Commencement a Time of Celebration, Surprise

Planners of graduation exercises have learned to expect the unexpected prior to and during the big event, work together to produce magic moments for students walking across the stage in front of family and friends.

By Julie Carlson

Baylor’s annual spring commencement, like most things in life, comes with its fair share of surprises. Cindy Dougherty, assistant provost for academic services, realizes she may face the unexpected even though spring commencement has been planned down to the smallest detail. But she meets such surprises with patience and good humor.

Dougherty remembers the May 1995 ceremony when Texas Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock was on stage receiving the Price Daniel Distinguished Service Award presented by the Baylor Alumni Association. The lieutenant governor had been instructed to exit the stage through the opening in the back curtain after he had received his award.

That didn’t happen. Bullock somehow became tangled in the curtain and knocked over a flag on the stage. The crowd didn’t notice too.

Commencement offers Baylor students a ceremony to remember for the rest of their lives.
President’s Perspective

1997-98 academic year full of notable achievements

The 1997-98 academic year will soon draw to a close, and I believe the entire Baylor community can look back on the past 12 months with a genuine sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. In light of the University’s progress and achievements, it has been a year of examination and evaluation as we challenged ourselves to find new ways to foster a more active learning environment and to raise Baylor’s already high standards.

Setting the tone for the year was last July’s Academic Summit, which brought together vice presidents, deans, department chairs and other campus leaders to examine Baylor’s response to academic trends and challenges. The exchange of ideas helped clarify the specific challenges Baylor faces and the academic priorities the University should pursue in response to those trends.

In many ways, the Academic Summit prepared the way for the development of the Annual Strategic Action Plan (ASAP), which has incorporated a number of recommendations that emerged from the 1996-97 Self-Study and other University planning efforts. Over the past several months academic and administrative departments across the campus have been hard at work identifying goals and strategies for achieving the priorities that have been established for Baylor in the upcoming fiscal year.

The Academic Summit also was helpful in raising issues related to important academic benchmarks: student and faculty quality, diversity objectives and funding needs. We are planning another Academic Summit for this summer to continue the dialogue that began last July and to help ensure that we maintain the momentum needed to reach our potential as an academic institution.

A number of other highlights from the 1997-98 academic year are worth noting:

Academic programs

Last December, the College of Arts and Sciences earned a unanimous vote to accredit the Academy for Liberal Education (ALE), becoming one of the first programs in the country to earn this accreditation. The academic model that Baylor’s undergraduate curriculum and commitment to teaching met the highest standards of excellence.

Several programs underwent significant internal and external reviews this past year, including the core curriculum and the graduate program. Though still being processed, I believe the reviews will result in closer directions for these programs and will help ensure that Baylor continues to meet the needs of its students.

Another important academic milestone for 1997-98 was adoption of the Scholarship Exemplars. The University will continue to place increased emphasis on and provide support for scholarships, where discovery, synthesis, application, and teaching — including professional and artistic presentations — are, with due attention to individual differences, characteristic of our faculty. This more focused emphasis is justified because it will both improve our students’ educational experiences and enrich the academic quality of Baylor’s reputation as a major private university.

The breadth of Baylor’s academic offerings was expanded this past year with the approval of several new degree programs and a number of new majors and minors. New degree programs include the B.A. in dietetics; the B.S. in applied mathematics, the M.S. in clinical psychology, the master of accountancy in information systems and the master’s in social work. New majors in language and linguistics has also been added to the curriculum, as have new minors in African studies, recreation ministry, new editorial, photojournalism, public relations, museum studies, Middle East studies and linguistics. Several other proposed majors and minors are currently under consideration, including the exciting field of bioinformatics.

Another indicator of Baylor’s instructional strength is the new University Professor and Distinguished Professor program, described on page 9 of this issue of BaylorNews.

In recent days we have appointed a new dean of the Graduate School — Dr. Larry Lyon — and will soon name a new dean for the School of Education. This past year also has seen the appointment of new leadership for the departments of history (Dr. James Silliff), journalism (Dr. Douglas Perdon) and English (Dr. Munthe Hunt).

Enrollment

Not only did we see a record enrollment last fall, but we were fortunate to strengthen the academic quality of our entering freshman class. The mean SAT score for the Class of 2001 increased by 20 points over the previous entering freshman class — from 1130 to 1150. Our goal is to see that mean SAT score increase another 20 points next fall to 1170. We also saw a 23 percent increase in the number of freshman National Merit Finalists enrolled.

Recognition

Baylor continued to attract recognition for the quality of its academic programs and its exceptional value from such publications as U.S. News and World Report and Money. Baylor was therewith private institution to make U.S. News’ 10 number list of the most efficient universities in the United States, a testament to the hard work of our faculty and staff. Several academic programs — such as law, entrepreneurship, communication sciences and disorders, and nursing — also were identified by national publications as among the best in the country.

In recent days, Yahoo! Internet Life magazine ranked Baylor No. 22 in its list of “America’s 10 Most Wired Colleges” — the only Texas institution in the top 25. The ranking was based on 20 measures of information technology on campuses, divided into general academics, social life and computer statistics categories. The magazine evaluated the availability of services such as online registration, online course materials, an online student newspaper and public computers on campus.

Fund-raising

The 1997 fund-raising year was the most successful in the University’s 152-year history with gifts of more than $50 million. This accounting for the one-time infusion of Baylor Health Care System funds, contributions by Baylor alumni and friends, churches, foundations, corporations, and other organizations were very strong in 1997. The future looks bright in this arena. Through the first three months of 1998, gifts were ahead of the same period last year.

Facilities

Reports in February adopted an ambitious capital projects plan for the University. Including the Student Life Complex — scheduled for a May groundbreaking — more than $100 million in construction and renovation projects will get under way during the next five years. That figure is likely to grow in the coming months as other projects are added to the plan, including a proposed science building and the expansion of the Rogers Engineering and Computer Science Building.

Student accomplishments

I am very proud of our students, who over the past year have distinguished themselves and the University in many ways through individual and group accomplishments. For the second consecutive year, a Baylor student or recent graduate has been granted a prestigious Fulbright Award. Amy Mathis, a December 1997 graduate, will be studying in Hungary next year as a part of the Fulbright program. It is rare for an institution of Baylor’s size to produce back-to-back Fulbright winners. Baylor had two recipients last year — Claire and Alison Hansen, who comprise one-half of the Hansen Quads.

