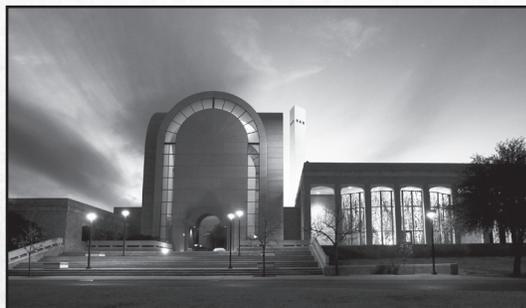




**THIS IS  
ACU**

# ACU AT A GLANCE



**The University:** A selective four-year private Christian university, ACU is the best at providing exceptional academics in a Christ-centered community. It includes the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Biblical Studies, Business Administration, Education and Human Services, Graduate and Professional Studies, and Honors; the Graduate School; the Graduate School of Theology; and the schools of Information Technology and Computing, Nursing, and Social Work. ACU is affiliated with the Churches of Christ and is one of the largest private universities in the Southwest.

**Academic Programs\*:** Students may choose from 77 baccalaureate majors that include more than 135 areas of study, 30 master's degree programs and three doctoral programs.

**Accreditation:** Abilene Christian University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Ga. 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of ACU.

**Students:** 5,149 students, comprising 3,670 undergraduates and 1,479 graduate students, generally from 50 states and territories, and 42 nations.

**Location:** ACU is in Abilene, Texas, an award-winning city of nearly 120,000 150 miles west of the Dallas and Fort Worth area. ACU Dallas, a branch campus in Addison, Texas, is the home of the university's online graduate and professional degree programs.

**Faculty:** 253 full-time faculty members with 96 percent of tenured or tenure-track faculty holding terminal degrees. ACU has a student-to-faculty ratio of 14:1.

**Financial Aid\*:** The average first-year student's financial aid package for 2017-18 was \$27,000, which included a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study and loans. ACU offered scholarships and grants valued at more than \$33 million to the entering class of 2017.

**Graduate Success:** Of May 2016 graduates, 94 percent were employed or enrolled in graduate or professional school within six months. Specific programs saw even higher employment success at 100 percent, such as teacher education, marketing and chemistry. ACU graduates who apply to medical, dental and veterinary schools have been accepted at twice the national average for the past 10 years.

**International Study:** ACU's Study Abroad programs take students to 24 nations in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. Nearly 25 percent of graduating seniors have studied abroad.

**Campus Technology:** ACU ensures cutting-edge technology is an integral part of each student's education. The university's AT&T Learning Studio and Learning Commons, both in Brown Library, provide innovative spaces for students to collaborate and acquire skills using the latest technology. The campus has full wireless Internet access and students have access to Adobe Creative Cloud at no additional cost.

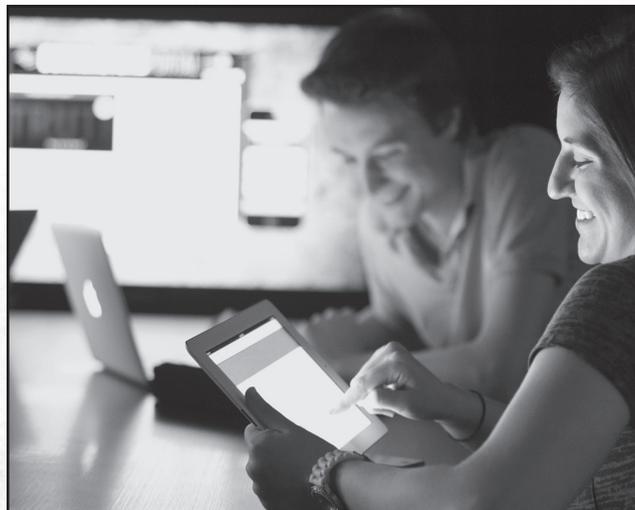
**Student Organizations:** There are about 100 campus organizations in which students can become involved, including social clubs; government; and service, honor and special-interest groups.

**Health, Wellness and Recreation:** The \$21 million Royce and Pam Money Student Recreation and Wellness Center is a focal point on campus. Designed to encourage wellness of the whole individual – body, mind and spirit – it includes the Weber Medical and Counseling Care Center and is the home of a dynamic intramural program with championship and recreational leagues for students of all interests and abilities.

