



THE WESLEY BEARKAT

OFFICIAL SHSU WESLEY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

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

Georgia Oberg

Business Manager

Brittany Condry

Connections Intern

Halen Quintana (graduating in May)

Brittany Knox (new hire)

Kitchen Intern/ Chef

Natalie Fellers

Worship & Media Intern

Jackie Wallace

Custodian



A Few Quick Words from Greg

My final message series of the 2018-2019 year is "Having Godly Friendships in a Social Media Age." One main point: Relationships matter. Relationships have mattered across all the centuries, across all the languages and cultures. People stay connected with campus ministries and churches through relationships. Yes, events matter too, but only as a vehicle for where relationships and friendships are strengthened. Any church that can serve as a healthy environment where Godly friendships are grown has a bright future. That is what I see with our campus ministry. This is not a metric that can easily be measured like financial giving, or worship participation or small group participation. Furthermore, it takes time. We don't like hearing that in the 21st Century. We want everything NOW! NOW! NOW! Friendships take time to develop, no matter what your age. Sadly, we are becoming more isolated as a society, and seeing depression, anxiety and addictions elevate from it. This is the case on all college campuses. And these college campuses are our primary mission fields. Human beings will always crave friendships, no matter what the new tech is, what the clothing trend is, or what the music sounds like. If we can continue being vineyards where beautiful, Jesus-grounded friendships are grown, we will have a great impact and future indeed!

In Christ's Service,

Greg



CONNECT WITH US!



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All Campus Retreat 2019 (2/22-2/24/19)

Our students joined with about 200 other college students from 15 other Wesley ministries from all over Texas (like UTA, Navarro College, SFA, Texas A&M, U of H, Tyler, and more). Our praise team led worship on Saturday morning. The students enjoyed preaching from Pastor Meredith Wende-Mills (from Gastro Church) who shared about Sabbath and resting in God well. The students went to workshops led by other campus ministers (Greg took on the "Look out! It's the sex talk!" workshop and survived). We ate well, enjoyed outdoor activities with fantastic weather at Sky Ranch. Relationships also deepened. Special thanks to the Lamar Wesley crew who organized and hosted it. They did a great job! We are also proud to announce, for the third year in a row, the Division of Student Affairs of SHSU awarded a travel grant to our Wesley, in order to help us represent SHSU well at All Campus Retreat.



Share, Prayer, Care Efforts

The students developed a new, on-going initiative this year. Once a month, on a weeknight, many of our students gather to share about the needs of others, pray for their needs, and create cards for people going through challenging times. Recently, they have made cards for patients of Texas Children's Hospital The Woodlands, as well as veterans of the V.A. Hospital in Houston. This extends the reach of our ministry even further!



Bringing Valentines Cards and Roses to Creekside Home (2/16/19)

One of our great spring service projects is to bring Valentine's cards and roses to residents of Creekside Retirement Community. We Christmas carol there in December, and we are back again in February! We create dozens of Valentine's cards, then our students deliver them and roses. Our students love spending time with the residents, hearing their stories, learning from their lives, and the residents love it when the young people come by for a fun visit!



Kats for Christ and the Wesley Ministries Join Together for Dinner and Worship for Two Wednesdays

2/20/19 & 2/27/19

Relationships grow with time. We are glad to see that our relationships with fellow SHSU campus ministries pays off well. For the first time ever, we combined dinner and worship with another campus ministry for two Wednesdays back-to-back. On the first Wednesday, we went to the KFC Ministry and Greg shared the message at their worship. For the second Wednesday, the KFC students joined us for dinner and worship and their campus minister, Todd Tipton, brought the message. We are thrilled that this worked out well, and hope to do it again in the 2019-2020 year!



Passion Conference, Dallas; 1/2-1/4/19

40,000 college students and chaperones. Four stadiums across the USA. Great preachers. Some of the best Christian bands from all over the world. All of this was Passion 2019. A group from our SHSU Wesley joined the Dallas effort and were profoundly impacted by three days of worship, messages, discussion questions and adventure. Special thanks to Mansfield UMC for letting us sleep two nights there! One more thing: our new Ministry Machine van was VERY popular, and was easy to find in a giant parking lot filled with white church and rental vans!



In a single weekend: A Board Game Night, a 5K, a work day, a Hospitality House visit, two Potato Fundraisers, and a water geyser! 3/1 - 3/3/19

To give you a glimpse of our spring semester, let's take a single weekend: On Friday, we had Spring Board Game Night at the Oberg's home/the Wesley Parsonage: pizza, Apples to Apples, and other really fun group games. On Saturday morning, Greg and Kenzie (our Fellowship Chair) ran in the Run With Sam 5K. The race went right by the Wesley. We had prepared for that with a cheering station, including Randy the Dinosaur who would run with some of the runners to encourage them! After that, it was time for our annual Wesley Work Day. The students trimmed bushes, did landscaping, cleaned out lights, and we used our brand new power washer! They weren't finished yet. Then, we were off to the Hospitality House to donate and serve dinner to the guests. Hospitality House is a free hotel and activity center for people visiting loved ones who are incarcerated. We weren't finished yet. The next morning, we did two of our baked potato fundraisers back to back at Stoneham UMC and Farris Chapel UMC. Fun, service, fellowship, impact, fundraising, all packed into one 40 hour span. That shows the work and heart these amazing college students do, and that gives more reasons for people to be inspired about what Jesus is up to at SHSU! Oh, and workmen installing a new fiber optic line ruptured a water main, so we had a geyser for a few hours too!



**The Wesley Foundation at
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**Stamp
Zone**

Generosity Corner

Fiscal year 2018 was another great year for us! In 2016, we had 83 giving households/churches. In 2018, we had 127! Thanks to our supporters, grants we received, and acts of generosity, we raised over \$70,000 beyond Annual Conference funding! Wow!

2018 was the first year we offered online giving. For all of 2018, we received \$6,514.00 !

Thank you for investing in our students and our impact!

Give as guest

Give ▶

If you want to donate online, simply go to <http://shsuwesley.org/donate/>, hit “Donate Online Now”, it will take you to Texas Methodist Foundation. Just click the “Give as Guest” button (right hand side). Fill out the short info form. You can choose to give immediately, or schedule it for later.

Dates/Events on the Horizon:

- 4/6/19- All Paws In, SHSU Service Project Day
- 4/10/19- 25th Sammy Awards (we are nominated!)
- 4/15/19- Resurrection Week SHSU Easter Service
- 4/28/19- End of Year Event of the Wesley
- 5/1/19- Last Worship of the 2017-2018 Year
- 5/5/19- Three potato fundraisers in one Sunday: Wesley Memorial, Bays Chapel, Richards UMCs
- 5/5-5/19/18- Spring Finals Week of SHSU
- 5/9-5/11/19- Spring Graduation, SHSU
- 5/19-5/25/19- College UM ARMY in Athens, TX
- 5/29/19- *First Day of Summer Session I, SHSU*
- 6/6/19- Orientation #1; summer recruiting begins!
- 7/2/19- *First Day of Summer Session II, SHSU*

**Next Wesley Bearkat Newsletter:
Summer Edition; August 2019**