Our Model U.N. team, led by professor Linda Adams in the political science department, went to the prestigious Harvard University Model U.N. Tournament for an unprecedented third straight year. Low students had a very successful year in most court and client counseling competitions, and our debate teams continued to excel. The quality of Baylor’s student body continues to be demonstrated in so many ways.

Athletics

I believe we can also look back and feel good about a successful year in athletics. While our football team was in a rebuilding mode, many of our other sports teams have competed for conference and national tournament championships. We had our version of March Madness on the Baylor campus when the Lady Bears recently hosted the Women’s National Invitation Basketball Tournament. En route to the championship game against Penn State — which drew a record women’s basketball crowd of over 15,000 at the Ferrell Center — BaylorBang led all 23-game winning streak in the country. Our Model U.N. team, led by professor Linda Adams in the political science department, went to the prestigious Harvard University Model U.N. Tournament for an unprecedented third straight year. Low students had a very successful year in most court and client counseling competitions, and our debate teams continued to excel. The quality of Baylor’s student body continues to be demonstrated in so many ways.

Insights

I want to express my appreciation to all of Baylor’s outstanding faculty and staff for the efforts that have helped make the 1997-98 academic year so successful. Baylor is well positioned to build on the accomplishments of this past year and ensure that our future is all that we dream it to be.

Robert B. Sloan Jr.
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Continued from page 1
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Doughty also never forget the time an exuberant parent leaped over the Permell Center railing separating the seating area from the stage and then bounded onto the stage in order to take a photo of his graduating child.

Other commencements have required her to perform tasks ranging from a quick robe alteration for a graduating child. As this year’s commencement exercises are no-shows, or students are lining up for the procession order takes place as the graduation is the biggest party and the most fun we’ll have all year. “We always have something unusual happen. We just don’t know what it will be this time. But no matter what happens, graduation is the biggest party and the most fun we’ll have all year.”

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Baylor Alumni Association will present the George W. Truett Distinguished Church Service Award and the Price Daniel Distinguished Public Service Award at morning commencement. Dr. Tom Haskey, professor of English, will be honored as the 1998 Collins Professor. — By Julie Carlson

Weed Focus

Commencement Tests Teamwork, Ingenuity

Honored Guest to Speak

A new but familiar face will speak at Baylor’s afternoon commencement exercises May 16. Texas Gov. George W. Bush will deliver the charge to graduates at the 3 p.m. service. The governor also will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree from Baylor.

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Commencement exercises for the College of Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School arts and sciences programs will begin at 9:30 a.m., while the Ferrell Center commencement program will begin at 3 p.m. for graduates of the Hankamer School of Business, School of Music, School of Education, School of Engineering and Computer Science, and School of Nursing and Truett Seminary. More than 1,200 students will graduate at the May exercises.

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Lyon Named
Graduate Dean

Dr. J. Larry Lyon, professor of sociology and acting associate dean of the Graduate School at Baylor University, recently was named dean of the Graduate School by Baylor President Robert B. Sloan Jr. The appointment is effective June 1.

“Larry brings outstanding leadership skills to the Graduate School at a critical point in its history,” Dr. Sloan said. “His involvement with Baylor’s Council of 150 and the 1994-96 self-study, coupled with his experience as associate dean of the Graduate School, have prepared him well for this new role as the university seeks to strengthen its commitment to graduate education. I look forward to working with him.”

“I am very enthusiastic about the appointment of Dr. Lyon,” said Dr. Donald D. Schmitzkeopf, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Baylor. “He has given a great deal of thought to the Graduate School, and he has a strong vision for the future. I have full confidence that he will do an excellent job.”

A 1971 graduate of Baylor, Dr. Lyon earned his master’s degree from the University of Houston and his doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin. He began teaching in Baylor’s sociology department in 1975 and was awarded the Outstanding Tenured Professor Award in 1988 and Panumnic’s Colloquium’s Outstanding Professor Award in 1994.

Social Work Degree Added

New graduate degree offers blend of social work and church life

Baylor’s division of social work has recently developed a graduate degree in social work that represents the only program of its kind in Baptist and mainline Protestant institutions.

The University will launch its master’s in social work (MSW) program in 1999. The degree will emphasize church social work and produce social workers with specialized preparation for serving on church staff, denominational agencies and professional social work settings. The program will also offer tracks in child and family services, gerontology, and international and cross-cultural practice.

Dr. Diana Garland, professor of social work and director of the program, said the church and the social work profession have recently collaborated more in serving the needs of children, the poor and other victims of social injustice. She said MSW students will learn new skills to integrate faith into the practice of social work.

“Baylor will prepare social workers with a Christian world view,” Dr. Garland said. “Social workers need to see people as spiritual as well as psychological, social and cultural beings.”

The Baylor undergraduate social work program has graduated more than 1,000 students since its inception in 1969. Dr. Garland said 70 percent of Baylor social work undergraduates have pursued graduate degrees in social work at other institutions after graduating from Baylor. Future social work students will have the option of staying at Baylor for an advanced degree.

Dr. Garland offers many years of experience developing this type of program. She served as dean of the Career School of Church Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and director of the Gheens Center for Christian Family Studies at Southern before coming to Baylor in 1997.

Baylor News

Getting Ready for the Summer

Summer programs form first step in recruitment process

A number of programs and camps are held on the Baylor campus every summer, and this year is no exception. These events, including the most recent addition, Baylor You, keep Baylor busy and often form the starting point in the recruiting process for future students.

The Wethom Visitation Center, under the direction of newly named University Host Jeff Kilgore, facilitates the arrangements for both sponsored and hosted events. Kilgore and his staff currently are preparing for an estimated 14,000 summer visitors for athletic, Christian, music, academic, recreational and leadership camps and programs.

Kilgore’s responsibilities include coordinating housing, catering, transportation, recreation and facility usage for these programs. Although this does require extra work for the faculty and staff, Kilgore said it is beneficial for both the camps and the University.

“The greatest value of the summer programs is not just space utilization and income, but the marketing exposure that is created,” Kilgore said. “Summer camp can be considered the initial stage of the recruiting program. We want kids to say their first college experience was at Baylor University.”

Baylor You is a first-year camp designed to provide a Christian growth environment for church youth groups in and around the state of Texas, said Dr. Don Mattingly, coordinator of youth programs. Campers will have Bible studies and creative fellowship with other youth, as well as an experience college life.

