resource Center and the Grove Memorial Music Library among other things like another computer lab and the Heart of Texas Literacy Center.

Riggs is still working to update paint colors in these rooms so that students will feel more at home while studying. She is seeking the opinions of students who will use the rooms, such as education and music majors.

“I want to respect that and give them the chance to have a choice in that,” said Riggs. “Because the library isn’t anyone’s; its everyone’s.”

Of all the places in the library, the most fascinating is Room 208: The Treasure Room. Kept behind lock and key, the Treasure Room is home to hundreds of ancient gems.

Beneath the portraited faces of HPU ancestors, knick-knacks from Guy D. Newman’s travels, a sword, and an array of other historical riches can be found.

To stock the room, Riggs chuckled and said “we begged, borrowed, and stole!”

The room is something the school is proud to share with anyone who is interested to know a little about family of which they are a part.

The Treasure Room also stores HPU yearbooks dating back to 1912, several first edition books, the Encyclopedia of Texas, as well a gold-leafed copy of the Book of the Dead, complete with hieroglyphics.

Many books require the use of gloves for examining. Special care is taken to ensure the longevity each item.

Because the room is an archive, food and drinks are not allowed. However, students can mosey across the hall to another secret room, soon to make its reveal.

Now an empty space, Room 205 is filled with nothing but echoes from neighboring tenants of the upstairs portion of the library. However, with a little help from one’s imagination, the library’s new Collaboration Space can be pictured with its soon-to-be fashionably gray walls and new school-spirited blue carpet.

Expected to open by Homecoming, the room is a place where members of the HPU family can meet to study or just hang out. Equipped with a kitchen, visitors will be able to fill their stomachs and hearts with snacks and conversation.

“We want people to be able to meet face-to-face, order a pizza, or cut up some fruit, and just visit,” said Riggs. “It’s not just for students. We want the same for faculty, too.”

Aside from books sales, the library accepts donations in order to assist in continuing its improvement. “It’s only $10 here or $50 there, but it adds up,” said Riggs.

The money received from donors provide things like the new popcorn machine that will be put to great use this semester.

“Libraries are such a unique vehicle. They help us stay grounded in our traditional roots, but also they give us a chance to access new information, further our communication, and share resources,” said Riggs. “We’re not afraid to fail; we’re always trying something new in here.”

Riggs graduated from HPU with a degree in psychology in 2002. Since then she has earned her Masters of Library Science from the University of North Texas and her Masters of Divinity from Hardin-Simmons University.

When asked how she came to call the Walker Memorial Library home, she replied, “I just like studying everything.”

Currently, HPU is part of a five-year grant operation with the Abilene Library Consortium. HPU participates with other schools in the surrounding area such as Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene Christian University, McMurry University, as well as the Abilene Public Libraries.

Despite all the hard work that has gone into the library recently, Riggs believes that “we can do better.”

Visitors are sure to see and appreciate the changes to the Walker Memorial Library this semester, but they can rest assured that there are more to come.
Encounter Week revival set for Sept. 18-20

An exciting opportunity is nearly upon us Howard Payne. Encounter Week, the three-day campus revival held every fall, plays a pivotal role in HPU campus life and is just a few days away.

Our speaker, Zack Randles, is lead pastor at Waterfront Church in Washington D.C. He is an Oklahoma State University Cowboy, but there is grace for that (Romans 5:20). Leading the worship will be The Nick Gainey Band. They have been leading worship together for close to 8 years. Gainey is a 2008 graduate of Howard Payne.

Encounter Week is scheduled for Monday-Wednesday, Sept. 18-20. Services will be at 10 a.m. each day at Mims. Two evening services are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Sept. 18-19, also at Mims.

There will also be a special opportunity to meet Pastor Zach Randles and the Nick Gainey Band at 2 p.m. Sept. 18 at the HUB, which is the BSM building. This is your chance to hang out with the Lord’s faithful servants and drill them with your toughest Bible trivia. However, they will be just as excited about answering any other questions you have as well.

In all seriousness, we are truly excited about what edifying words Pastor Zack and the band have for us in the coming week. Referencing the impact of Encounter Week, Chapel Director Corey Ash said, “I’ve been planning chapel events for over 10 years now here at HPU, and I know from experience that God has amazing plans to meet us and challenge us when we come together to worship Him, look into His Word and grow together.”

