

The Wesley Foundation at
Sam Houston State University
1632 University Ave, Huntsville, TX
77340

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Zone

The Wesley Bearkat

The Official Newsletter of the Sam Houston State Wesley Foundation

Spring 2017 Edition

A newsletter designed to be experienced in 7 minutes, for people on the go!



The Wesley Foundation at
Sam Houston State University
1632 University Ave,
Huntsville, TX 77340

The SHSU Wesley Foundation Staff:

Rev. Greg Oberg
Campus Minister / Wesley Director

Rev. Jennifer Webber
Volunteer Associate Campus Minister

Grace Dominguez
Business Specialist

Katelyn Anderson
Connections Intern

Halen Quintana
Kitchen Intern/ Chef

Jessica Duke
Custodian



A Few Quick Words from Greg

Back in January, our crew did a really cool thing. We buried a time capsule. We purchased a stainless steel time capsule box from a professional company. The steel box is rated to last 75 years. Fortunately, we won't have to wait that long- our Student Council set the clock for 15 years, to be opened in 2032.

I have to say it was a daunting task to write six letters: one to myself, one to my wife, one to my oldest son (who will be 31 that year), one to my second son (who will be 27 that year), one to my little girl (who will be 20 that year) and one to the campus minister of 2032. Many of the students also wrote letters to their future selves. We packed it with newspapers, Wesley newsletters, picture books, Wesley gear (pens, t-shirts, cups, flashlight without batteries). I also put in a DVD that had a 15-minute visual tour of the Wesley. Maybe I should have used a USB drive instead of a DVD. Will they have the technology to read DVDs in 2032? I even thought about putting a Twinkie in there too, but we ran out of room.

As I buried it in the courtyard, I was reminded of the words from an old Steve Green song: "Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run the race not only for the prize, but as those who've gone before us. Let us leave to those behind us the heritage of faithfulness passed on through Godly lives. Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful."

In Christ's Service,

Greg



Generosity Corner

Our 2016 was a good year of generosity for us! Through our partner programs with Amazon and Kroger to individual donors to support from churches and organizations to our several fundraisers, we raised an additional \$22,170.41 above the support we get from the United Methodist Church. If we add the \$64,000 kitchen & shed grant we received from Moody U.M.C., that brings our fundraising efforts to \$86,170.41 for 2016! We are very grateful to our 82 churches, organizations and households that supported us in 2016:

Support Network (\$1-\$99 for 2016)- 41 investors
Team 10 (\$100-\$199 for 2016) - 22 investors
Club 25 (\$200-\$300 for 2016) - 9 investors
Champions League (\$301+ for 2016) - 10 investors

Dates/Events on the Horizon:

March 26- First-ever Potato Fundraiser at Madisonville
March 25- Help at a Habitat for Humanity site
March 31- Spring Board Game Night at the Wesley Parsonage (the Obergs' Home)
April 2 - Potato Fundraiser at F.U.M.C. Huntsville
April 10- Resurrection Week Worship Service with other SHSU Campus Ministries, on campus
April 12 - Attend the 23rd Annual Sammy Awards (we have been nominated for Outstanding Religious Org)
April 22- All Paws In Service Project
April 26- New Student Council Elected, Revealed
April 30- End of Year Dinner & Event
May 3- Final worship service of the 2016-17 year
May 7-13- Final Exams Week, SHSU Graduation
May 21-27- Mission Trip (College U.M. ARMY) to Tyler
May 28-31- Annual Conference at the Woodlands
May 31- SHSU summer semester begins
June 11- Potato Fundraiser- Bays Chapel/Richards UMC

**Next Wesley Bearkat Newsletter:
Summer Edition
Later-July 2017**

Connect with us:



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[SHSUWesleyFoundation](https://www.youtube.com/SHSUWesleyFoundation)



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Ash Wednesday Service Presents “Peter’s Walk” (3/1/17)

As we began the season of Lent on Wednesday, March 2, our fantastic worship team and Student Council put together a multi-tactile experience called “Peter’s Walk.” About forty students were blindfolded, put into groups, and taken through different stations to hear stories of Jesus’ ministry, and touch objects of the story, as well as go through a time of foot-washing. This was not a “normal” worship service, yet it was certainly powerful! We began this Lenten 2017 journey with Jesus in a meaningful way, and we will bring it to a close on April 10 when we combine with other campus ministries for our Resurrection Week Worship Service.



The Wesley Celebrates Regina and Welcomes Grace

Our amazing business specialist, Mrs. Regina Guthrie (pictured with her horse), retired from her role on our staff. For three years she ran our finances well, paid hundreds of bills, kept up donation records, and also served as a positive female presence for our students. Following her would be a tough act. I am pleased to say we had 13 applicants for her job, of which the interview team worked very hard to discern her successor. The team selected Ms. Grace Dominguez, who has exceptional experience and gifts! On March 20, we will have a wonderful reception for Regina and present her with a signed picture frame (shown below).