This program also provides Baylor students interested in ministry an opportunity to grow, Dr. Mattingly said. “In addition, it builds bridges of understanding and appreciation between Baylor University and Texas Baptist youth groups and churches. For Baylor, it’s beneficial because these are young people who might like to later attend the University. It lets Baylor show off our best side to them — a fun time and the Baylor students.”

Although the camp is beginning its first year, the response has been positive. Between 400 and 500 youth are expected to attend three different sessions of Baylor You. In 1999, Dr. Mattingly hopes to expand to five sessions.

Along with young campers, adult groups attend a variety of summer programs on the Baylor campus. These groups, according to Kilgore, can also be a great recruiting tool because the attendees have children and friends with children who are potential Baylor students.

Kilgore has been a member of the Baylor staff since 1985. Upon graduating from Baylor with his bachelor’s and master’s degrees, he was hired as the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator for the baseball team. After finishing the athletic program in 1995, Kilgore began work in the director of marketing and programs for the Baylor Alumni Association. He served there until mid-February when he was appointed University host and director of the Wethom Visitation Center.

“The history and knowledge of the campus and the Baylor family have been invaluable to me in my current transition,” Kilgore said. “I view this as an opportunity to impact the future Baylor family.”
Dr. Tom Hanks, professor of English at Baylor, has been named by the senior class as the recipient of the Collins Outstanding Professor Award. As the Collins Professor, Dr. Hanks will be recognized at the annual commencement ceremonies on May 16 and receive a cash award of $10,000. He also delivered a special lecture on the topic “What I’ve Learned from My Students” on April 16 in Carroll Science Hall.

“I still am having trouble believing that I’ve been elected the Collins Professor,” Dr. Hanks said. “It’s a very good honor. I’ve been calling my parents and my brothers to tell them, ‘I’m grateful to the senior class.’”

Dr. Hanks, who has taught at Baylor since 1976, received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Washington University. He also has a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

An expert in medieval literature, Dr. Hanks has published two books and numerous articles on the works of Sir Thomas Malory and Geoffrey Chaucer as well as children’s literature. He also has presented papers at conferences for such associations as the Southeastern Medieval Association, the Texas Medieval Association and the International Congress on Medieval Studies.

Dr. Hanks recently was selected to be Baylor’s Centennial Professor for 1998-99, an honor that provides him with $100,000 to fund research for a tenured professor. Dr. Hanks plans to use the $3,000 award to travel to Europe and fund research.

Hanks Named Collins Professor

Senior class honors English professor for outstanding teaching
BaylorFamily

Student Life VP Returning to First Love

Career of respected administrator comes full circle in resuming role as fulltime biology professor

Dr. William D. Hillis through the years

Dr. William D. Hillis’ decision to switch career plans came after a Baylor class session spent laboring over web forms, past particles and all the other intricacies of the German language. It was a pivotal step that changed the course of his life.

The young Hillis, then a junior, was asked by his teacher, Dr. Patricia Drake, to stay after class. “She asked me what I was going to do with my life,” he recalled. “I told her I was going to be a research chemist. She looked very disappointed and said something like, ‘That’s a tragedy, because you need to be in a profession where you will have contact with people.’”

Dr. Drake’s advice had a profound effect on Dr. Hillis. “Her words stuck in my mind,” he said. “She encouraged me to go on thinking about a career in the medical profession and gave me a hook to read. It was the autobiography of Hans Zinser, an American physician and teacher who developed the typhus vaccine.”

Dr. Hillis said by the time he re-entered Baylor in the fall, he was “pretty convinced” that he ought to look into medicine. “Since Dr. Drake didn’t know how to guide or steer me at this point, she encouraged me to see her friend, Dr. Cornelia Smith.”

Dr. Smith’s infectious enthusiasm for learning quickly influenced Dr. Hillis, an only child of divorced parents who was raised by his grandparents in Pars, Ark. After graduating at the top of his Baylor class in 1953, he took her advice and went on to earn his M.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1957.

Distinguished career

The rest, as they say, is history, reflected in a lifetime of achievement underscored by Dr. Hillis’ election in 1958 to the prestigious Society of Scholars at Johns Hopkins. “I was one of the biggest honors I have ever received,” he said.

Dr. Hillis, 64, has devoted the past 17 years to Baylor, having come from Johns Hopkins in 1981 to chair Baylor’s Department of Biology. He was named executive vice president in 1985 and was appointed to his current post as vice president for student life in 1989. He also holds Baylor’s Cornelia Marshall Smith Distinguished Professorship in Biology.

Now, after a distinguished career stretching nearly half a century, Dr. Hillis will return to his “first love,” a full-time teaching position in the biology department next fall.

Bill Hillis is one of the most outstanding graduates to come out of Baylor University,” said President Robert S. Sloan Jr. “He has established a reputation as a renowned researcher, a great teacher and an outstanding administrator. And you will not find anyone more revered and loved by students than Bill Hillis. He truly is a Baylor legend.”

Dr. Sloan said the University is conducting a national search for Dr. Hillis’ replacement.

Around the world

Dr. Hillis’ career has taken him all over the world and has brought him international recognition as a leading hepatitis researcher, responsible for the development of the first experimental model used for the testing of the hepatitis vaccine.

The discovery, regarded as a major breakthrough in the treatment of hepatitis, came during Dr. Hillis’ service in the U.S. Air Force. He held a number of research positions with the Air Force in the Republic of the Congo and at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, as well as with Johns Hopkins in Denmark, India and Baltimore. He remained active as a colonel in the Air Force Reserve until 1985, serving in a variety of clinical and hospital positions.

In 1965, he joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins as assistant professor of pathology, and from 1968-70 he served as a vice president and resident coordinator at the Johns Hopkins Center for Medical Research and Training in Calcutta, India. From 1972-78, he was an assistant professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins, and he served on staff at the Good Samaritan Hospital and the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore until 1982. He was director of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine outpatient clinical research center from 1973-82. In addition, he was appointed associate professor of medicine in 1976, holding that rank until 1982.

Dr. Hillis has been a consultant to the U.S. Air Force, the National Cancer Institute, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, the Tropical Medicine Center of Johns Hopkins and the Pan American Health Organization.

Matters of the heart

The veteran teacher and administrator said he is looking forward to his return to teaching. “It has been a wonderful experience to serve at the administrative level these past 13 years,” he said. “But I believe I have reached the stage in my life where I would like to return to teaching. It has been a pleasure to work with Dr. Sloan. I couldn’t have been happier in this position than I have been these last three years. The same can be said of the 10 years that I worked with Dr. Herbert Repullo when he served as president.”