**Athletics:** NCAA Division I, Southland Conference. Football (FCS), women's soccer, women's volleyball,

men's and women's cross country, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field, baseball, men's golf, men's and women's tennis, women's softball and women's beach volleyball. Only four colleges and universities – including UCLA, Stanford and USC – have won more NCAA national team championships than the Wildcats.

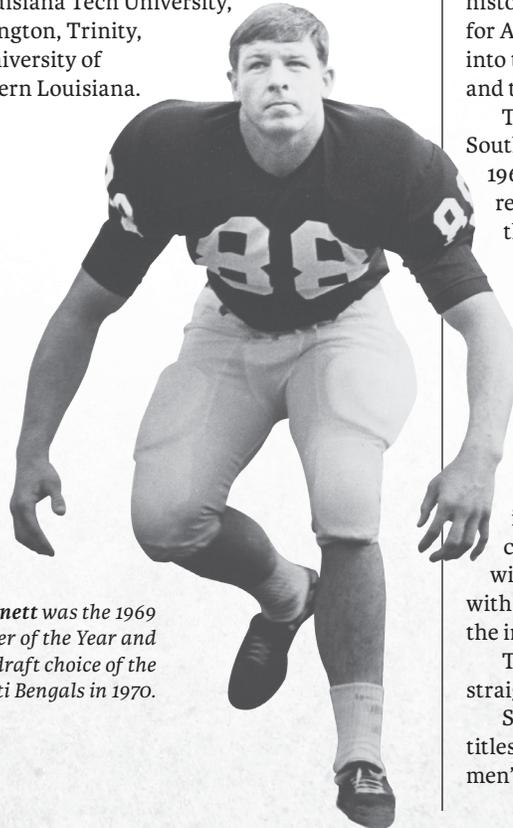
*\*For 2017-18 school year.*



# ACU AND THE SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE

## ACU in the Southland Conference

**W**hen ACU made the move from the Texas Conference to the Southland Conference in 1963, it did so as a founding member, along with Arkansas State University, Lamar University, The University of Texas-Arlington and Trinity University. ACU enjoyed great success in the league, most notably in men's basketball, men's track and field and cross country, and football. In 1972 – ACU's last year in the league – the Southland was composed of ACU, Arkansas State, Lamar, Louisiana Tech University, Texas-Arlington, Trinity, and the University of Southwestern Louisiana.



*Chip Bennett was the 1969 college division Player of the Year and a third-round NFL draft choice of the Cincinnati Bengals in 1970.*

## ACU in the Southland record book

**D**espite not being a member of the Southland Conference for almost four decades, Wildcats still appear in the league's football, men's basketball, cross country, and track and field record books.

Prior to the 2011 season, former ACU quarterback **Jim Lindsey** still ranked fifth in Southland history with 8,521 career passing yards and ninth in total offense with 8,385 yards. Lindsey was a three-time first team all-Southland quarterback, and at the end of the 1972 season, the most prolific passer in NCAA history. In football, six student-athletes who played for ACU during its Southland history were drafted into the NFL, 15 were named first team all-Southland and three were named first team all-America.