Every year there are students who know Christ for the first time as savior and students and faculty who make commitments to walk more faithfully with the Lord. As a result, the anticipation is great. You don’t want to miss a moment of what God has in store for us.
One year later, Winds ensemble triumphant

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'Logan Lucky’ succeeds despite familiar plot

A proud, blue collar American, Logan is released from his mining job thanks to a blown-out knee dating to his high school days. His Army veteran brother Clyde (Adam Driver), adhering to the theme of family, blames the misfortune on a “Logan family curse.”

This setback drives Jimmy Logan to plan a detailed, but harebrained robbery of Charlotte Motor Speedway as a means to a living. The ensuing scheme and action draws in Clyde, Logan’s sister Mellie (Riley Keough), Joe Bang (Daniel Craig), and Joe’s brothers Fish and Sam (Jack Quaid and Brian Gleeson).

Every one of these supporting characters adds unique flavor to the film. Some, particularly Craig and Driver, steal the spotlight from Tatum in segments. The deep supporting cast featuring the likes of Seth MacFarlane, Katie Holmes and Katherine Waterston is also of great benefit to the movie.

An odd, slightly overdue performance from Hilary Swank as an FBI agent breaks the trend, though it certainly doesn’t ruin the film. As a Hollywood movie set in the South, some of the characterizations are bound to be a bit too broad. Fortunately, with a couple exceptions, just when you think a character is the stupid redneck archetype, they dodge the label with some sort of display of intelligence.

The characters and story create what is on the surface a fun romp, which is likely the desired tone of the movie. However, the film also smartly sticks close to the profoundly important aspect of family.

The film attempts embodies the spirit of working class, Southern America while steering away from the darker aspects heavily present in the region. In large part, it succeeds.

Currently in theaters, “Logan Lucky” is highly enjoyable comedy thanks to its fast paced, hearty story and vivid characters.

Last fall, I sat down with music faculty members Stephen Goacher and Corey Ash to discuss the Howard Payne ensemble Winds of Triumph. It had been three years since the ensemble had last met, and I asked them what the prospects were for a return of the Winds of Triumph.

As of this semester, Winds of Triumph is once again rehearsing and preparing for performances. I interviewed Goacher and Ash once more to discuss the group and its future.

Both professors, as well as many of the music students, are ecstatic that Winds of Triumph is being offered again. The ensemble serves as a musical mission group, performing at venues locally and internationally, and it gives the students involved the opportunity to share their talents for the glory of God.

Goacher, director of the group, had the following to say when asked about the potential for Winds of Triumph:

“As I told the students, fantastic trips, performances, and spiritual experiences have happened in the past; however they were never foreseen or expected. Winds of Triumph was always richly blessed when it was merely faithful; faithful in doing their work with no expectation of Godly reward.

“However, God’s eyes are always on the ones who are faithful to serve Him and His purposes,” Goacher said.

Ash, director of bands, said, “The potential is only limited by how much the Lord decides to bless the group with opportunities.”

As a member of the music department, it makes me extremely excited to see this group return to our campus. I cannot wait to see what great things Winds of Triumph will do for the glory of God.
Daze of Payne was fun, even with a bum ankle

As an incoming freshman, I always heard about how colleges haze students when they first arrive on campus. So as you can imagine, I was pretty skeptical about the whole idea of Daze of Payne. Not only does its name sound painful, but I thought about all the movies about freshman being put through a load of things to prove whether they want to be a part of said college.

Before the Daze of Payne week had started, I managed to sprain my ankle on an inflatable obstacle course. Ridiculous, right? Having an injured ankle made it difficult to enjoy all of the DOP activities. The first meeting I attended, they gave me a list of rules and such telling me what I could not do on campus – such as not walking through the grass, or going through any of the front doors. Wearing a boot on my ankle, some of those tasks were a little hard to complete, such as the not going through front doors.

The first Daze of Payne event was when we got our “Bigs,” an upperclassman who has gone through the event before. All the students who wanted to participate gathered in the front of Mims Auditorium on Monday night as they called out the “Bigs” and announced who their “Littles” were – the “Littles” being us freshmen.