Dr. Hillis said he has been “fortunate” with knowledge. “It’s just always been captivating for me.” He added, “I think I have the distinguished lady for whom my professorship is named (Dr. Cornelia Smith) to thank for that. I also have Dr. Drake to thank. She sees me as a person who enjoyed being around people. If it hadn’t been for her, I would not have seen Dr. Cornelia.”

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President’s Perspective

Continued from page 2

Our baseball team has held the top spot in the Big 12 Conference standings and has been nationally ranked most of the season. Coach Smith and his team appear poised for post-season play.

Coach Clyde Hirt’s men’s and women’s track teams also have been turning in spectacular performances, with the men’s and women’s 4x400-meter relay teams sweeping their events at the NCAA Indoor Championships and the Texas Relays.

The men’s tennis team recently completed the Big 12 regular season in a three-way tie for second place, the team’s best conference finish in 31 years.

The overall Baylor athletic program is currently ranked 43rd nationally in the Directors Cup Standings. The Soon Directors Cup is an award given annually to the top overall athletic program in the country based on national finishes by every sport, men and women’s combined. Baylor is one of seven Big 12 schools ranked in the top 50.

I want to express my appreciation to all of Baylor’s outstanding faculty and staff for the efforts that have helped make the 1997-98 academic year so successful. Baylor is well positioned to build on the accomplishments of this past year and ensure that our future is all that we dream it to be.”
Squaring Off over the Good University

By Dr. Barry G. Hankins

Assistant Professor of History

Academic Agenda

Recent book raises issues that prove useful in framing faith and learning debate

May 1998

One of the most interesting and disturbing things I have ever heard as a professor came in a class discussion of the 17th-century scientist and religious philosopher Blaise Pascal. Not long into the class period, a student suggested that in understanding the Bible there was no need to use reason, indeed no need for interpretation. Both believers and skeptics of the Holy Spirit, he believed, could know the meaning of the text directly without having to turn meditated through the human mind. Inadvertently, this student had led the class into a heavy epistemological issue. I remember the student, pointing out that classical Christian teaching held that the bulk of human knowledge is as well as spiritual capacities, making perfect knowledge of scripture or anything else impossible. I praised this to the student. “What do you when your interpretation of a text is in disagreement with the interpretation of another believer who in absent the influence of the Holy Spirit?” This answer, more or less, was that the other person was not authentically Christian. Understandably, this comment sparked up the room of the class. Immediately, a fifth-generation Baylor student took umbrage at the notion that he was less Christian for googling the web. He proceeded to detail the early church as a case study. The student had led the class into a heavy epistemological issue. Pascal, for example, has become significant in a robust debate in American intellectual life that breaks down along liberal/conservative lines. Recent theorists of democratic liberalism such as John Rawls have argued since at least the early 1970s that proper democratic procedures for public discourse should include personal motivations such as religion because such are not readily accessible to all. Things like religion are, in short, private. For these liberals, many who would be classed as conservatives in economic society, religion is made up of autonomous individuals and is simply too pluralistic to engage in substantive conversation about what constitutes the good.

Communitarians reject the notion that individuals are autonomous, maintaining instead that one’s self is formed at least in part by the communities from which one haik. That being the case, Bellah and his team want a more substantive discussion about what American institutions should look like and how they can be constructed in ways that will enhance a good society.

Baylor as a case study

Not surprisingly, their chapter on education and religion, the two entities that faculty here at Baylor are either trying to integrate or keep separate depending on where one stands in the faith-based and learning debate that has erupted since the charter change of 1980. It is my sense that prior to that event and the enactment of the administration were more or less left in the effort to maintain procedure that would keep fundamentalists from taking over Baylor. Given the exigencies of the time, it would have been dangerous to engage in debate about Baylor’s identity because such a debate could well have weakened the united front against fundamentalism. When the outside threat disappeared, however, the discussion turned from this procedural to the substantive and now concerns the question of what kind of university objectivity. The difference, of course, at least in the minds of the professors will be more cutting and less likely to openly attack religion itself.

Value-rich inquiry

The paradigm sketched by Bellah and his associates is now crumbling. Communitarians are asking whether one can ever actually achieve the sort of scientific objectivity that was one of the Enlightenment’s highest values and whether there is such a thing as value-free education. (Notice the irony.) This, it seems to me, opens the door for Christian universities to press the issue — to experiment, in effect, with forms of value-rich, as opposed to value-free, forms of inquiry. This can be done more boldly now than ever before because so few scholars have the temerity to stand up in a room of their peers and argue that the scientific paradigm can or should be applied in all disciplines.

This brings me back to my student and the discussion he precipitated in class. From the Redux perspective of democratic liberalism, this incident proved the point that substantive discussions are dangerous indeed, even in a setting as relatively homogenous as a Baylor classroom. But this may well have been the first time many of the students in that class had ever been in an argument where they saw clearly that there really was something at stake — where they were forced to evaluate to what extent, if at all, their own sense of identity has been shaped by the communities from which they came. If they go the next step and ask to what extent the community that is Baylor should further shape them, as opposed to merely train them, they might find themselves very close to an experience that would justify the cost of their tuition. I hope that in the future such discussions can take place without anyone storming out of the room (especially while dispensing me). I am convinced, however, that the days are gone when anyone can assume that certain procedures will produce educated students. We need a robust and substantive discussion over what the good university should look like and in what ways it might actually shape notions of a good society.

Salvaging the Past from Ashes

Retired prof makes detailed model of historic house

In 1959, Dr. W.F. Ship, a country 4-Barker in Leavenworth, switched his turn-of-the-century home into a working scale model. Almost 40 years later, the house remains a curiosity of the past, nothing but its foundations left. But thanks to the creativity and diligence of Dr. James L. McAtee, emeritus professor of chemistry, the charm of the grand old house lives on in a detailed scale model. The miniature home brings memories flooding back for Dr. Mcatee’s wife, Frances, the granddaughter of Dr. Ship and his wife, Stella. A little girl, she used to spend her summers at the Ship house with her two brothers and her cousin.

Photographs of the original two-story house were so scarce that Mrs. McAtee had to rely on her husband to invent the building, particularly the room layout, the impressive staircase and furnishings. She was found a piece of the original wallpaper for him to use in one of the rooms of the model, which is built on a scale of one-half inch to a foot.

