Achieving Baylor’s Aspirations

Regents approve 10-year vision to enrich academics, expand facilities, increase endowment

By Larry D. Brumley

The Baylor University Board of Regents voted unanimously Sept. 21 to approve an ambitious 10-year vision and adopted a new tuition structure designed to help fund the initiative and align Baylor’s pricing system with its peer universities.

The 10-year vision, developed over the past 12 months with input from faculty, staff, students, alumni and Regents, calls for Baylor to enter the top tier of American universities within the course of a decade while maintaining its distinctive Christian mission. The 10-year vision document outlines how the University will achieve new levels of excellence in its academic and community life while remaining faithful to its 156-year-old mission.

A challenging vision

“The Board of Regents approved a very important document incorporating the core convictions, assumptions and imperatives that comprise the 10-year vision,” said Baylor President Robert B. Sloan Jr. “It is neither a long-range nor a strategic plan; plans will emerge from the vision in the months and years to come. Rather, it is our attempt to fast-forward 10 years and imagine what Baylor would look like if we could be all that we aspire to become. This vision is challenging — it will stretch us — but it can be accomplished with the participation of our Regents, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends.”

Highlights of the 10-year vision approved by the Regents include:

- A reduction in student-faculty ratio from 19:1 to 13:1;
- Recruitment and retention of world-class faculty and students;
- Creation of an Honors College and School of Communication;
- Strengthening and expansion of the Graduate School;
- The addition of 120 classes per semester that focus on the “great texts;”
- Construction of additional residential life facilities that will add 1,800 beds, and;
- An increase in University endowment to $2 billion.
Alums, Students to Celebrate Homecoming

Oct. 24-28 activities feature traditions of parade, revue and gridiron contest

Baylor University’s 2001 Homecoming activities will mark the 92nd anniversary of the special celebration when alumni from around the world visit campus and take part in traditional activities. Homecoming begins at 10 a.m. Oct. 24 in Waco Hall with Freshman Mass Meeting, a gathering designed to pass Baylor traditions along to new students.

Weekend events include Pigskin Revue, a student musical production featuring winning acts from the spring 2001 All University Sing. Pigskin Revue will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 25-27 and 10:15 p.m. Oct. 26 in Waco Hall. The Homecoming Queen will be crowed during the Oct. 25 revue. For ticket information, contact the Bill Daniel Student Center ticket office at ext. 3210.

The 92nd anniversary Homecoming parade will begin at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 26 at Fountain Mall, following an 8 p.m. free concert by Destination Unknown. The traditional Homecoming pep rally and bonfire will be held at 9:30 p.m. Oct. 26 in Waco Hall.

For ticket information, contact the Bill Daniel Student Center at ext. 1121.
Baylor Regents Approve 10-Year Vision

The board also voted to limit future tuition increases for current students to 6.8 percent, for up to four additional years. Room and board fees for the 2002-2003 school year will increase by 4.8 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively. The general student and technology fees will increase by 5.9 percent.

Increased scholarships

Under the new pricing structure, some students will actually pay less than they would under the current structure because we will be doubling all categories of our merit scholarships,” Dr. Sloan said. “For example, an incoming Presidential Scholar taking 18 hours a semester will pay 6.7 percent less that the current tuition structure allows. With the additional scholarship support, we believe Baylor will be even more accessible for the most deserving students.”

According to Dr. Sloan, Baylor’s costs will remain below the average tuition for private institutions in Texas and well below the average of private peer institutions in the first and second tiers of the U.S. News and World Report rankings. Baylor is currently ranked in the second tier with most other Big XII institutions.

“I am very grateful to the Regents, faculty, staff, students, alumni and other friends of the University who contributed to the 10-year vision,” Dr. Sloan said. “The yearlong process not only yielded a vision worthy of our aspirations, but provided a unifying experience as we shared our collective dreams for Baylor. The excitement that has been generated by the 10-year vision demonstrates its resonance within the Baylor community, and we look forward to sharing it with our alumni, parents, students, donors and other friends in the days and weeks to come.”

Public release

The 10-year vision document will be released publicly Oct. 26 during homecoming by means of publications, a video and presentations to various constituent groups by University officials.

What types of improvements will Baylor make to its physical environment?

Baylor will:

• Undertake $262 million in new building and renovation projects
• Build a state-of-the-art, 450,000-square-foot science building
• Construct new residence halls to provide at least 1,800 additional beds on campus.

How will Baylor change its tuition structure?

