

What I'd Like for You to Know About Me – Fall 2020

Stan A. Napper

I moved to Houston in August 2017 to be the founding dean of the new College of Engineering at HBU. I had been on the faculty of Louisiana Tech University for 33 years. Louisiana Tech is also my Alma Mater, where I received both the BS and PhD degrees in Biomedical Engineering.



During those years, I had been a professor of Biomedical Engineering, Dean of the College of Engineering and Science (2004 – 2013) and finally served as Vice President for Research and Development for four years. I was active in teaching, research, administration, student organizations, and various professional organizations. I was honored to be elected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering. I retired from Louisiana Tech in 2017, with the honorary title of Professor Emeritus and also Vice President Emeritus. As I approached eligibility for retirement, I asked the Lord if He wanted me to do something different, perhaps in the way of missions or ministry. When I had prayed this before, wanting to be available and surrendered to His will for my life, He brought new opportunities to me that were in the same city, at the same university, or the same church. But in 2017, He brought a new opportunity at HBU. In 2019, HBU asked me to become dean of the College of Science and Engineering.



I love being a professor and a dean, because I enjoy the interaction with students. I enjoy seeing the transitions and the maturing that occurs in college. I like to teach, and being involved in service activities through student organizations, through administration, and through various professional organizations (e.g. American Society for Engineering Education, ABET). I like making a difference in the lives of individuals. I like creating new and better approaches to education, like new degree programs (such as Cyber Engineering), new methods, and new collaborations. I helped to create the integrated engineering curriculum at Louisiana Tech, which led to the project-based curriculum called “Living with the Lab”, which led to HBU’s SAFE Engineering and SAFE Cyber Projects courses. I have also been involved in accreditation, as an evaluator at other universities, as a dean, and through two terms as a member of the Board of Directors of ABET (2009-2015).

I like being involved in research (some basic and some applied). As a Professor of Biomedical Engineering, my early research was in mathematical modeling of physiological systems but my later research was in engineering education and in applications of artificial intelligence in biomedical engineering. Projects have included expert systems for prescription of assistive devices (in augmentative communication and in adaptive driving), cognitive orthoses, and AI-based ECG arrhythmia diagnosis. To support this work, and in collaboration with others, I was able to obtain over \$5M in external funds for Louisiana Tech, and publish 44 professional articles. My primary professional goals now are to serve students through excellent education and leadership.



My wife, Vicki, is an outstanding partner, teacher, mother, and homemaker. We have been married 40 years, as of May 24, 2020. We have eight children (six sons and two daughters, all now grown, five who are married), and four grandsons.



Samuel is 35, married to Beth, and father of Benjamin Hayes and Bowen Robert. Sam graduated from La Tech with a BS in Finance, and an MBA, and works as a Credit/Risk Analyst for Origin Bank near Dallas. Joseph is 32, and married to Jen. Joe completed his bachelor's degree from Tech, and serves as a Youth Pastor in Ozark, AL. He is also enrolled in seminary in New Orleans. Beverly Ann is 29, and is married to Timothy Heine. Bev recently completed a Masters in Christian Apologetics from Southwestern Baptist Seminary which

included three transfer courses from HBU (after earning a bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech). She just had her first baby, Malachi Stanley. Adam is also 29 (Bev's twin), married to Ashley, and father of Henry Maxwell. Adam works at Bank of Ruston, and is pursuing a masters degree from New Orleans Baptist Seminary (after earning a bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech). Aaron recently married Becca, in our home in Pearland on April 25, 2020. He is 28 and also a graduate of La Tech. Aaron is serving as a technical manager for Life Action Ministries, a group that he traveled with for four years. Daniel is 25 and recently completed his BS in History from Tech, and starts the Alternative Certification Program for educators at HBU this fall. Mary Suzanne is 21, and after traveling with Life Action Ministries for two years, has just completed her first year as a Psychology major at HBU. All of our children were homeschooled, one of the greatest privileges, responsibilities, and joys that you could know. Our oldest son, Benjamin, went to heaven ahead of us (in May 2002, a result of a head-on collision with an 18-wheeler). He was a wonderful friend and helper to me and to his siblings. He was 19 and a sophomore at Tech.



I would also like for you to know that, as important as my profession is to me, and as much as I love my family, my priority and devotion is to God. The support, the hope, the source of my life is found in the Word of God (Holy Bible) and in my personal relationship with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Because I am able to personally confirm that God is real, alive, active, and true (even in the hardest of days), my view of the world is entirely Christian. My desire is to represent Him well and to demonstrate His love and all the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Although we are now members of a church in Sugar Land, my wife and I were members of Cook Baptist Church in Ruston from 1980 to 2019, where we worshiped and served for all of our married life. I was the church pianist for many of those years. My favorite hour of the week is the worship hour at church.