McAtee, who retired in 1980 after serving as chair and professor of chemistry and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said he spent about two years constructing the model. “It all started when we visited the site of the home in Leavenworth one day,” he recalled. “Frances died a year, and we felt it would be rather nice to create a model of the place that had been trained with her as the happy childhood memories. She found a model — the community that is Baylor — as well as at University of Texas, a student is likely to be taught that the highest values of education are skepticism and scientific.
Continued from page 5

Baylor Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. “This conference may have serious results since the resolutions were forwarded to the Arab League’s meeting in Cairo,” said Matthew Wright, a Baylor senior and secretary general for the Southwest Model Arab League conference. “The resolutions could influence actual policy.”

The conference also hosted “Arabian Nights on the Brazos,” an fine performance of traditional Middle Eastern music by the Trans Arabien South band held on the Waco Suspension Bridge.

Dr. Abdalla began working for the Arab League in 1980 and has served as director of the League’s Mission in Vienna, Austria, and as deputy assistant secretary general of the League’s Palestinian Affairs. Prior to serving the Arab League, Abdalla worked in Poland with Warsaw’s Planning Office. He holds a Doctorate in economics from Warsaw’s Central School of Planning and Statistics in Poland.

While on the Baylor campus, Dr. Abdalla also spoke on the topic “Current Developments in the Middle East, an Arab League Perspective” on April 16 as part of the Council for International Education’s series titled “The New That’s Fit to Discuss” — By Julie Carlson

Visitors Explore Treasure Trove

Baylor resources draw scholars from around the world

Words is beginning to spread about Baylor’s outstanding research facilities. The Texas Collection, Armstrong Browning Library, and Baylor Collections of Political Materials are all rich resources that are accessible to virtually anyone and draw scholars from all over the world.

Kent Keeth, associate professor and director of The Texas Collection, said the majority of Texas Collection patrons are from surrounding areas, other parts of Texas and from around the country. While many Baylor students do not take advantage of the resources on campus, some people travel thousands of miles to use the materials.

Founded in 1983, The Texas Collection is one of only eight chapters in the state. — By Julie Carlson

Bringing the Best to Baylor

New program recruits top-notch scholars to faculty

With the start of the 1996-97 academic year, Baylor is launching an unprecedented program designed to bring high-profile scholars to Baylor as permanent members of the faculty.

Under the plan 20 positions will be added to Baylor’s faculty over seven years, with four or five scholars designated as “University Professors” and the remaining appointees designated as “Distinguished Professors.”

“The idea is to bring to Baylor senior faculty of great talent with national and international reputations,” said Dr. Donald D. Schmeltekopf, provost and vice president for academic affairs, who formulated the proposal for the overall program that was approved unanimously by Baylor’s academic deans and Baylor President Robert B. Shannon Jr.

“Making appointments of this kind is a new thing for us, and it will contribute to our ongoing goal of making Baylor a highly ranked, highly regarded university, particularly in terms of the scholarly activity of the faculty,” Dr. Schmeltekopf said. “These scholars will bring to the University a breadth of intellectual inquiry and name recognition in their scholarly fields and at the same time help us secure our future as a premier Christian university.”

Dr. Schmeltekopf described the new program as a crucial element of Baylor’s strategic plan, both to strengthen the academic environment on campus and to add an identity as a center of scholarship. “Baylor’s reputation for recruiting world-class scholars is growing,” he said. “It is a remarkable fact that Baylor remains the only Protestant affiliated, comprehensive, doctoral-granting institution in American higher education whose mission remains firmly rooted in its Christian heritage.”

Dr. Ralph C. Wood, currently distinguished professor of religion at Samford University, will become Baylor’s first University Professor this fall. A literary and theological scholar, Dr. Wood earned his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Chicago and taught for 27 years at Wake Forest University before joining for Samford last year. He serves as editor-in-chief for “The Christian Century” and has published more than 130 reviews, articles, chapters and books including “The Comedy of Redemption: Christian Faith and Comic Vision in Four American Novels.”

Dr. Wood described his appointment as “an answer to a dream,” noting that Baylor’s combination of Christian faith and serious academic inquiry gives the University a distinctive national presence.

University Professors, like Dr. Wood, will be scholars whose reputation and scholarship reflect interdisciplinary concerns and have multidisciplinary implications. Accordingly, they will teach classes across disciplinary boundaries rather than being based in particular departments, and they will report directly to the provost of the University.

Dr. Wood, for instance, will teach two classes during the fall 1996 semester, a graduate seminar in the Department of Religion titled “Karl Barth and Flannery O’Connor” and a senior-level class in the Department of English titled “Christian Literary Classics” that will cover writers ranging from St. Augustine to Gerald Murney Hopkins. Both blend the disciplines of religion and literature. In the future, he also will teach classes in Trust Seminary.

“Apologist like this breaks down many of the old and very often artificial barriers between disciplines,” Dr. Wood said. “I think University Professors will stimulate an exchange across disciplines,” Dr. Wood said. “I think University Professors will stimulate an exchange across disciplines.”

The library houses literary papers, letters, manuscripts and many editions of the works of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning in addition to the other holdings of 19th-century British and American literature.

The Baylor Collections of Political Materials, housed in the W.R. Poage Legislative Library, includes the papers of nine former members of Congress, five Texas legislators and three judges. It also contains local information about Waco, a map collection, an enormous collection of editorial cartoons and a 5,000-volume book collection focusing on Congress, political history and public policy.

The majority of the collections’ materials are accessed through e-mail and fax. Ben Bogen, collections manager, said people often will call to find out if the library has a specific document. Baylor professors and their students may not realize the wealth of information that is right here on campus. Although the collections are used by scholars from all over the world, the resources are available to Baylor faculty, staff and students. — By Kristin Layne

The library’s mission is to assist researchers and students in the pursuit of knowledge. The library’s goal is to provide the campus community with high-quality services and materials. The library houses more than 2 million volumes, 100,000 serials and 350,000 government publications. The library also offers a variety of electronic resources, including full-text databases, digital images, and audio and video recordings.
Publications

Dr. Michael Beaty, director of the Institute for Faith and Learning and associate professor of philosophy, co-authored with J. Todd Barus, a student at Yale Divinity School, and Dr. Larry Lyon, dean of the Graduate School and professor of sociology, an article titled “Faith and Knowledge in American Higher Education” that was published in the Winter/Spring issue of *Faith & History*.