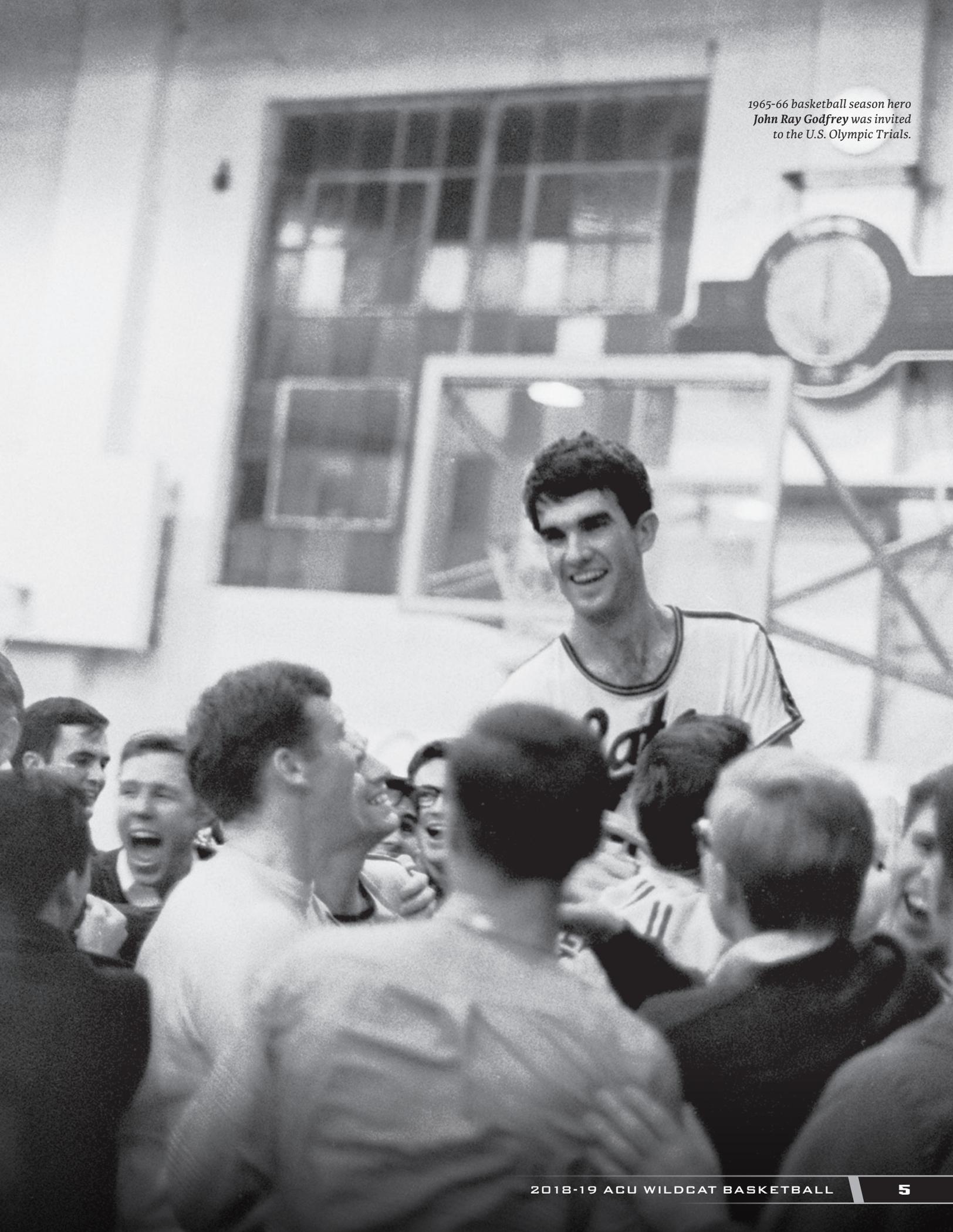
The ACU men's basketball team has won Southland championships in 1964-65, 1965-66, 1967-68 and 2018-19, and the women have won regular-season titles in 2015-16 and 2016-17, and the postseason title in 2018-19. Former Wildcats **John Ray Godfrey** and **Ronnie Hearne** are two of only 17 players in Southland history to be voted first team all-conference three times. Former Wildcat **Andrew Prince** still ranks third in Southland history in career rebounding average at 12.1 per game.

The ACU men's cross country team won seven straight Southland titles from 1964-70, which is still tied for the second-most titles in league history. The Wildcat men's cross country team set the Southland record for lowest winning score at the league championship meet with 19 points in 1965. Four different Wildcats won the individual championship between 1964 and 1970.

The ACU men's track and field team won seven straight Southland team titles from 1964-70.

Since ACU rejoined the league, it also has won titles in women's cross country (2015 and 2017), men's tennis (2017) and women's soccer (2018). ■

1965-66 basketball season hero  
John Ray Godfrey was invited  
to the U.S. Olympic Trials.





# ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

**B**ecause of ACU's strong sense of mission and outstanding academic programs, it attracts high-quality faculty members from around the world. They believe their Christian commitment requires them to excel in their fields of study and to focus on teaching and mentoring students. Experienced and talented professors teach freshmen and conduct research and hands-on learning projects with undergraduate students. Some of the best minds in the world choose to teach at ACU.

ACU students are encouraged to share their time and talents as Christian leaders and volunteers through various service-learning opportunities on the campus, in the community and in other countries. Graduates of ACU are in high demand by employers and graduate programs because they gain knowledge and experience in their majors, and they learn to apply Christian values to their everyday decisions.

#### Among ACU's top academic programs are:

- arguably the top **undergraduate physics program** in the world, with unprecedented research opportunities at the nation's best nuclear physics laboratories in roles typically reserved only for graduate students and physicists with Ph.D.s;

- a **business college** accredited by AACSB International, with graduates whose first-time pass rate on the CPA exam is more than double the national average;
- one of only five accredited **journalism schools** affiliated with a private university (others include Baylor and Brigham Young);
- a **teacher education program** whose graduates are in high demand for their hands-on expertise in bringing mobile-learning technology to the classroom;
- an ATS-accredited **Graduate School of Theology** and an undergraduate **Bible, missions and ministry program** that has produced more youth ministers than any other U.S. university; and
- a well-respected **sciences program** that prepares graduates who are accepted to medical schools at a rate double the national average.

Abilene Christian is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees. Its professional schools and academic departments/programs have achieved a variety of top accreditations, including the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), American Chemical Society (ACS), and others.

ACU also is affiliated with the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, and the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts. ■



# ACADEMIC INNOVATION



**A**CU's application of technology to learning has been acclaimed by industry and higher education experts around the world as an example of forward-thinking institutions and organizations. Its Adams Center for Teaching and Learning opened in 1992 in Brown Library, spurring opportunities for innovation, focus and leadership within the community of leaders and emerging leaders among ACU faculty members.

In Fall 2008, ACU's mobile-learning initiative made it the first university to provide an Apple iPhone or iPod touch to all incoming freshmen. All faculty and full-time undergraduate students were provided these mobile devices in Fall 2011, integrating technology and learning in and out of the classroom. Today, iPads are required of freshmen.

In March 2011, the AT&T Learning Studio, on the top floor of Brown Library, began providing a curricular laboratory to support student, faculty and staff experiments with new media tools.

In 2018, ACU's Nuclear Energy EXperimental Testing Lab (NEXT) was awarded funding by the U.S. Department of Energy to partner with Idaho National Laboratory and several other universities on a new research reactor. Others include Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale University, Colorado School of Mines, Georgia Tech University and Illinois Institute of Technology.

This funding will continue NEXT Lab's work to address the world's critical needs of affordable and clean energy, pure and abundant water, and medical isotopes for diagnosing and treating cancer. ■



# NOTABLE ALUMNI

**G**raduates of ACU have become best-selling Christian authors, ministers, members of Congress, state judges, big-city mayors, researchers, Hollywood movie producers, teachers and superintendents, top Nashville musicians and music producers, distinguished university professors, business owners, internationally renowned physicians, Pulitzer Prize winners, and winners of Emmy, Telly, Dove, Grammy, Inventor of the Year and Teacher of the Year awards.

- **Kent Brantly, M.D.**, a family medicine physician working as a medical missionary for Samaritan's Purse, became the first American to survive the Ebola virus disease in 2014 when he contacted it while serving in Monrovia, Liberia. He was later named *Time* magazine's Person of the Year for 2014 and one of three Texans of the Year for 2014 by the *Dallas Morning News*.



- **Janice Massey, M.D.**, is a neurologist who serves on the faculty of Duke University Medical School and is vice chair of the Board of Directors for the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.
- **David Dean Halbert** is an entrepreneur who owns Caris, Ltd., a privately held investment partnership. He previously was co-founder, chair, president and CEO of Advance PCS, a highly successful pharmacy benefit management service company.
- **Tobie Hatfield** is director of Nike's Innovation Kitchen think tank.

## Prominent alumni in the coaching profession

Each year, Abilene Christian graduates are coaches of many of the top high school teams in Texas. In December 2011, three alumni led teams to state football titles: **Hal Wasson** (Class 5A Division I champion Southlake Carroll High School), **Kade Burns** (Class 1A Division 1 champion Mason High School) and **Mark Coley** (TAPPS Six-Man Division 1 Abilene Christian High School).