Towards the end, they called a girl named Brittany up to the stage, and I was thinking how coincidental would it be if my “Big” and I had the same name. Of course, then they called me up to the stage to receive my beanie. Beanies are little hats that have a soft bill in front and have HPU letters on the front with blue and yellow sections around the cap.

I got up, hobbled to the stage and attempted to make it up the stairs. I heard faint laughter followed by an “awww” from the audience. My “Big” awarded my beanie. Next, we went outside to decorate our beanies with markers, bedazzle beads and puffy paint. After decorating my hat, my “Big” and I took a picture to celebrate our journey through the week.

On Tuesday night, we played Ultimate Frisbee at Gordon Wood Stadium. It was “Bigs” versus “Littles,” and considering I was wearing an ankle boot, I couldn’t play. I resorted to standing in the middle of the field, waiting for the frisbee because if it came to me, it would have been fate for me to catch it. Some of the people playing frisbee were running, jumping and even falling on the ground. At the end of the night, the “Bigs” had won, but everyone was still happy about having played together.

Thursday’s schedule included Paynt Games, where we played games that had paint on them. One of them was Messy Twister, where you take paint and put it on the same colored dot. Again, I couldn’t participate because of my ankle, but towards the end they had a paint war. I grabbed a paint bottle and slung paint everywhere. It’s probably the most fun I had all day. The result was prettier than a van Gogh painting.

The whole process of washing the paint out of hair and clothes was tedious, and I had to pay attention to make sure I didn’t miss any spots so it wouldn’t knot up my hair.

Overall, Daze of Payne was so much fun, even while being held back from participating in some events. I definitely plan to be a “Big” next year. For those who have yet to participate, I recommend coming to the meeting next year and being a part of something great.
Features

Attending class in your pajamas

Online classes hold both advantages and disadvantages

Fred Zavala
Staff Writer

How would you like to turn in your homework, get some help on your latest essay, and ace that nasty mid-term exam – all while wearing your coziest pajamas and enjoying a hot cup of coffee?

Thanks to Howard Payne University’s ever-expanding catalog of online classes, students have the opportunity to do just that. An online class allows its participants to complete the course at their own personal leisure and convenience, eliminating much of the need for face-to-face interaction and in-class meetings. Nearly every requirement of these classes, from daily lessons to homework to exams, is fulfilled individually from behind a glowing screen.

So why take an online class? What are the advantages and disadvantages? Online classes certainly aren’t for everyone, and there’s a wide range of factors for students to consider before clicking that “enroll” button.

The first thing to know is that all online classes are different. Much like in-person classes, these special courses can vary dramatically depending on the teacher. I’ve taken several online classes over the course of my time at HPU, and to date no two have been the same.

For starters, the workload can sometimes be a bit of a hassle. Some professors like to spread out their assignments over the course of the semester, thus allowing their students to tackle the material gradually. However, others prefer to assign everything at once and set a single due date at the end of the term. This makes it much easier to procrastinate and get bogged down with work at the last minute.

Additionally, online classes may or may not offer the same sense of community as a typical face-to-face class. For instance, in order to compensate for the lack of physical meet-ups, many virtual courses feature discussion boards that allow participants to interface with both their professor and their fellow classmates. I’ve even taken one particular online class in which the instructor hosted mandatory video chat sessions. However, I have also participated in online courses that had no opportunities for interaction whatsoever. In classes like these, it’s often difficult to feel connected, both to your classmates and your professor.

Speaking of professors, it’s important to maintain steady communication with them when taking a virtual course. Falling out of touch can be easy, especially when you aren’t seeing each other on a regular basis. In order to prevent this, emailing is crucial – be prepared to check that inbox at least once every day. Some teachers may even give you their personal phone numbers in addition to their email addresses.

For the most part, student opinions on virtual courses are mixed. “The great thing about an online class is that it’s actually really convenient,” says former HPU student Dalton Clark. “It gives you more free time and it makes your schedule a lot more flexible, so you can do other things like have a job and a social life.” However, too much freedom can be a dangerous thing.

“The worst part for me was that I kept forgetting to do my homework,” says HPU senior Cooper Blow. “It’s easy to get behind really fast.”

The HPU staff have their share of opinions on the matter as well. “It can be very difficult to teach a language class without that face-to-face component,” says Spanish professor Danny Brunette-López. “Online classes work better for some subjects than others, but when you have a language class, it’s definitely better to take it in person.”

