



## Justin Russell Ball

October 9, 1980 - December 6, 2023

Dr. Justin Russell Ball, 43 of Corsicana, Tx met Jesus face to face on December 6, 2023.

Justin was born in Corsicana on October 9, 1980, to Bryan and Diane Ball. He attended Corsicana High School and went on to Texas A&M Commerce where he received his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice. After getting his bachelor's degree, Justin continued to pursue his education at Amberton University where he earned his Master's Degree in Counseling and finished his final studies at Texas A&M Commerce where he earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Justin has worked at Sam Houston State University, in Huntsville, Texas for the past 10 years. For the last five of those years, he has served as the Director of the Global Engagement Center.

Justin's greatest joy in life was his wife, Andrea, and two children, Connor and Callahan. His favorite pastime was coaching his boys in baseball. Justin served on the Board of Directors for the Huntsville Little League and faithfully took his boys every Saturday to the batting cages. He and the boys enjoyed collecting baseball cards together. For the past six years, you could find Justin on Sundays teaching Sunday school in the kindergarten class at University Heights Baptist Church.

Justin was an enthusiastic hunter who loved to go to the deer lease with his dad and two sons. He was a loyal friend, and over the years, he and Andrea

were fortunate to have friends who quickly became like family. Every year at their annual "friendcation", Justin was the one who kicked off the vacation with a special "ceremony" before all the couples unloaded their kids and their cars for a fun-filled week. He became the default disciplinarian for all nine children when all the families were together. Justin had a colorful sense of humor. He enjoyed playing jokes and introducing the kids to snipe hunting.

Justin had a way of making light of stressful situations and finding solutions. He was an encourager and an excellent provider for his family. He is loved so much and will be deeply missed.

Justin is survived by his wife, Andrea Ball, children, Connor and Callahan, parents, Bryan and Diane Ball and brother Cody Ball.

He was preceded in death by Bebe Cantu (maternal grandmother), Yolanda Gamez (aunt), Ruben Cantu (uncle), Catherine Richards Wilson (paternal grandmother), and Gladice Luther (great aunt).

Visitation will take place on Monday December 11, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at University Heights Baptist Church, 2400 Sycamore Ave., Huntsville, TX 77340. Services will be Tuesday December 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the church as well. Memorial condolences to the family may be made at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

In memory of Justin, the family kindly requests donations be made to First Touch Family to aid in their financial needs instead of flowers. <https://firsttouchfamily.kindful.com/?campaign=1283104>.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

University Heights Baptist Church  
2400 Sycamore Ave  
Huntsville, TX 77340

## Funeral Service

DEC 12. 10:00 AM (CT)

University Heights Baptist Church  
2400 Sycamore Ave  
Huntsville, TX 77340

# Tribute Wall

DC

“ Justin was one of the best people on earth. God bless his soul. His family must be proud of him. Look how many lives he has changed (this must be the 1 per cent here, it should be countless people out there) and I was lucky to be one of them. He was the light at the end of the tunnel at my darkest moments at 2020 up until May 2023. Unfortunately, I had to leave the US. I can speak for all the international students he was a true leader and a great teacher. HE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO GET CLOSER TO MY DREAMS. HE CHANGED MY LIFE, LIKE EVERY OTHER PERSON HE INTERACTED. SO, HE WILL BE ONE OF THE REASONS FOR ME TO WORK HARDER EVERY DAY IN THE FUTURE. I WILL MAKE YOU PROUD JUSTIN RUSSELL BALL. I OWE THIS TO YOU. REST IN PEACE.



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Daghan Cetin - October 03, 2024 at 03:50 AM

HL

“ Justin was very helpful during my OPT application period, and helped me whenever I needed advice. He was very friendly and a great person. Rest in peace sir! You will be greatly missed.

*Hashani Lokugama*

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Hashani Lokugama - December 22, 2023 at 02:48 AM

EI

“ It is with the most profound sadness that I write this. Dr Justin was so helpful in making arrangements for me to travel home when my father passed away at the start of the fall semester, he emailed me all through my trip making sure I wouldn't have any issues with immigration. He also helped me with ensuring my health insurance difficulties was covered, I truly am sad we have lost such a great friend of the international community and a profoundly amazing individual. Rest on Sir!

