



A note from Andy

Welcome to the new Firmwide newsletter. Like our all-hands call, it will come to you once a month with a quick look at the work, the people and the occasional pet that make up HBS. It should take about five minutes to read.

The best stories in the newsletter will come from you. Send the news team your story ideas, your family's big wins and your best pet photos. I would like every issue to feel like it came from all of us.

Andy
ANDY

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Where Science Meets the Hill

Since 1863, the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#) have provided independent, evidence-based advice to the nation to address society's toughest challenges. HBS is connecting NASEM with policymakers and thought leaders in Washington to lift up their important work.

The work: HBS advises the National Academies on strengthening and growing their relationships with Congress, the executive branch and policy stakeholders, including how a nonpartisan, federally chartered institution should navigate today's political climate. We are also supporting the transition of Dr. Neil Shubin, the new president of the National Academy of Sciences.

Why it matters: The National Academies help policymakers understand the nation's most significant issues, including biomedical research, AI, manufacturing, aviation safety and social science. A stage that big brings real political risk.

Meet Rachael: [Rachael Taylor](#) leads the HBS team for the National Academies. She joined HBS Federal in 2025 following 25 years working at every level of the federal government, including serving as chief of staff at the U.S. Department of the Interior and a staff director of a Senate Appropriations subcommittee. She specializes in knowing how decisions get made within Congress and federal agencies, with a particular emphasis in land management, environmental and energy policy. Rachael leads HBS teams for the National Academies and Total Wine & More. She also supports other federal clients, including Liberty Vote, KNOWINK, Enterprise Mobility and the National Children's Alliance.