While online classes aren’t for everyone, they are beneficial for some students. In fact, if handled responsibly, they provide an excellent opportunity to give yourself more freedom and adaptability in your day-to-day routine. Provided the individual does not take these types of courses lightly, online classes are an excellent choice for any college student seeking to receive their education in a more innovative way.

Moot Court receives year-end awards

By HPU Media Relations

Six Howard Payne University students were among an elite group to receive year-end awards from the Texas Undergraduate Moot Court Association. Five HPU students made the list of TUMCA’s 2017 Top 20 Orators while two HPU teams were among the five best teams in the state.

Receiving orator awards were Isaac Sommers, senior from Boerne, second place; Jordan Hahn, freshman from Burnet, eighth place; Jakob Morgan, senior from Blanket, 13th place; Bailey Myler, sophomore from Brownwood, 14th place; and Rebeca Puente, May 2017 graduate from Waskom, 20th place. Puente and Sommers were named the fourth-best team in the state and Hahn and Andie McCoy, sophomore from Whitehouse, were named the fifth-best team.

The awards were announced following HPU’s stellar Moot Court season. Among the top designations for HPU Moot Court this year, Sommers was named the fifth overall speaker out of 786 competitors at the American Moot Court Association Invitational National Championships held in January at Florida’s Stetson College of Law. Additionally, Sommers and Puente advanced to out-rounds, placing in the top 16 of 80 teams. For written arguments submitted prior to that tournament, Myler and Justin Harris, senior from Fort Worth, placed sixth and Puente and Sommers placed seventh. Puente and Sommers were additionally the champions at the Southern Methodist University tournament in March, and three of HPU’s five teams were among the top 10.

“Four years, HPU Moot Court students have proven themselves to be the best in the state,” said Dr. Matthew McNiece, chair and professor of history and government and director of HPU’s Guy D. Newman Honors Academy. Dr. McNiece expressed his appreciation to the students and to the team’s advisor, Lorianna Kelley, assistant professor of government.

“Professor Kelley is a wonderful coach and mentor to our Moot Court students,” he said. “I’m extremely proud of what they accomplished this year and in the past several years. I look forward to what’s to come.”

Yellow Jacket

Fall Publish Dates

September 7
September 21
October 5
October 19
November 2
November 16
November 30
This past summer the Howard Payne Communication and History departments went on a 10-day study abroad trip to Germany, England and France.

Professor of Communication Dr. Julie Welker said, “The group traveled to Berlin, London, Normandy, and Paris to study history, rhetoric, and propaganda of World War II. Students studied topics ranging from Hitler’s rhetoric to the effects of WWII on the European front and the world.”

These locations were chosen to give students insight into the effect that WWII had on Europe and the world.

“Students explored Hitler’s rhetorical empire in Germany, visited a concentration camp, explored the Cabinet War Rooms and other historical locations in London, stood where the Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, visited Paris, saw how conflict shaped the landscape of the area, and discussed the many rhetorical artifacts of and the aftermath of WWII,” Welker said.

“Each day was filled with visiting various WWII memorials, including the Allied Museum, the Shoah Memorial, the Holocaust Memorial, and many others.”

Not only was it an amazing learning experience for students and professors, but short-term study abroad trips are a great way to see the world, make new friends, and to learn. Students enjoy these trips for various reasons.

“I love traveling and the adventure that comes with it. HPU offered a great opportunity to experiences many different cultures in one trip,” junior Devin Caraway said.

“Traveling is a passion of mine so anytime I have the opportunity to go overseas I do,” sophomore Haylee Williams said.

Short-term trips like this are also a great way to make friends.

“The people I met that became new, great friends really made this trip great. I would not have met them and gotten to know them if it wasn’t for this trip,” Williams said.

When asked what their favorite country to visit Dodson answered, “Germany was my favorite because it is not touristy and there is so much history in the city.”

“Germany was a favorite among most students this trip. HPU has a lot of study abroad opportunities. If you are wanting to see more of a particular country, find a way to go somewhere for a semester. If 10 days at the beginning of summer is enough to get rid of your travel bug, then it’s worth it.”