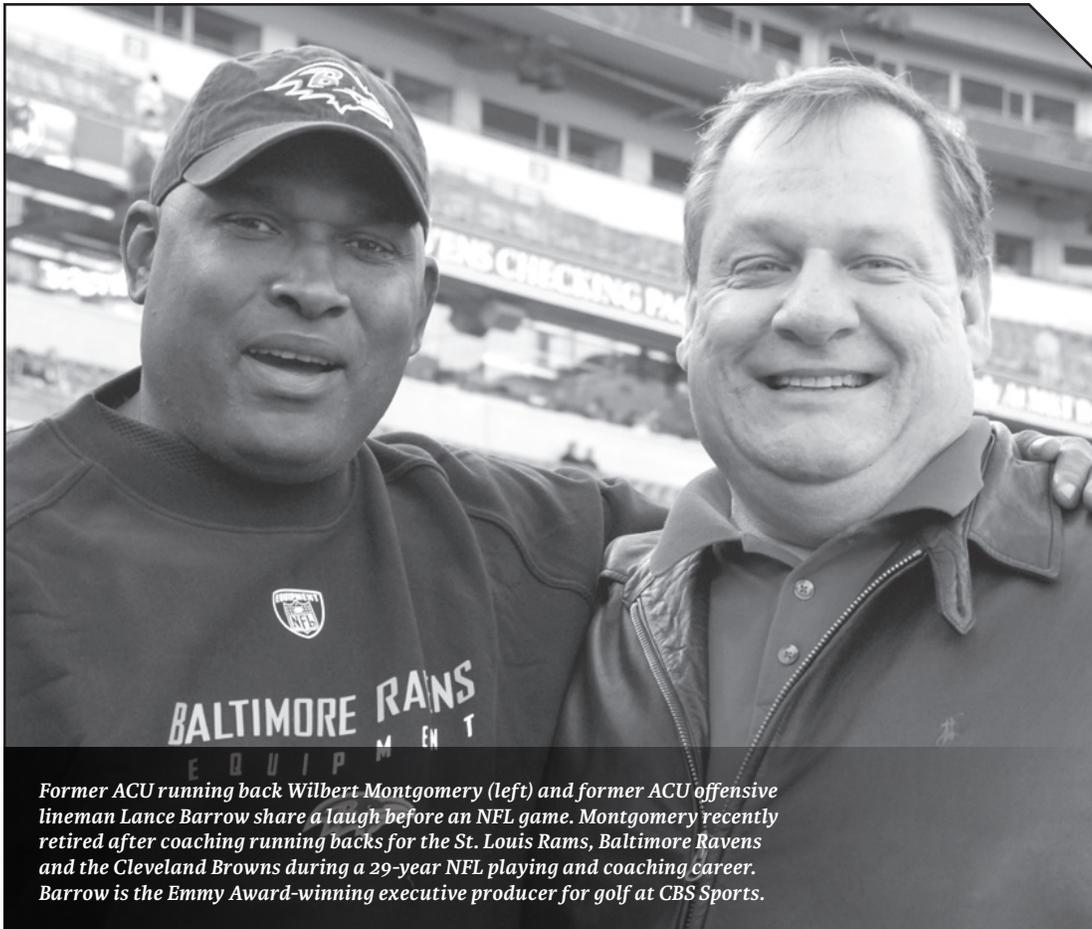
**Bob Shipley**, whose sons, Jordan and Jaxon have starred at wide receiver at the University of Texas, is football analyst at The University of Texas at Austin. Wylie High School's highly successful **Hugh Sandifer** is former president of the Texas High School Football Coaches Association. **Allen Wilson**, who retired from Dallas Carter High School, won state titles at Paris High School in 1988 and Tyler John Tyler in 1994 during his career, and was inducted in 2018 to the Texas High School coaches Association Hall of Honor. **Sam Harrell** was the head coach at Ennis High School for 16 seasons, winning Class 4A state titles in 2000, 2001 and 2004.

