



# INSPIRE

AUGUST 2021, ISSUE NO. 9

Above: Michael Wang and his two sons playing on campus

## Welcome 2022!

BY DR. MIKE WETZEL

As I'm writing this letter, classes have once again started at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College. We are excited to see the new professors and new students moving onto campus. Likewise, we are glad to have the returning students resume their studies here, at our extension centers, and online.

The past year has been financially difficult for many people, churches, businesses, and organizations. That's why we are so thankful for the support you provided as a friend of NOBTS and Leavell College. Your investment during these tumultuous times has allowed us to continue embracing our mission to equip servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission. In addition, your partnership has helped us keep tuition rates reasonable for our students, the men, and women that God has brought through our doors.

**WELCOME 2022 - CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



**Get the latest updates through the NOBTS Foundation Board Facebook Group.**

**JOIN TODAY!**



*The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation Board*

## Welcome 2022

CONTINUED from pg. 1

You helped us reach the needs of our Providence Fund by giving over \$1.26 million. That is phenomenal, and we genuinely thank God for your faithfulness. In addition, we had nearly a hundred new donors join you in giving this year, and many others continued giving.

Giving Tuesday was a huge success. Last year, we had a goal of \$200,000, and you gave \$253,000. That was miles ahead of what we had ever done before. That was the good news; the challenging part is that we need to surpass that amount this year. Some of you have already sent in your gifts for a matching pledge, and we appreciate your support. We are going to be asking all of you to help us in our endeavor this year.

Another way we need your help for Giving Tuesday is to tell your friends about this event. We will help you talk to your friends by providing the materials that you need. The date for this year's Giving Tuesday is November 30.

God is doing some unique works, and we value the tremendous partnership that we have with you.

## Annual Meeting

BY WANDA GREGG

Mark your calendar for the annual Foundation Board weekend, Friday, March 4, and Saturday, March 5, 2022. We hope that you can join us for the weekend on campus. Not only is it the first time we have been able to meet in person in 3 years, but you will see and hear about all the great happenings at NOBTS and Leavell College also.

We are so excited to show you the ADA renovations! By the vote of the Foundation Board, these projects have made an incredible difference in campus life.

God has blessed NOBTS and Leavell College through this storm of a pandemic. We have come through it with a number of new and returning students, new faculty and staff, and faithful friends like you who have shown support financially. God is so good!

We want you to come to New Orleans so that you can see for yourself how God has blessed us beyond measure! But, if circumstances prevent you from traveling that weekend, the meeting will be virtual, as well, so that you can participate from anywhere.

We will be sending you information for room reservations and other meeting materials by email. If we do not have your current email or if you have a new email address, please let us know so that you can receive the information for the meeting.

# TOGETHER



Above: Amy Williams

## Meet Amy Williams

BY WANDA GREGG

Amy Williams is one busy lady! She is a pastor's wife, mother, student, and director of the Museum of the Bible and Archaeology at NOBTS.

Amy and her husband, Dr. Tim Williams, have served Williams Boulevard Baptist Church in Kenner, LA, for 11 years. Before coming to New Orleans, Tim and Amy served in South Africa with the International Mission Board and Canada with the North American Mission Board. They have four children, and as a family, they love to travel, play board games, cook and eat!

After 20 years of ministry in the US and abroad, Amy explored the opportunity to pursue a seminary education. She then began taking classes at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2018 in the area of discipleship. However, her plans changed when she joined other students and faculty on an archaeological dig in Tel Gezer, Israel. Amy returned from the dig experience and changed her major to Biblical Archaeology.

Close to completion of her Master of Arts in Biblical Archaeology, Amy finds inspiration from the faithful servants of God who have been used throughout the history of the Bible. She desires to help fulfill the museum's mission to encourage the church to treasure God's Word and foster generations of believers to increase biblical scholarship and research. In addition, as the museum's curator, she helps ensure the preservation and transmission of priceless Bibles, documents, and artifacts that have been entrusted to the stewardship of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Ultimately, Amy loves to share the Museum of the Bible and Archaeology and the story of the Bible's remarkable journey.

Amy's academic pursuits interact with the Michael and Sara Moskau Institute of Archaeology and the Center for Archaeological Research. Sara "Ginger" Cress is a current Foundation Board member, continuing the legacy of her late husband, Mike Moskau.

Many thanks for the exceeding contributions by individual Foundation Board members allowing for the purchase of biblical manuscripts, facsimiles, and artifacts and implementing the space for the museum.

**Do you want to see the museum yourself? Here is your invitation to you to come to visit the Bible Museum. You can learn more about the Museum by going to: <https://nobts.edu/museum>.**

Don't hesitate to get in touch with Amy at the Museum at 504-816-8555 to arrange your tour.



# Matching Gift

BY MIKE HALEY -

Board Chairman and Giving Tuesday Team Leader

Our Foundation Board, of which you are a valuable member, has pledged to raise \$100,000 as a matching contribution for this year's Giving Tuesday, which takes place on November 30.