Dr. Mark Britt, assistant professor of chemistry, had a paper titled “Evidence of a Low-Temperature Transition State Binding Preference in Bovine Adenylate Deaminase” published in a recent issue of *Biophysical Chemistry*.


Dr. Marlianna Busch, professor and chair of chemistry, and Dr. Kenneth Busch, professor of chemistry, had a co-authored article titled “Cavity-Ringdown Spectroscopy: A New Technique for Trace Absorption Measurements” accepted for publication in the August 1998 issue of *American Chemical Society*.

Dr. Richard Chewning, professor of management, and The Hart and Harry Chase winner Professor of Christian Ethics in Business, had an article titled “Business Ethics as a Religiously Schizophrenic Society” published in the March/April issue of *Leader to Leader*.

Dr. A.J. (Chip) Conyers, professor of theology, had a new essay titled “Beyond Hidden Pend. Illusion and Reality in Thema’s ‘The Idea of Simplicity’” accepted for publication in *Touchstone* a journal of Mere Christianity.

Dr. Charles Davis, associate professor of accounting, and Dr. Elizabeth Davis, assistant professor of accounting, had an article titled “Audit Tread and Audit Methodology: An Examination of Determinants of Auditors’ Elicitation of Alternative Knowledge Organizational Structures” accepted for publication in *Advances in Accounting: Behavioral Research*.

Dr. William V. Davis, professor of English and Writer-in-Residence, had three poems titled “Late November in a Field,” “Autumn Afternoon” and “A Few Days and Writer-in-Residence,” had three poems titled “Dr. William V. Davis assistant professor of accounting, had an article titled “God in the Classroom: What’s New at the Ole Miss Moe Dining Center” at the *Literacy for Life Long Learning 1998 Baylor Reading Conference* sponsored by the Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading held Feb. 20-21 on the Baylor campus.

Dr. Mahamud Bavumia, assistant professor of economics, presented a paper titled “Why the Apparent Rush to Market Reform in Developing Countries” at the 1997 Minnesota Valley Economic Association Meeting held in February in Kansas City, Mo.

Dr. Michael Beaty, director of the Institute for Faith and Learning and associate professor of philosophy, presented a paper titled “What Does It Mean to Be a Baptist University?” at Mercer University in Macon, Ga. He also read a paper titled “Passive Moral Education in the University at a meeting of the Midwest Division of the Society of Christian Philosophers on April 16-17 in Lincoln, Neb. In addition, he participated in the Lilly Endowment-sponsored “Teaching Religion and the Role of Religion in Teaching” at the National Humanities Center in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., and participated in the Lilly Regional Conference recently held in San Antonio. He also served as an external reviewer of the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The members of the Baylor Student Quartet presented a concert held March 20 in the Armstrong Browning Library on the Baylor campus. Performers included Bruce Berg, associate professor of voice; Jody Gatwood, Brown University Visiting Professor of Violin; Gary Hardie, professor of oboe and coordinator of strings; and Kathryn Steely, instructor of viola.

Dr. Blake Burleson, lecturer in religion and acting director of the African Studies Program, was invited to moderate break-out sessions at the First International Conference on Sports Ethics to be held May 20-22 at the University of South Florida in Tampa. The sessions are titled “Do Not Eat Food Finished Pefed? An Inquiry Into the Moral Dilemmas of Coaches, Athletic Directors, and Sports Managers” and “Strong Minds/Strong Bodies or Child Abuse: A Look at the Impact of Sport Training and Dieting and the Role of Parents, Coaches, and Others in Protecting Against ‘Sport Abuse’".

Dr. Richard Chewning, professor of management and The Hart and Harry Chase winner Professor of Christian Ethics in Business, conducted the Church Stewardship Conference held Jan. 30 - Feb. 1 at Faith Community Church in Fort Worth, and gave a winter commencement speech titled “At the Heart of Business is the Business of the Heart” held Feb. 14 at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Mass. He also gave a speech titled “Business Ethics...God’s Way/By Grace” at a banquet for the Westminister Theological Seminary’s President’s Council held March 9 and gave a presentation titled “The Schizophrenic Heart and Business Ethics” at the Contemporary Issues Conference held March 11 at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Penn.

Dr. Anita Comley, assistant professor in nursing, Dr. Linda F. Garner, assistant professor of nursing, and Charles E. Kemp, assistant professor of horn; and Dr. Blake Burleson, lecturer in religion and acting director of the African Studies Program, were invited to moderate break-out sessions at the First International Conference on Sports Ethics to be held May 20-22 at the University of South Florida in Tampa. The sessions are titled “Do Not Eat Food Finished Pefed? An Inquiry Into the Moral Dilemmas of Coaches, Athletic Directors, and Sports Managers” and “Strong Minds/Strong Bodies or Child Abuse: A Look at the Impact of Sport Training and Dieting and the Role of Parents, Coaches, and Others in Protecting Against ‘Sport Abuse’”.

Dr. Robert Hopper, assistant professor of trumpet and coordinator of brass, Margaret Robinson, assistant professor of horn, and Vern Siebert, director of jazz ensemble, gave a concert held March 21 in Royce Grove Hall on the Baylor campus. Performers included Michael Fischer, lecturer in law, Barry Hopper, associate professor of trumpet and coordinator of brass, Margaret Robinson, assistant professor of horn, and Vern Siebert, director of jazz ensemble.

Dr. Linda F. Garner, assistant professor of nursing, served as faculty members for a conference titled “Mian Culture: An Introduction to Cultural Competency and Health Care Beliefs and Practices in Lansteh and Vettelmaier” held March 27 in Dallas.

Dr. Baudello Garza, assistant professor of Spanish, presented a paper titled “A Paradigm of Reading in Puclas of Isabel Allende” for Baylor’s Annual Faculty Research Day held Feb. 18 on the Baylor campus.

Dr. L. Kent Gibblest, professor of economics and The E.M. and Thelma Stevens Professor of Private Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, presented testimony as a forensic economist and expert witness in several court cases this spring.

Dr. Tom Goforth, chair and professor of geology and The N.C. Keck Professor of Geophysics, gave an invited presentation titled “Quantitative Aspects of a Large Introductory Geology Course” at a meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Geological Society of America in Charleston, W. Va.