Emeka Ihekweazu - December 18, 2023 at 11:51 PM

SJ

“ I am shocked to hear about Justin. He was a great person and very helpful. I had great interactions with him while studying at Sam Houston. He was kind and pillar of support for all of us international students who were far-away from their country. My journey at Sam Houston would not have been possible without Justin. I pray for him and his family, and hopeful that he is at a good place right now.

Sunny Jumani

Sunny Jumani - December 15, 2023 at 10:34 AM

AB

“ I'm shocked and deeply saddened! As SHSU legal counsel, our firm collaborated with Justin for a decade. He was consistently a pleasure to work with, displaying utmost professionalism. We'll miss him and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family during this trying period.



Ann Badmus - December 14, 2023 at 01:56 PM

YA

“ I couldn't believe it when I heard the news. You were an amazing human. You will missed. May your soul rest in peace...

Yetunde Adesiyan - December 14, 2023 at 10:38 AM

RD

“ I can't believe it. Dr. Justin Ball was a great person, very helpful and kind. He helped me a lot during my OPT application. He always helped me to solve the problems related to I-20 and OPT. May his soul rest in peace. My heart goes to his family . He will always be remembered for his great work and personality.

Ram Chandra Dhungana

Ram Chandra Dhungana - December 13, 2023 at 11:45 PM

CA

“ I am one of Justin's international students at Shsu. Justin was one of the kindest person I've known. We received the news through the global engagement center and I still can't believe it. I will forever be grateful to have known him and pray for his family in such hard times.

Carmen Abouna - December 12, 2023 at 03:13 PM

SK

“ I am very sad to hear this. Dr. Ball was such a pleasant, kind, and thoughtful person. He helped me settle in Huntsville and start my student life at Sam Houston. My sincere condolences to the family. Dr. Ball, thank you for everything you've done for international students, and you will be missed forever!

Sunhye Kang - December 12, 2023 at 02:41 PM

HC

“ Justin was a wonderful colleague and I always enjoyed working with him in endeavors to promote international education in Texas. There will be many who will miss him across the state and around the world. He was a kind, fun and genuine person, which can be rare in this world.

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**Heather Catton** - December 12, 2023 at 11:16 AM

AO

“ Justin was a magnificent person! Always with a smile on his face and in a good mood. Always willing to help all students! And we, internationals, do need as much help as possible!!!! His ability to call everyone by their names was remarkable! He will be greatly missed...

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**Angela Oliveira** - December 12, 2023 at 10:55 AM

QB

“ I am very sad to hear this. Dr. Ball, we miss you and pray for you! You will be deeply missed forever!

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**qiuyan bao** - December 12, 2023 at 10:33 AM

CH

“ I miss my friend. He had a positive outlook every day. If I needed something, no matter what it was, he was eager to support or assist. He set an incredible example of what it means to be a faithful husband, father, and friend. On some days he only needed to say three words to brighten my day — “What up, Dude!”. It wasn’t the words, it was the way he said them. Like I meant something to him. God must have a plan for him to take him so early. I miss my friend. - May God bless Andrea, Connor, and Callahan with peace, comfort, and stability for the rest of their days.

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**Chris** - December 12, 2023 at 09:50 AM

AA

“ Deepest sympathies to the family of Dr. Ball. He will be deeply missed. SHSU and the Global Engagement Center at SHSU have lost a great resource.

Akitha Ariyaratne - December 11, 2023 at 10:01 PM

DG

“ Sending love, prayers, and condolences to the entire family. So sorry to hear this. Thinking of all of you.

Dana Gordon - December 11, 2023 at 04:38 PM

DD

“ Dana, Sharmin, and Dagmar planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Justin Russell Ball.

Dana, Sharmin, and Dagmar - December 11, 2023 at 04:29 PM

DD

“ Dana, Sharmin, and Dagmar purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Justin Russell Ball.



Dana, Sharmin, and Dagmar - December 11, 2023 at 04:29 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Justin Russell Ball.



December 11, 2023 at 01:28 PM



“ Justin is one of the best friends I ever had or will ever have. He will be forever missed.

Peter Miller - December 10, 2023 at 08:10 PM



Justin was an excellent person and very valuable asset to SHSU promoting International Education and partnerships. May God bless him and grant patience to his loved ones.

Dr Reg Pecen - December 12, 2023 at 08:48 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Justin Russell Ball.



December 10, 2023 at 08:07 PM



“ Peter Miller and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Justin Russell Ball.

Peter Miller and Family - December 10, 2023 at 08:07 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Justin Russell Ball.