“Short-term study abroad trips allow students to study a topic for a semester, and then be immersed in the subject matter for one to two weeks. These trips are beneficial for experiential learning – where students get to experience first-hand the context of the topics they have studied,” Welker said.

Students typically shy away from these amazing experiences because of cost, but you have to consider: When will I be able to get the opportunity to go to Europe again? Or is this the only overseas trip I can take while I am young and with my friends? If you can’t confidently answer those questions, then go.

These short-term trips will also help you with your success at HPU as well as outside of HPU. If you are in class and your professor starts asking about World War II propaganda, for example, you will be able to say that you have been to a museum that showed the propaganda.

Or if there is a discussion about current events in European countries, you will easily be able to say, “When I was there …” You will not only have the knowledge to give to your professors and peers, but you will also have stories that will last a lifetime.
The story of HP founder Dr. John D. Robnett

Dr. Robert Mangrum
University Historian

The following is an excerpt from FOR HOWARD PAYNE MY ALL: 125 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION AND SERVICE 1889-2015, AN ENCYCLOPEDIA, by Dr. Robert G. Mangrum.

Men of vision are sometimes not men of action. Dr. John David Robnett, the founder of Howard Payne College, was a man of action.

Robnett was born in Calloway County, Missouri, April 16, 1845. The son of James Robnett, a Missouri farmer, he was educated in the Fulton, Missouri, public schools and attended Westminster College in Fulton. He studied theology at William Jewell College, where he was educated in the Fulton, Missouri, public schools and in the Fulton Valley Baptist Association.

After college, he organized the First Baptist Church of Wellsville, Missouri, where he was living until he moved to Brownwood. During his college years he courted the lovely, vivacious Dollie Powell. Her father did not approve of her marrying a Baptist preacher so they eloped.

In 1883, they came to Brownwood to pastor the First Baptist Church, and Robnett became a prime mover in the establishment of the Pecan Valley Baptist Association.

When Robnett left William Jewell, he carried with him a love of Christian education, and he was instrumental in establishing Howard Payne College. During the early years in the life of the college, Robnett was its chief fundraiser.

When Dr. A. J. Emerson, the first president resigned in 1893, the Board of Trustees elected Robnett as president.

His change to the role of president of the college from that of president of the Board of Trustees was without major turmoil and seemed a logical one. He continued to work closely with the trustees and, even though president, continued to act as chief solicitor for the college.

This was even reflected in his duties as outlined in the 1895-96 catalog. Professors Grove, F. H. Buchanan, and C. F. Maxwell were charged with the internal affairs of the college, as well as with the instruction in all departments. Maxwell was a graduate of the University of Texas and a Fellow in the Texas Academy of Science. Buchanan was a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard University in the classics, as well as in modern languages.

Robnett served as president from 1893-1896. In 1896, he left his duties as college president to accept the call to a pastorate in Dallas at the Gaston Avenue Baptist Church, where he remained until his death June 23, 1898 at the age of 53.

His death at such an early age was attributed, in part, to his personal financial pressures and poor health following the period of time in which “he devoted the ten best years of his life, and gave most of his private property” to HPC.

For 14 years, he was buried on the Howard Payne campus near Old Main. When Dollie died in 1911, they both were buried in the Greenleaf Cemetery in Brownwood.

During Robnett’s tenure as president of the board and president of HPC, Dollie was active as both a pastor’s wife and as a president’s wife making trips with him, working in the church and Baptist Ladies’ Auxiliary, performing charitable and evangelistic services, and even writing letters to the unsaved about Christ.

The couple had four sons. J.D. Robnett, Jr., the first HPC graduate, became a Captain in the U.S. Navy. Rev. James P. Robnett received his bachelor of arts degree from HPC and pastored the First Baptist Church of Amarillo. Ausey H. Robnett, third son of the founder and also a HPC graduate, served over 30 years in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps, earning the rank of Captain.

The youngest son, Edwin Howard Robnett, served as a Captain in the U.S. Army during WWI following his graduation from HPC. To commemorate their service to Christian higher education, a plaque was placed in the front hall of Old Main.

Unfortunately, the University Historian has not been able to find the original plaque and must conclude, sadly, that it was destroyed in the fire which destroyed Old Main in May 1984. However, a copy of the plaque is hanging on the wall on the first floor of the Packer Building next to the President’s Office.