**Wes Kittley**, whose teams won 29 NCAA Division II national titles while he was at ACU, is the head track and field coach at Texas Tech University.



*Max Lucado is a minister and best-selling Christian author.*

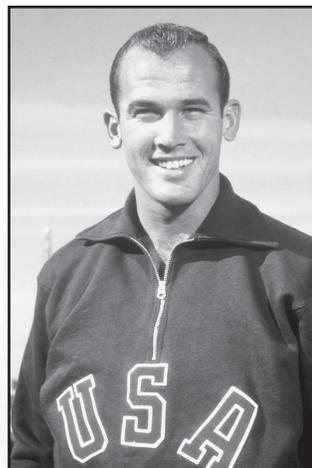
- For more than 25 years, **Max Lucado** has been a best-selling Christian author and minister of the Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas.
- In the last six years, seven ACU alumni have served as university presidents or chancellors. Among them, **Dr. Jack Scott** is a former chancellor of the California Community College System, which serves 2.6 million students in 109 colleges.
- Two ACU alumni have been recent members of Congress: **U.S. Rep. Ted Poe** (Houston) and **U.S. Rep. Janice Hahn** (Los Angeles).
- The late **Jack Pope** was a former chief justice and **Jeffrey Boyd** is a current justice of the Texas Supreme Court.
- **B. David Vanderpool, M.D.**, is former president of the Texas Medical Association.



*Former ACU running back Wilbert Montgomery (left) and former ACU offensive lineman Lance Barrow share a laugh before an NFL game. Montgomery recently retired after coaching running backs for the St. Louis Rams, Baltimore Ravens and the Cleveland Browns during a 29-year NFL playing and coaching career. Barrow is the Emmy Award-winning executive producer for golf at CBS Sports.*

#### Notable athletics alumni

- **Lance Barrow** is the Emmy Award-winning coordinating producer of golf for CBS Sports.
- **Dr. James Womack** is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology at Texas A&M University who discovered the genome for cattle and won the prestigious Wolf Prize in Agriculture.
- **Bobby Morrow** won three gold medals in the Olympics and was named *Sports Illustrated* Sportsman of the Year for 1956. In 2005 he was named ACU's Athlete of the Century. **Earl Young** is an international business entrepreneur who won a gold medal in the 4x400 relay at the 1960 Olympic Games.
- **Wilbert Montgomery** was a longtime assistant coach for the Cleveland Browns, Baltimore Ravens and St. Louis Rams, and is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame. He is a former all-pro running back for the Philadelphia Eagles and was that team's all-time leader in rushing attempts, rushing yards and rushing touchdowns.
- **Jeev Milkha Singh** is a member of the PGA Tour and European Tour, and a former winner of the Asian Order of Merit. ■



*Bobby Morrow won three gold medals in the 1956 Olympics and won the James E. Sullivan Award in 1957 as the nation's top amateur athlete.*

# ACU ATHLETICS EXCELLENCE

**T**he remarkable success of ACU Wildcat student-athletes through the years is a tribute to the student-athletes, the coaches and the tradition of winning permeating the program. ACU recruits its student-athletes for their academic and spiritual qualities, as well as their abilities in athletics.

ACU's intercollegiate athletics program began in 1919 when the football and men's basketball teams were started. Former director of athletics **A.B. Morris** served as the head football and head men's basketball coach during his long tenure at ACU. Former football coach **A.M. "Tonto" Coleman** went on to serve as the commissioner of the famed Southeastern Conference, and former track and field mentor **Oliver Bobby Morrow** – still called by some the greatest sprinter who ever lived.

Wildcat student-athletes have been blessed by a wealth of some of the top coaches in collegiate athletics, including **Bill McClure** (track and field), **Wally Bullington** (football), **Dee Nutt** (men's basketball), **Burl McCoy** (women's basketball), **Wes Kittley** (track and field), **Don W. Hood** (track and field), **Don D. Hood** (track and field), **Brek Horn**

(volleyball), **Vince Jarrett** (men's golf), and **Chris Thomsen** (football). Current coaches such as **Julie Goodenough** (women's basketball), **Hutton Jones** (men's and women's tennis) and **Adam Dorrel** (football) are at the top of their profession.