Kathy Hillman, associate professor and acquisition/selection development librarian, led a conference on “Planning Meetings” at the Union Baptist Association’s Leading Leaders meeting in Houston. She also gave a presentation on “Organizing and Presenting Conference Materials” for the Texas Women’s Missionary Union’s Conference Leader Training.

Dr. Leta Horan, associate professor of piano, directed two presentations at the Baylor’s Spotlight performance “11:15 Show” held May 1998.
Family Circle

With sympathy to
Linda Hyman, psychology and neuroscience, on the death of her mother-in-law, Mildred Hyman, and the death of her uncle, Ronald Camp, Diana Kohler, nursing, on the death of her mother. Family and friends of James Parson, retired business, on his death.

Best wishes to
Adrian Vaughan, retired journalism, following recent hospitalization.

Congratulations to
Vincent Carpenter, public relations, and his wife, Tonya, on the birth of their daughter, Michelle, born March 26. Lonnie Kelly, spouse of Sora Kelly, university marketing, upon his selection by the Waco City Council on April 21 and was presented a Certificate honored by the Waco Fire Department. 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Spotlight

May 1998

of the Mental Illness” at the Spring 1998 South Eastern Conference on Linguistics held March 26-29 in Lafayette, La.

Tom Odegard, lecturer in economics and assistant director of economic education programs, gives several presentations to gifted and talented teachers at two economic education workshops sponsored by Region 12 Education Service Center held March 31 and April 1 in Temple. He also made a presentation to 30 high school economics teachers at an economic education workshop held April 3 at the University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg.

Dr. Patrick L. Odell, professor of mathematic, read a paper titled “On Inductive Transformation” at the annual meeting of the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America held March 26-28 at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Dr. Andy Pittman, associate professor of health, human performance and recreation, served as a presenter and conference program chair at the Society for the Study of the Legal Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity Conference in Tucson, Ariz., and was elected president of the organization for 1998-99. He also was a panel member at the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance National Convention in Reno, Nev.

Dr. Robert Plizak, associate professor of mathematics, read a paper titled “Orthogonal Projections” at the annual meeting of the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America held March 26-28 at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Terry Price, lecturer in theater arts, served as technical director and designed lighting and sound for the Baylor theater department’s production of “Machete” held in February and the Baylor Opera Theatre’s production of “The Pied Piper” held in January. He also is a member of a U.S. Institute of Technology Television discussion panel that is expediting the use of computers for an upcoming convention.


Dr. Terrill Saxon, assistant professor of educational psychology, and John T. Reilly, an educational psychology doctoral candidate, gave a poster presentation titled “Joint Attention and Toddler Characteristics: Race, Sex and Socioeconomic Status” at the Biennial International Conference on Infant Studies held April 2-5 in Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. Mary Margaret Shoaf, associate professor of mathematics, presented a research paper titled “The Long-Term Effect of the Graphing Calculator on Female Students’ Spatial Visualization and Cognitive Skills in Algebra and Graphing Concepts” at the annual meeting of the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America held March 26-28 at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She also presented an extended workshop titled “Who Says Data Analysis Isn’t in Pre-Calculus? Not Anymore! Now We Have the TI-80.”

At the Tenth Annual International Conference for Teachers Teaching With Technology held March 13-15 in Nashville, Tenn., her paper that covered the workshop was published in the conference proceedings.

Vern Sliert, director of jazz ensembles, conducted a performance by Pete Peterson and the Collection Jazz Orchestra held April 3 at Jones Concert Hall on the Baylor campus.

Calvin Smith, associate professor and chair of museum studies and director of Sheeder Museum Complex, gave a lecture and slide presentation at the March meetings of the Brazos Chat Rotary and the Lions Den Rotary Club.

Dr. Mary Ruth Smith, assistant professor of art education and fibers, conducted a workshop titled “Recontextualizing Mixed Media Images,” co- presented a workshop titled “Multicultural, Interdisciplinary Intergenerational Approach to Art Using Folk Art Appropriate,” and presented a paper titled “Don’t Throw That Away!” at the annual convention of the National Art Education Association held April 1-5 in Chicago, Ill. She also was invited to write a forward on the use of nontraditional art materials for a curriculum unit on recycling for the Elementary Division of the National Art Education Association. She and Dr. Sandra McCollister, visiting assistant professor of art education, served on the selection committee for Rising Star, administered a forum titled “Cultures and Contexts: Perspectives for Learning in the Visual Arts” held Feb. 23 at the University of Texas in Austin, and attended the biannual conference of the Texas Federation of Fiber Artists held March 6-8 in Galveston.

Dr. Robert Straughan, assistant professor of marketing, served as truck chair and participated in a special session titled “Managing the Disruption Process” at the Southwestern Marketing Association Conference held in Dallas. He also was asked to serve as a special programs co-chair for next year’s conference to be held in Houston. He and Dr. Terry Loe, assistant professor of marketing, attended the 1998 University of Northern Marketing Doctoral Symposium held April 9-11 in Lincoln.

Dr. Joan Supplee, associate professor of history and director of the Latin American Studies Program, spoke on “Revolutionary Cuba: Does Fidel Eat More Than Your Father?” as part of the Council for International Education’s series “All the News That’s Fit to Discuss” held March 28 in the W.R. Poage Legislative Library Center on the Baylor campus.


Honors and Appointments

Dr. Lewis Barker, professor of psychology and neuroscience, received the Florida State University psychology department’s “Graduate Good Citizen” Award. In April, he was given an invited address at Florida State University and was recognized during their graduation commencement.

Dr. Mahamudu Basumia, assistant professor of economics, was invited to be a discussant for the 1998 Salubrity Seminar held April 23 - May 1 in Austria. He was also selected to be a discussant for the seminar titled “East Asian Industries and their Implications for Developing Countries.”

Dr. Michael Beaty, director of the Institute for Faith and Learning and associate professor of philosophy, was named philosopher editor of Christian Scholar’s Review at the periodical’s trustee and editorial board meeting held April 18 in Chicago, Ill.

Leo Berndt, host/checker in Moody Library, was chosen as the libraries “Staff Member of the Month” for April.

Dr. Ray Cannon, professor of mathematics, was appointed to the College Board Committee that oversees the Advanced Placement Program for Calculus.

Susan Dunkerly, assistant professor of photography, received purchase prizes for two of her three prints exhibited in the 72nd Annual International Juried Photography Competition sponsored by the Print Center in Philadelphia, Pa. Her winning prints will be added to the Print Center Collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Dr. L. Kent Gilbith, professor of economics and The E&M and Theresa Steens Professor of Private Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, received the “Circle of Achievement Award” from Memorial, an academic excellence and leadership organization at Baylor.