New HPU faculty members this fall

HPU’s new faculty members include, from left, Dr. Rick Grimes, kinesiology; Teresa Cavitt, kinesiology; Dr. Jill Heupel, kinesiology; Dennis Gibson, physical science; Dr. Dave Claborn, government; David Clemons, history; and Dr. Nina Ouimette, nursing; Dr. Jane Metty-Samons, education; Dr. Leslie Griffin, psychology; and Richelle Hair, communication. Not pictured is James Wunderle, Jr., psychology.

Photo by HPU Media Relations
New Direction

Intramurals adding sports, registering participants online

The start of a new semester brings changes to the Howard Payne campus, and among those is the arrival of a new director of the intramural sports program. Wes Curton, resident director of Jennings Hall, accepted the responsibility of being intramural director with open arms.

“I was excited to take on the position because there is a lot of potential for the intramural department to become a huge part of the student experience,” Curton said. “I care about our students and I care about them getting involved and having good experiences while here at HPU.

“This is a way to engage others in the community and a way to build relationships with people that you normally may not communicate with. Intramurals is a huge part of HPU because it is campus-wide. To be a part of making the intramural department grow and finding ways to help students enjoy themselves on our campus excites me,” said Curton.

Since assuming the intramurals position over the summer, Curton has made plans to take the HPU community sports program even further than it has gone before.

One of the changes includes the way that individuals sign up for intramural sports and access information about the program. Starting this year, everyone looking to participate in intramurals will sign up on www.imleagues.com/hputx. The department will no longer take paper rosters or paper waivers. Everything will now be run through the IM Leagues website.

Another advancement by the intramural department is the development of a new app available to download. The IM Leagues app was created to help keep track of team games and individual stats, help participants to sign up for intramural sports, and show a calendar that displays all important dates during the year, including registration dates.

More sports have been added to the program this year, and more are planned in the following years. This fall semester, spikeball and ping pong were added to the list of available sports. During the spring semester, jacket golf, 3-on-3 basketball and a rock-climbing tournament will be added to the intramurals program.

Next year, the intramural department will grow to include the gaming community. E-gaming tournaments for gamers who like to play Overwatch, Call Of Duty, and other video games will be included for the benefit of students.

In the future, Curton would also like to add options like Intramural Chess and Intramural Magic to the expanding agenda of the department. “Intramurals is overarching,” Curton said. “Our department can reach so many students if we think outside of the box.”

Curton would also like to get more of the faculty and staff involved on the intramural teams this year. “Right now, there are a lot of opportunities to find ways to help the intramural department to grow. We are always looking to get as many teams as we can. Also, the students come to our offices and come to our classes – that’s them entering our world. I would love to get the faculty and staff involved because this is a way for us to meet with the students in their world,” Curton said.

“That bridges the gap that helps us to see students as individuals and to get to know what interests them and what they are involved in. This will help to bring the HPU family closer together.”

Student involvement is just as vital to the growth of intramurals. Curton encourages all incoming freshmen, transfers and returning students to participate.

“I would recommend that they make a team,” he said. “Even if you are not the best athlete, the friendships and bonds that you form with your team are valuable. Whether it’s getting a team together for a one-day tournament or signing up for a league that lasts a month, I would recommend that you get involved.

“The more that you are involved, the more that you are invested in the HPU family and the more likely you are to have a good college experience.”

For more information about HPU intramurals, contact Curton at wcurton@hputx.edu, or call 325-649-7418.
This season will see the Howard Payne volleyball team travel from Atlanta, Georgia, to Colorado Springs, Colorado. A seemingly scant few games will be played at home during the course of the season. Of the 29 games scheduled this year, only five are to take place on the Lady Jackets’ home court in the Brownwood Coliseum. So mark your calendars for HPU’s home games on Sept. 12, 15, and 16, and Oct. 17 and 21.

Traveling for so long and far can have both positive effects and drawbacks on a team. For example, some players look forward to a change in scenery. Senior setter Cheyanne Lovelady said the traveling is enjoyable, especially to tournaments located in places like Colorado and Georgia. Sophomores Kailey Doering and Macy Maniscalo said that playing and beating a competitor in front of an opposing crowd is an incredible feeling.