New Tiles Installed in Dining and Living Areas

We are pleased to say that over the past seven years, we have replaced all 9,200 square feet of carpet and tile in the building. During the Christmas Break, Ward’s Flooring worked hard to replace the tiles in our Dining and Living Areas. It has continued the excitement of the crew, the Board, our sponsors and many guests. We also added two nice rugs for the Living Area.



Student Council Plans at A&M and Meets Bishop Scott Jones

We had a very unique and amazing Student Council Planning Retreat! We went to College Station and enjoyed staying at A&M United Methodist Church (Greg’s home church). We did lots of planning for our semester, ate well, did a lot of fun games, observed Northgate at night, enjoyed visiting the A&M Wesley, worshipped at the early service and met lots of great people. It was one of our best planning retreats yet. Something very special was participating in the West District’s event of hosting Bishop Scott Jones. Both the A&M and SHSU Wesley Foundations were well-represented there, and the students learned a lot about our connectional church.

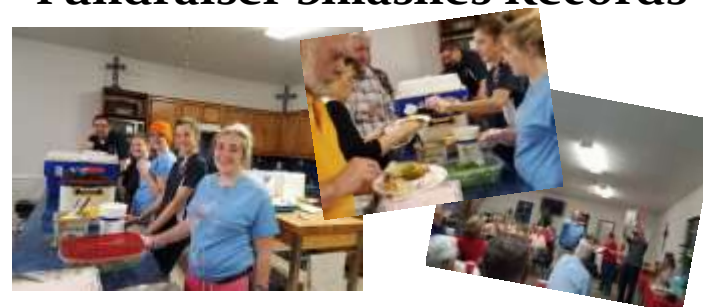


All Campus Retreat 2017



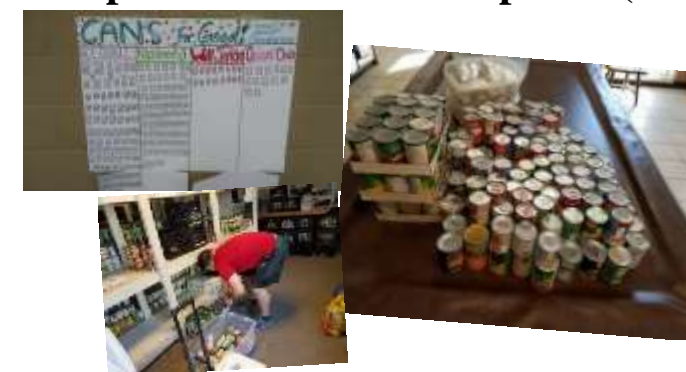
February 17-19: Another great retreat with 14 other Wesley Foundations from all over Texas is under our belts! 19 of us joined 230 others for worship, workshops, games, rest, food, and plenty of fun. Our awesome praise team lead worship on Saturday morning, and two of our students were elected to serve as student reps on the TX Conf Board of Campus Ministry: Jaila Moore and Ryan Zamboni. Our Wesley Bearkats participated well and did an amazing job at representing our crew and our university!

Riverside UMC Potato Fundraiser Smashes Records



It’s spring time, and that means potato fundraisers with local churches. Our crew works very hard to raise additional funds for our growing and dynamic ministry. With a larger crew, comes larger costs. With this in mind, we have increased the number of potato lunches at churches from five to seven. Riverside UMC joined the team, and at their first one, they raised \$3,000. A chunk of that was from selling potatoes (with all the fixings of course)! Another was from the auction they conducted for us, with every dollar going to the Wesley. The mission group also contributed a check, and a Board member put in a check as well to bring up the grand total to \$3000! We are very grateful for the generosity and support!

Wesley Small Groups Compete in 1st Annual Canned Food Drive Competition for Good Shepherd (Feb)



Our Student Council came up with an amazing idea: have each small group contribute cans, and the group with the most cans receives a free pizza dinner! We raised over 300 cans and donated it to our local homeless shelter and food pantry here in Huntsville: Good Shepherd Mission home. With increased crew size comes increased mission impact. This is a tangible example. Not only were we able to bless Good Shepherd with a monetary donation from our January offering, we were glad to bless them again with this!

Wesley Work Day Takes Care of Building and Grounds Business (3/4/2017)



Every spring, we do a Wesley spring cleaning and odd jobs day. We emptied out the dead bugs from the light panels, reorganized the sanctuary, reorganized the bookshelves, trimmed hedges and trees, re-did the flower bed, and we finally finished burning decades of old checks and bank statements. The students, and two of our Board members, did a good job taking care of many projects around the Wesley to help us continue to be an excellent place for worship, classwork, friendship building, discipleship and memories.