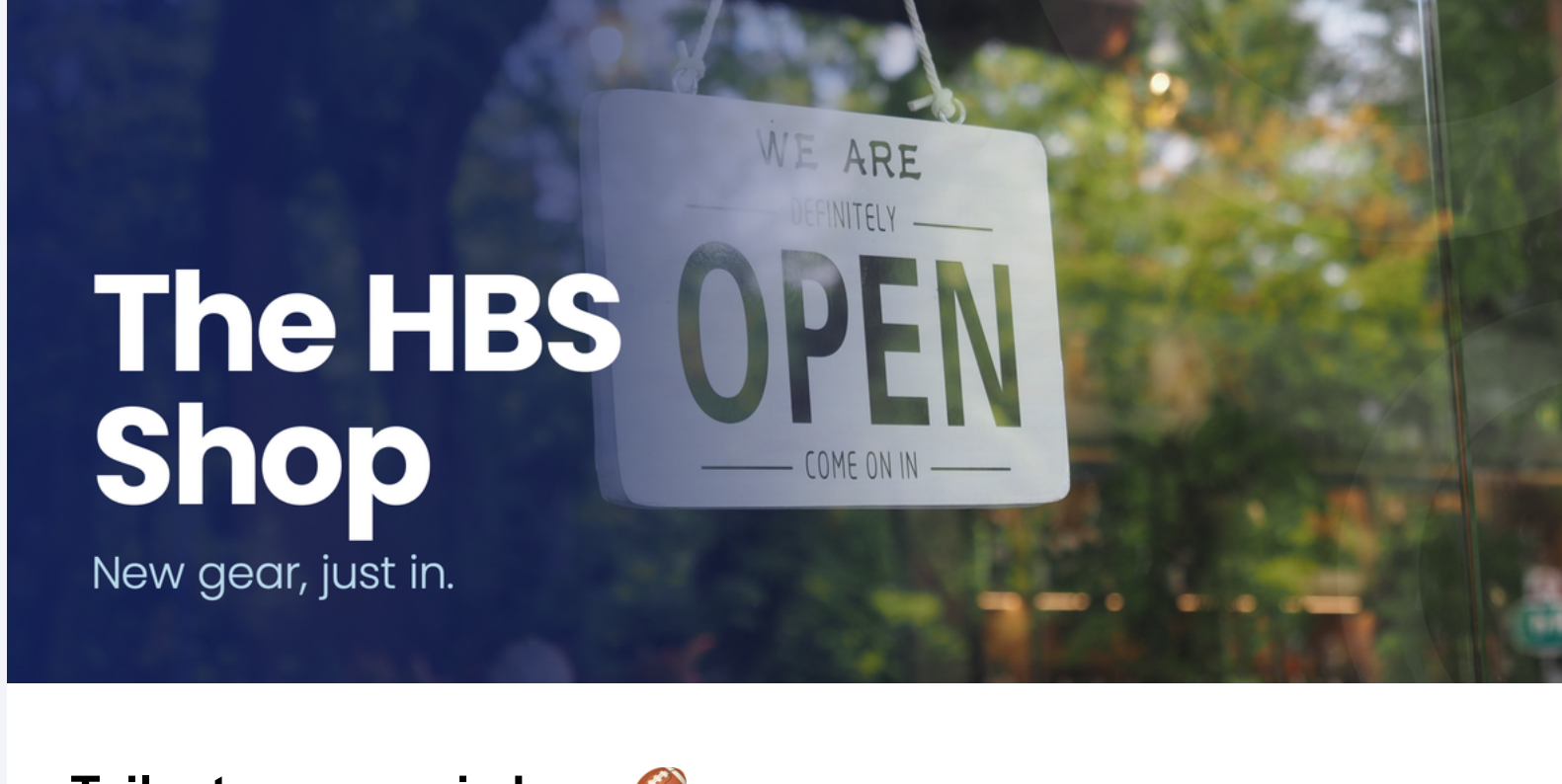
Rachael Taylor

What she's saying: "It's an honor, and an awesome responsibility, to assist the National Academies as they work to strengthen and advance the fields of science, engineering and medicine."

Off the clock: Rachael is a West Virginia native and a mother of teenage twins. She loves national parks, tennis and Ohio State football.

The team: The team draws on both HBS Federal and Leadership Strategies Advisory Services. Sen. Roy Blunt serves as a strategic adviser and brings three decades of support for science in Congress, including his time as chairman of the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee. Stacy McBride, Karen Wayland, Richard Eddings, Rocky Fox and Kevin Bokoum round out the team.

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Tailgate season is here 🍷

And the HBS shop has new travel mugs, cooler, and chairs to get you through it. [Shop now at hbsstrategies.us/store](#)



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The first HBS baby 🥰

We saw some new faces at this year's retreat in Maine, and a few of them were very small. That got us wondering...

Who holds the title of the OG HBS baby?

Bonus question:

What do Rocky Fox's three girls, Monroe, Taylor and Hayes, have in common?

Check your answers below...

Got a trivia question about HBS? Send it our way.

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National Champs 🏆

Congratulations to Emerson Krate Grosvenor, daughter of Tennessee Managing Principal [Maagan Frazier](#). Emerson and her softball team, the Birmingham Thunderbolts Premier 2030, won the Premier Girls Fastpitch (PGF) 14U Platinum national championship in Irvine, California, this summer.



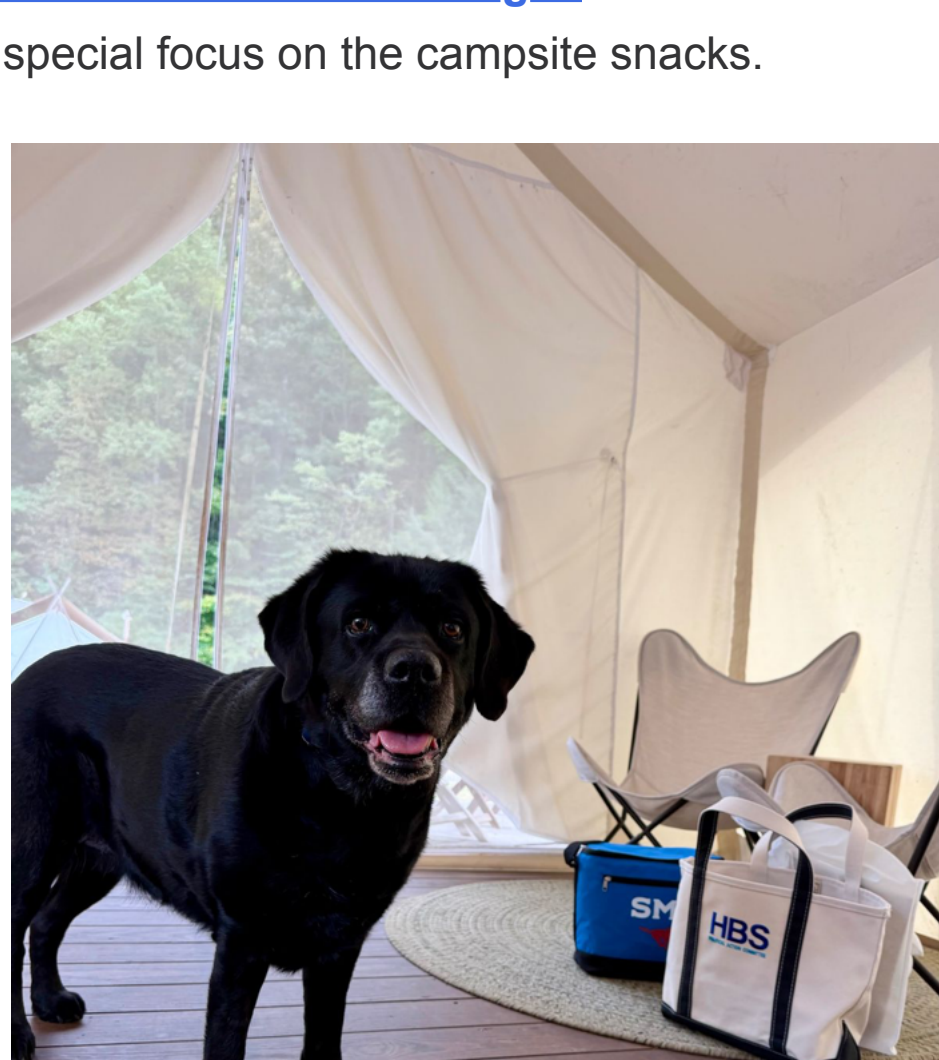
Have a family win worth bragging about? Tell us.