Head volleyball coach Colleen Westfall said away games do usually bring a different brand of excitement for the team. Additionally, senior Ariana Rehm said road trips can help the team grow closer. Usually when staying away from home, Rehm said teammates try to room with a different person each time to build better relationships.

Additionally, as a former player, assistant coach Nicole Kraas said sleep can be difficult when staying in an unfamiliar place. As student athletes, keeping up with school is an added challenge for players. Lovelady said balancing time and school is very difficult for players. Maniscalo said that, ideally, homework is completed before trips.

Mandatory study halls at the team hotel helps to aid players in completion of work. Unfamiliar territory can take a toll on the team, said Rehm. Kraas described the difficulties of practice time on the road. She said they often need to find nearby gyms to practice prior to games.

Westfall also stated that organizing team expenses for road trips can be challenging. Food and lodging for players on the road is essential, and fitting these expenses into the preset budget is difficult.

Lovelady said it is a little saddening to play fewer games at home in her final year as a player, but her outlook on the season is very optimistic. In spite of the challenges provided by road games, come game time, it’s not too different from preparing to play at home. Kraas says the team shows up a little earlier, but overall the team’s attitude and atmosphere is similar. Initially, it may seem as if five games is a small number of games to play at home over a comparatively long season. But Westfall explained this is typical of a season. She pointed to last season as an example when the Lady Jacket played just nine home games.

She says this schedule is primarily a result of reciprocating home-and-home series with other schools and attending tournaments throughout the season. Overall, there is a clear sense of optimism for the team at this early point in the season.

The Lady Jackets are preparing to get on the road to Atlanta this weekend for the Emory Classic. There they will face Desales, Emory, and Chapman Universities and Covenant College. The traveling will conclude in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the Spike-It Up Classic in October.

As the season goes by, fans should seize upon the five opportunities they will get to see this team at home. Again, home games are scheduled for Sept. 12, 15, and 16, and Oct. 17 and 21.
The Howard Payne Yellow Jackets’ football team took a tough 63-34 loss last Saturday in the season opener against the Southwestern Assemblies of God (SAGU) Lions at Waxahachie. The marked the debut of Braxton Harris as the Jackets’ head coach.

“Penalties and turnovers are what hurt us in the game, and those are the things we have to be able to improve on. We can get better at those things,” Harris said.

HPU lost two turnovers in the game – one fumble and one pass interception – and the Jackets drew 12 penalties for 109 yards. Harris’s goal for the team is to get better each week, and if the Jackets can do that, the results should be promising.

The Jackets are open this week, which could provide an opportunity for improvement. Their next game is at McMurry at 6 p.m. on Sept. 16. The Jackets’ home opener is Sept. 23 against Hardin-Simmons.

The bright spot for HPU in last week’s opening game was that kicker Jacob Walters was named American Southwest Conference Special Teams Player of the Week for his performance against SAGU. The freshman kicker made both of his field goal attempts from 30 and 35 yards, plus he was 4-for-4 on extra-point kicks. On seven kickoffs, he totaled 391 yards and two touchbacks.

Continuing with the stats in the SAGA game, quarterback Caisson Montieth was 11-of-19 passing for 75 yards and a touchdown. He also ran 13 times for 77 yards and a TD. Hunter Batten added 64 yards rushing and a touchdown. Eric Haverstock was HPU’s leading receiver with six catches for 46 yards. Tariq Gray caught a 22-yard scoring pass from Montieth.

Men’s Soccer
Record: 1-0-0, 0-0-0 in ASC

Sept. 1: HPU 2, Univ. of Dallas 1 (2OT)
Sept. 7: Jarvis at HPU, 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 14: HPU at Ozarks, 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 16: HPU at UT Tyler, 4:30 p.m.

Women’s Soccer
Record: 0-1-1, 0-0-0 in ASC

Sept. 1: HPU 1, Maryville 1
Sept. 2: Piedmont 1, HPU 0
Sept. 7: Jarvis at HPU, 2 p.m.
Sept. 14: HPU at Ozarks, 2 p.m.
Sept. 16: HPU at UT Tyler, 2 p.m.