Dr. Tom Hanks, professor of English, was selected Baylor’s Centennial Professor for 1998-99. Hanks will use the award to support a two-to-three-week stay in London, where he will consult the manuscript of Sir Thomas Malory’s Morte Darthur in the British Museum.

Joyce King, slide-curator and supervisor of audio-visual equipment, received the “Spirit Award” given by the Handweavers’ Guild of Boulder for her fiber piece titled “One Word Project,” and Dr. Mary Ruth Smith, assistant professor of art education and fibers, received a Merit Award for her embroidered artwork titled “Maiden Connection.” Their pieces were on display at an exhibit titled “Fiber Odyssey ’98” held March 6 - April 13 in Ennis Park, Colo.

Dr. Kenneth Park, assistant professor of physics, facilitated the Baylor physics department’s recent acquisition of a $1.5 million surface-analysis system from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Bill Poucher, professor of computer science, was selected as the 1998 recipient of the Opaline Pi Epionus Award.

Dr. Lynn Tatum, lecturer in religion, was elected state president of the Texas Conference of the American Association of University Professors.

Dr. Kay Toombs, associate professor of philosophy, was invited to become a member of the Board of Directors for Dimension Humana, a journal published by the Spanish Society of Family and Community Medicine in Madrid, Spain. Toombs also was asked to collaborate on a Humanista Project designed by Unidad Rombie de Medicina de Familia y Comunidades “La Laguna - Temarit-Norte” at University Hospital in Canary Islands, Spain.

Dr. Nancy Upton, associate professor of management and the Ben T. Williams Professor of Entrepreneurship, was appointed to the Waco Regional Airport Advisory Board, elected program chair of the entrepreneurship division of the Academy of Management, and named guest editor for a special issue of the Academy of Management Journal titled “Managing in the New Millennium.”

Submit “Spotlight” items by email to balat@tamu.edu or by campus mail to POB 305924, Dallas 30588 at each month.

— By Julie Carlson and Michelle Van Rydenberger

Collins Professor

Continued from page 5

the 78-page story of Camoflet written in modern English. “I’m interested in the syntax of the manuscript — the way verbs are put together to construct meaning. Since punctuation wasn’t created until the late 1600s or early 1700s, there is no punctuation in the manuscript,” Dr. Hanks explained. “Therefore, readers are more intimately involved with putting the text together.” I’m studying how readers constructed meaning in Mallory’s text and how it changes in the age of the printing press.”

Starting in January 1999, Dr. Hanks will take an eight-month leave of absence from Baylor for his sabbatical project. His tentative plans are to stay in London for two to three weeks in May 1999. Last summer, Dr. Hanks worked with the manuscript for the first time during a three-day visit to the British Museum. The first stages of his research was compiled in an article he co-authored with Jennifer Panturic, assistant of the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core, titled “Beside the Point: Medieval Meanings Versus Modern Impositions in Editing Mallory’s Morte Darthur” published in the December 1997 issue of Neuphilologische Mitteilungen.

The tales of Camelot have fascinated Dr. Hanks for 13 years. In 1985, one of Dr. Hanks’ colleagues asked him to co-lead a seminar on Mallory. After reading Morte Darthur and teaching the seminar, Dr. Hanks remarked, “I’ve been infatuated with Morte ever since I read Morte Darthur.” Dr. Hanks said, “I don’t know of any literature except the Bible with greater influence on the English-speaking western civilization than Morte Darthur. The story of King Arthur is a major part of our folklore — it’s hard to find someone who doesn’t know something about Arthur, Guinevere or Merlin.”

Since 1987, Dr. Hanks has taught graduate classes on Mallory. In the 1998 fall semester, he will teach the course at the undergraduate level. The class will read and discuss “Morte Darthur,” and note how Mallory’s writing style differs from the modern punctuated edition allowed a reader to realize.

He is the best prose writer of the Middle Ages,” he said. — By Julie Carlson and Michelle Van Rydenberger

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The time is at hand for Baylor students graduating on May 15 to prepare for such pre-graduation traditions as Ring Out. This annual ceremony of peasing Baylor tradition from graduating seniors to incoming seniors will be held at 6 p.m., Friday, May 15, in the Baylor Quad.

Started in 1927 by the dean of women, Irene Marshall King, the Ring Out Ceremony includes peasing an ivy chain from senior women to their junior partners. This event symbolizes the passing of leadership from seniors to the next graduating class of women and the ivy cable represents loyalty and steadfastness.

According to records in The Texas Collection, the ceremony centered around the old chapel bell that signaled the beginning of classes and chapel. The original ivy chain was made from ivy gathered from ivy-covered campus buildings, and senior women stood next to the bell with the ivy cable on their shoulders. After representatives from the senior and junior classes had spoken, the chain was passed down to the junior women.

Women have dominated this ceremony over the years, with seniors dressed in traditional graduation gowns and junior women wearing white dresses. The participants form a circle near the Baylor bell in the Quadrangle. The smaller bell is from Baylor’s first campus at Independence, while the larger bell is from the old Waco University where Baylor undergraduate research program.

According to an article written for the Baylor newspaper in 1927, the bells were chosen as the symbols of this ceremony because of an ancient idea that whenever bells rang, evil became impotent and good had the controlling influence. Thus the Baylor spirit rings out to her students to hold to the good and beautiful.

Since 1946, the men of the senior and junior classes have participated in Ring Out through the incorporation of the Peasing of the Key ceremony. This was initiated in 1945 as a separate feature of the centennial program.

Senior men dress in graduation gowns, while junior men wear dark suits. Representatives of the senior class, designated as “Chaplains” of the key to the box of relics buried under the Centennial monument in the center of the Founders Mall, pass the key to a junior representative who becomes the “Chaplain” for the next year. This key will be used during the Baylor’s bicentennial celebration in 2045 to open the time capsule buried by the class of 1945.

The purpose of the ceremony is similar to that of the Ring Out — to bind the classes together in loyalty to the traditions of Baylor and to transfer guardianship of the Baylor spirit.

All graduating seniors and their chosen juniors are eligible to participate in this time-honored tradition. “This event is such a personal part of graduation and a time of reflection,” said Dr. Martha Lou Scott, dean for student life. — By Heather Arrott