No intercollegiate athletics program in the state of Texas – at any level – can claim as many national championships as ACU, which has won 64 team titles since 1952. Of them, 57 have come at the NCAA Division II level, the fifth-most NCAA national championships in history behind only UCLA, Stanford, USC and NCAA Division III swimming powerhouse Kenyon College.

ACU's 54 national titles in track and field are the most in one sport by any university in the country. The Wildcats won 163 Lone Star Conference championships from 1973-2013 and enjoyed some remarkable championship winning streaks. The men's track and field team won 18 straight LSC championships (27 overall), and the women's track and field team won each of the first 20 LSC titles before its streak ended in 2004. The men's cross country team saw its LSC championship streak ended in November 2011 at 20 straight.

ACU student-athletes also have been awarded some of their sports highest individual honors, the most recent in 2008 when running back **Bernard Scott** won the Harlon Hill Trophy as the



*The Wildcat men's tennis team won a share of the Southland Conference championship in 2017.*



*The ACU women's basketball team won its second straight Southland Conference regular-season championship in 2016-17 with a 16-2 conference record. The Wildcats earned a second consecutive berth in the Postseason Women's National Invitational Tournament, where they beat Oklahoma State for the first NCAA Division I postseason win in ACU history.*

top player in NCAA Division II football. That same year, offensive center **Sam Collins** won the Gene Upshaw Award as the top lineman in NCAA Division II.

In 2007, cross country standout **Nicodemus Naimadu** became the first athlete in NCAA history – male or female, any level – to win four consecutive individual national championships. In 2009, decathlete **Camille Vandendriessche** became the first athlete in NCAA history to win three straight individual national championships in the decathlon. One year later, **Linda Brivule** became the first female in NCAA Division II history to win the individual national championship in the javelin.

ACU's internationally recognized track and field program has produced world-record holders, more than 20 Olympians, several hundred all-America performers and two Olympic gold medalists. In addition, the program was named the Texas Sports Dynasty of the Century by *Texas Monthly* magazine in November 1999.

Wildcat teams won 163 Lone Star Conference titles from 1973-2013, more than twice its closest competitor. Also, ACU has produced 32 NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship honorees since 1966.

The Wildcats also are heavily represented in Halls of Fame across the country, including Jackson and Morrow, who were elected in 2015 to the Texas Track and Field Coaches' Association Hall of Fame.

Morrow is in six different halls of fame: ACU, Drake Relays, U.S. Olympic, U.S. Track and Field, Texas Sports, and Texas Track and Field. Jackson is a member of the Texas Sports and U.S. Track Coaches halls of fame, and more than 50 other former Wildcats are recognized by other such organizations around the nation.

Abilene Christian was the only university in NCAA Division II to have been ranked in the top 15 in each of the first 16 Learfield Directors' Cup final standings, including second in 1995-96, 1996-97, 1998-99 and 2005-06. The Wildcats finished in the top four in four other seasons. ■



*Jaylen Franklin, a senior standout on the 2018-19 men's basketball team, earned Southland Conference Freshman of the Year honors in 2015-16.*

# THIS IS ABILENE, TEXAS

**A**bilene is a dynamic city of 120,000 people who value higher education and the difference it makes in the life of the community. Three private universities call it home (ACU, Hardin-Simmons and McMurry), as well as Cisco College, Texas State Technical College, professional schools from Texas Tech, and the Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing.

Because of its central location in our region, Abilene is the destination city for people from many small towns across what we call the “Big Country” for shopping, nice dining, healthcare, entertainment and cultural events. Abilene Regional Airport serves passengers on connecting flights on American Eagle via Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, as well as private charters. Interstate 20 and state highways 83, 84, 277 and 36 each intersect Abilene.