Volleyball
Record: 2-2, 0-0 in ASC

Sept. 1: HPU 3, Centenary 2
Sept. 1: HPU 3, Paul Quinn 0
Sept. 2: Lawrence 3, HPU 2
Sept. 2: Austin Col. 3, HPU 0
Sept. 8-9: HPU at Emory Classic, Atlanta, Georgia
Sept. 12: Sul Ross at HPU, 5 p.m.
Sept. 15: UMHB at HPU, 5 p.m.
Sept. 16: Concordia at HPU, 2 p.m.

Jackets win soccer opener in double overtime

BY HPU SPORTS INFORMATION

Roger Bonilla capped an impressive performance for the Howard Payne men’s soccer team by scoring the winning goal in the final seconds of the Yellow Jackets’ 2-1 double-overtime win over the University of Dallas. The season-opening game was played Saturday at Citizens National Bank Soccer Field.

Freshmen forward Jonpaul Vargas scored his first career goal for HPU’s other goal.

Andrew Hackney and Nicholas Panameno split time in goal for HPU, with Hackney staying in the game for the two overtime periods. They combined for five saves – four by Hackney – while facing six shots on goal.

Under the direction of Eanna O’Gorman, who was coaching in his first game, the Jackets tallied the victory despite being outshot 16-10. The Crusaders came out energized and set the tempo early, striking on a penalty kick in the 35th minute that allowed Dallas a 1-0 lead.

In the 60th minute, Dylan Person placed a kick down the right side of the field that found Vargas open in the box to give him the perfect position. Vargas scored to tie the game at 1-1.

Daniel Lemus found Bonilla with a well-placed pass in space to help set up the game-winning goal in the waning seconds of the second overtime. The goal shocked the Crusaders and brought the sizable Howard Payne contingent to its feet as the Jackets won in dramatic fashion.
The Howard Payne baseball team hosted a donation drive for Hurricane Harvey victims on Saturday – collecting approximately 1,000 cases of water and hundreds of other items, including money, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, tools and pet food to deliver to the Gulf Coast and southeast Texas.

“We’re thankful to the many individuals and businesses in Brown County who have supported HPU’s efforts in providing relief to the victims of Hurricane Harvey,” said Stephen Lynn, head baseball coach. “Several groups brought trucks and trailers full of supplies to donate. It was great to see the community turn out to support those in need.”

The team will partner with others on campus to deliver the items to the Gulf Coast this weekend. There, the group’s efforts will be facilitated by Joseph Jones, HPU alumnus and pastor of First Baptist Church of Port Lavaca.

Those unable to attend the drive may coordinate with the baseball team to have donation items collected. Contact Robert Anders, assistant baseball coach, at 972-322-4116 or randers@hputx.edu.

Benefit concert planned for Mims

The HPU Department of Music will present a hurricane-related benefit concert at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 14 in Mims Auditorium. Admission will be by donation and all money raised will go to Texas Baptist Men for hurricane relief and recovery.

“We all recognize that the recovery following Hurricane Harvey will take time and there are many in our community who desire to find a way to help,” said Dr. Richard Fiese, dean of the School of Music and Fine Arts. “As those living in southeast Texas move toward restoration following the devastation left in Harvey’s wake, the students and faculty of HPU’s Department of Music feel compelled to use the gifts that God has given them to provide a conduit for our community to help.”

The concert, titled “The Sounds of Restoration,” will feature many of the university’s ensembles. Selections include “Jesus Shall Reign,” arranged by Steve Dunn and performed by Winds of Triumph; “Jesus Loves Me” and “America, the Beautiful,” performed by the HPU Wind Ensemble; “Mourning Into Dancing,” performed by the Heritage Singers with Winds of Triumph; and “Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel” and “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need,” performed by the HPU Concert Choir.

A collaboration of “Give Me Jesus” will be performed by Stephen Goacher, professor of music; Dr. Elizabeth Wallace, chair of the Department of Music and tenured professor of music; and Dr. Christopher Rosborough, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities. The audience will have the opportunity to participate by singing “God of Our Fathers.”

Donations benefitting Texas Baptist Men - Disaster Relief taken at the door will not be tax deductible. However, if you would like to make a donation that is tax deductible, visit www.texbaptistmen.org/Give-Now where you can donate online and find instructions to give by check, phone or text.

For more information about the concert, contact the HPU School of Music and Fine Arts at 325-649-8500 or jholamon@hputx.edu.