Giving Tuesday is a significant fund-raising event for our beloved school, and I am confident that Board Members will rise to the challenge and fully fund the \$100,000 matching pledge.

**Here is what must be done by September 30.**

1. Either send your contribution to NOBTS and designate it as your contribution to the matching pledge or
2. Contact the Office for Institutional Advancement at (800) 662-8701, extension 3252, to make a pledge.
3. Whatever you choose, contributions must be submitted no later than September 30, and pledges must be fulfilled by December 31.

Join me, fellow Board members, and let's provide the matching funds as a challenge to everyone to exceed all giving expectations on November 30. Your fellow Board members depend on you. NOBTS & Leavell College depends on you. Students in need of financial assistance as they answer God's call to ministry are counting on you. So let's make it happen!





## Project On Point

BY MARK HAGELMAN

Fresh paint, waxed floors, and new doors. Oh My!

This summer the NOBTS facilities team has been hard at work and flipped nearly 90 student apartments in anticipation of students moving to campus for Fall classes. As we kick off the Fall semester, there are only four apartments left. Praise the Lord!

ADA work was completed on our student center elevator and a student apartment, increasing accessibility for those with disabilities. All power-assisted entry points are functional, too.

This semester our facilities team will update two Courtyard Apartments. These apartments were identified last year in October as promising candidates for ADA conversion. With the short postponement behind us, we look forward to grateful students occupying these newly renovated spaces!

A big thank you to Dr. Jim Parker and his team for their diligent follow-through.

Thank you, Foundation Board members, for making it all possible.



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As we kickoff the Fall semester, there are only four student apartments available.

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## Board Officers -21/22

Your officers are available to serve every member.

Here are your Foundation Officers:

- Mike Haley – Chairman
- Ron McCaskill - Vice-Chair
- Cory Armand - Recording Secretary
- Brett Allen - Executive Treasurer
- Mike Wetzel - Executive Director

## Membership Requirements

As voted during the March meeting, here are your membership requirements.

- Initial three-year commitment to give or raise \$5,000 minimum per year to the Foundation Endowment.
- Attendance at the Annual Meeting is to be missed only by excused absence.
- Members are to pray for the Seminary daily.
- \$100,000 in a one-time gift secures Lifetime membership.
- Enlist new members within three years.
- Each board member will be asked to help facilitate a regional “NOBTS and Friends” event in their region.
- 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.
- A commitment to continued giving on an annual basis (after the first three years).

## Team Work; Dream Work

Teams are new, and we want you to succeed.

Would you please pray for each group as we serve together?

1. Recruitment - Jody Dean, Captian
2. Events - Carol Wilken, Captian
3. Board Training - Chris Townson, Captian
4. Giving Tuesday - Mike Haley, Captian
5. Directory & Fellowship - Becky Harris, Captian

We know you care deeply for NOBTS and Leavell College and desire to see the Foundation Board grow in strength and influence over the coming years. Your efforts as a team member matter, and we thank you for your help!

Don't hesitate to get in touch with us with any questions or concerns.

(504) 282-4455 ext. 3252 or email us at [development@nobts.edu](mailto:development@nobts.edu)



# To infinity and beyond

BY MARK HAGELMAN

Toy Story is a 1995 American computer-animated comedy film produced by Pixar Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures. In this film, Buzz Lightyear, a famed character voiced by actor Tim Allen, had a famous phrase 'To infinity and beyond!'

As I think about my infinite beyond, I want to be sure to share the blessings God has given me to care for those I leave behind and with Kingdom-focused ministry. So, I'll go out on a limb and say you do too.

Although death is a significant disruption, Scripture is clear; we should be confident in the hope of our salvation through Jesus Christ! Absent from the body, present with the Lord.

As Christians, the Foundation Board wants to encourage you to seriously think about today as if it were your last for the sake of urgency and to spur each of you to take care of your estate plans. You have a friend in us, and you don't have to try to make estate decisions alone.

We want to remind you of a benefit afforded to you as a Foundation Board member. The Southern Baptist Foundation can assist you and your family through estate planning from a Christ-centered perspective.

There is a lot to consider, but what an opportunity we all have to get our estate plans settled while we're still here. Thank you for honoring your family, church, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary through your estate plans.

Contact John Kea; he will help answer your questions!

~ [jkea@southernbaptistfoundation.org](mailto:jkea@southernbaptistfoundation.org)

~ (615) 254-8823 office

## 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*

Taylor Anderson

*Development Recorder*

Meagan Stedman

*Gift Processor*

Shann Phillips

*Project Manager*



We mourn the loss of our Foundation Board member and dear friend John Knight Sr., who passed away on May 24, 2021. Please join us as we pray for Eileen and the Knight family.



*The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation Board*

Office for Institutional Advancement 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126