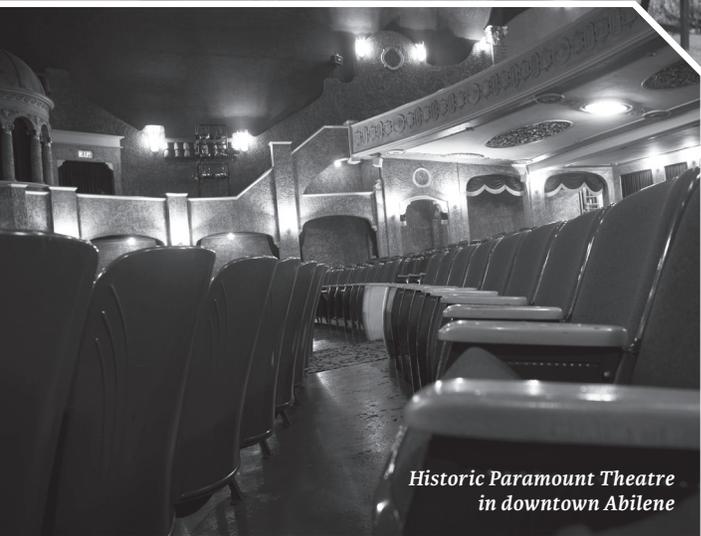
Known as the Storybook Capital of America, Abilene is a cultural mecca with a bustling convention and special-event environment, including the host of numerous state and national rodeo and cutting horse events, plus the West Texas Fair and Rodeo. More than 40 hotels and motels – including Residence Inn by Marriott, Hampton Inn and Suites (2), Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites (3), Comfort Suites, Courtyard by Marriott, Hilton Garden Inn, LaQuinta Inn and Suites (2), Wingate by Wyndham, MCM Eleganté Suites, and Fairfield Inn by Marriott – offer more than 3,100 rooms each night.

Most major chains of restaurants are nearby, including Olive Garden, Abuelo’s Mexican Food Embassy, Chili’s (2), Cracker Barrel, Cotton Patch Cafe, Logan’s Roadhouse, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster, Red Robin Gourmet Burgers, Rosa’s Cafe and Tortilla Factory (2), and Texas Roadhouse; along

with most major fast food restaurants and numerous locally and regionally acclaimed eateries featuring barbeque, steaks, Mexican and Chinese menus.

Abilene is 150 miles from Fort Worth, 180 miles from Dallas, 245 miles from San Antonio, 253 miles from Austin, and 368 miles from Houston. The driving distance, in miles, between Abilene and current SLC member institutions:

- **702** – University of New Orleans (New Orleans, La.)
- **669** – Southeastern Louisiana State University (Hammond, La.)
- **670** – Nicholls State University (Thibodaux, La.)
- **526** – McNeese University (Lake Charles, La.)
- **523** – University of Central Arkansas (Conway, Ark.)
- **461** – Lamar University (Beaumont)
- **436** – Northwestern State University (Natchitoches, La.)
- **409** – Houston Baptist University (Houston)
- **390** – Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (Corpus Christi)
- **363** – Stephen F. Austin State University (Nacogdoches)
- **341** – Sam Houston State University (Huntsville)
- **245** – University of the Incarnate Word (San Antonio) ■



*Historic Paramount Theatre  
in downtown Abilene*



*Everman Park and The Grace  
Museum in downtown Abilene*



*Annual Big Country Balloon Fest  
held on the last weekend of  
every September in Abilene*

# ACU BY THE NUMBERS

**5,149**

Students who represent 42 nations as well as  
50 states and territories

**77**

Baccalaureate majors that include more than  
135 areas of study, 30 master's degree programs and  
three doctoral programs

**92**

Number of countries in which ACU alumni reside  
as well as the United States

**17**

NCAA Division I sports played by the Wildcats  
in the Southland Conference

**68**

Percent of the class of 2017 who completed  
internships while at ACU

**24**

Number of countries in which ACU alumni  
reside as well as the United States

**40,000**

Hours of community service completed by  
ACU students each year

**100**

Percent of ACU faculty who are professing Christians

**25**

ACU average class size with a  
student-to-faculty ratio of 14:1

**100**

Student organizations including club sports,  
greek life and special-interest groups

**96**

Percent of tenured or tenure-track ACU faculty  
with terminal degrees in their field

**90**

Percent of 2017 May graduates employed  
or enrolled in grad school within six months  
of graduation

**58**

Percent of ACU freshmen who graduated in  
the top 25 percent of their high school class  
(average GPA of 3.58)



ABILENE CHRISTIAN  
UNIVERSITY

*acu.edu • acu.today*