December 09, 2023 at 12:53 PM

SK

“ Sending my deepest condolences to the Ball family. Justin was a wonderful colleague and so supportive of international faculty like me at SHSU. He is already missed. May his memory be a blessing to you all.

Stuti Kokkalera - December 09, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ I am so sorry, Ball Family. Justin was a high school friend from over 20 years ago...amazing how his personality stands out in memories even now. The world is a less bright without him. Much love to you, All.

Joni Plemons Watson - December 08, 2023 at 06:57 PM

LP

“ My heart is broken for Justin’s entire family he was such a great person and I sure hope they have cards in heaven because I can’t wait to catch up ☐

Leslie McClanahan Pierce - December 08, 2023 at 05:07 PM

 Juan Daza

“ Justin was a great friend and very helpful with the international students. I will miss you buddy! Juan D. Daza (Biology SHSU)

Juan Daza - December 08, 2023 at 04:14 PM

DT

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Justin's family. I had the pleasure of working with Justin at SHSU. He helped us to set up a new study abroad program in Hungary that focuses on innovations in chemistry. He was always professional, kind, smart and just a joy to work with. So grateful for the life he lived and the gifts he shared with us.

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**Dave Thompson** - December 08, 2023 at 03:42 PM

DH

“ My deepest condolences, Justin was always such a pleasure to work with and will be so sorely missed.

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**Donovan Haines** - December 08, 2023 at 03:29 PM

CT

“ Andrea, Connor, and Cal - This is such an unexpected, unfathomable loss for all who were lucky enough to call Justin their friend and co-worker, but especially his sweet family. I have no words. Maybe Justin's words in a Facebook post for Connor's birthday says it all: "Remember to always be strong and courageous, do not be afraid, for the Lord your God goes with you." Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers

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**Carolyn Tucker** - December 08, 2023 at 02:24 PM

MH

“ Marvin Hyvl lit a candle in memory of Justin Russell Ball



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**Marvin Hyvl** - December 08, 2023 at 11:37 AM

RH

“ My deepest condolences to Justin's family, friends and colleagues. Justin was kind hearted and fun to work with. I am thankful to have been able to work with him. Prayers for all who will indeed miss his smile and humor!

Rebecca Hale - December 08, 2023 at 10:45 AM

BC

“ What a wonderful husband, father, colleague, friend, and to me - mentor. Meeting Justin about 4 years ago at SHSU and working with him on Staff Senate was a memory that will last a lifetime. I can't believe you are gone my friend, but never forgotten. Thank you for all the laughs, teamwork, and cornhole games we played together. Sorry that we couldn't ever get that 1st Place finish. I pray for your family and all those touched by your life. Thank you for blessing me with your friendship and mentorship throughout the years. I will never forget you. May you rest in peace and we will see each other again one day. Love you "dude." - Benji Cantu

Benjamin Cantu - December 08, 2023 at 10:25 AM

MM

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Justin. He was loved at the SHSU campus. The family will continue to be in my prayers for peace and comfort and strength based on God's promises found in Christ.

Michelle Meers - December 08, 2023 at 09:48 AM



“ Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Justin Russell Ball.



December 08, 2023 at 09:40 AM

MH

“ Malin H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Justin Russell Ball.

Malin H. - December 08, 2023 at 09:06 AM

SH

“ Justin Ball has always been kind hearted very easy to get along overall just a great person. My heart breaks for this sweet family. Praying for comfort and peace for them.

Sheree - December 07, 2023 at 11:17 PM

JR

“ I grew up with Justin Ball and he was one the best friends I ever had. He was so easy to like and such a kind person. He will be missed. My heart is broken for the Ball family.  
Justin Rogers

Justin Rogers - December 07, 2023 at 05:50 PM

BC

“ My deepest and heart filled condolences to Justin's family. I knew him as a colleague, but always enjoyed working and talking with him. He was such an easy going, nice, genuine person. I remember I had just ran into him last week in the hallway, and we gave each other fist pumps and laughed. His presence will be greatly missed. My prayers and thoughts go out to his sons and Andrea (and all his loved ones).

Brandon Cooper - December 07, 2023 at 04:17 PM

RF

“ *Andrea, Conner and Cal. We are saddened to hear the loss of your sweet husband and dad. Hudson loved Coach Justin and getting to know him on and off the field has been a pleasure. He will be greatly missed by all who had the honor of meeting him. We lift you up in this difficult time<3*



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**Robyn Peterson and family** - December 07, 2023 at 04:00 PM