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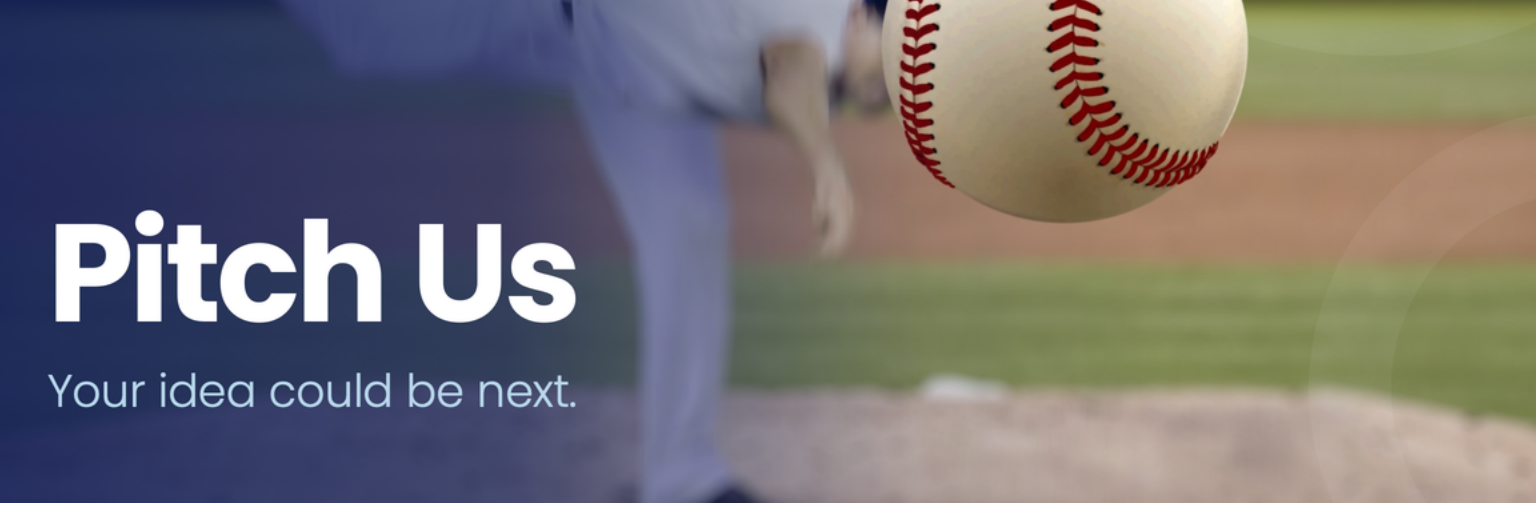
Kate, B.A.R.K. Ranger 🐾

Meet Kate, [Tom Alexander's](#) 11-year-old black Lab. On a recent camping trip in the Great Smoky Mountains, she became an [official National Park Service B.A.R.K. Ranger](#). Her mission is to serve and protect, with special focus on the campsite snacks.



Your turn: Send us a photo of your pet and a few lines about them. We'll feature one each month.

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What should we cover next? 🗣️

Have a story idea, a shout-out or a colleague we should feature?

Our newsletter is only as good as the news we hear from you.

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Don't forget: Election Eve Outlook webinar is tomorrow

Andy and Sen. Blunt host our live midterm preview this **tomorrow, October 22, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET**, with political analysts Jim Ellis and Doug Sosnik.

Be sure to invite your clients. It's a timely reason to reach out before Election Day.

You can send them the registration link directly:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/92415894-b7aa-45e4-8edd-5bcc8cf952a1@c0a3c5c1-a416-4679-b94b-2ed6e9e210fc>

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The HBS OG Baby: [Rocky Fox's](#) daughter Hayes. Rocky has been with HBS since the day it was founded, so it makes sense his family would get there first.

Bonus question: Rocky's daughters are all named after U.S. presidents.

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Who we are: The Firmwide is produced by Tom Alexander and Hallie Hartley. Reach out to either of us anytime:

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