For the first time ever, the Board of Regents has voted to limit future tuition increases for current students.

How will Baylor achieve new levels of academic excellence?

Baylor will:

• Decrease its student-faculty ratio from 19:1 to 15:1 and lower the average class size
• Recruit and retain world-class faculty who teach, research and publish
• Create an Honors College
• Implement a classical course sequence featuring a Great Texts curriculum with 120 new classes per semester of no more than 19 students
• Establish a School of Communication

Tuition Comparisons (2001 figures)

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Frequently Asked Questions

What does the 2012 Vision entail?

Baylor University aspires to what few institutions, if any, have ever achieved. Within the course of a decade, Baylor intends to enter the top tier of American universities while maintaining its distinctive Christian mission. Baylor will do so through faithfulness to its mission and excellence in the academic and community life of Baylor. This vision includes input from the University’s faculty, staff, students, alumni and Board of Regents.

Will Baylor continue to be the great value that it has always been?

The value of a Baylor education will actually increase by providing students:

• A smaller student-faculty ratio
• Exposure to more world-class faculty who teach, research and publish
• More accessibility through significantly increased scholarship support
• An enhanced residential experience and increased opportunities for spiritual and social development
• Additional state-of-the-art academic and student life facilities
• Enhanced technology to ensure they are well-prepared for their careers

How will Baylor’s tuition compare with other private universities?

Baylor still will be positioned below the average tuition for private institutions in Texas and well below the average of private peer institutions in the first and second tiers of U.S. News and World Report’s annual “America’s Best Colleges” rankings.

How will Baylor achieve community excellence?

Baylor will:

• Create a truly residential experience by building new residence life facilities
• Strengthen student life programming to enhance spiritual and social development
• Enhance the total, physical campus environment to provide a space where learning can flourish

Under the new pricing structure, some students will actually pay less than they would under the current structure. For example, an incoming Presidential Scholar taking 18 hours a semester will pay 6.7 percent less than the current tuition structure allows. Entering freshmen and transfer students next year will pay a flat tuition rate — before scholarships and grants are applied — of $15,700 a year, regardless of the number of semester hours they take.

What will the vision be funded by?

• Increased fund-raising and improved investment strategies to take Baylor’s endowment to $2 billion by 2012
• A new tuition structure

Continued from page 1

Flat tuition rate

The tuition structure adopted by the Regents is similar to ones adopted by most of the private universities Baylor competes with for students. Under the new Baylor plan (effective with the fall 2002 semester), entering full-time freshmen and transfer students will pay a flat tuition rate — before scholarships and grants are applied — of $15,700 a year, regardless of the number of semester hours they take.

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Fall 2001 Enrollment Breaks Records

For the sixth fall semester in a row, Baylor University has recorded a record high enrollment.

Official 10th-day enrollment statistics compiled by the Office of the Registrar show Baylor’s total enrollment at 14,221 students, an increase of 502 from last fall’s record enrollment. The total represents the first time that Baylor’s enrollment has passed the 14,000 mark.

This year’s freshman class includes 9,801 students, a decrease of 31 students from last fall. The average SAT of the Baylor class of 2005 is 1,175, identical to last year’s average.

Baylor has enrolled 19,190 undergraduates, 1,919 graduate students, 413 in the School of Law, and a record 906 students in George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

Truett Theological Seminary.

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In addition, 12 students are enrolled in the new doctor of science in physical therapy program at Brodie Army Medical Center in San Antonio. — Lori Scott Fogleman

Reynolds, Sibley Receive ICUT Honors

Dr. Herbert H. Reynolds, Baylor University president emeritus, and state Sen. David Sibley, a Baylor Regent, have been honored by the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas (ICUT) for their support of independent higher education in the state.

At a recent ICUT meeting, Dr. Reynolds was presented with the Founders Award, the highest award presented by the organization. Past award recipients include Texas Lieutenant Gov. Bill Hobby and Bob Bullock.

At the same meeting, Sen. Sibley was presented with the inaugural ICUT Legislative Champion Award for his efforts supporting independent higher education. — BN

A Narrow Escape

Hardrick’s sister flees World Trade Center after crash

Millions of Americans slammed phone lines on Sept. 11, desperate to hear a loved one’s voice from New York City after two planes crashed into the World Trade Center. But Baylor’s Julia Hardrick wasn’t one of them.

Hardrick, assistant vice president and director of personnel services and A/EEO officer, said that although he knew his sister, Gwen Hardrick, worked in lower Manhattan, he did not realize until later that her office was on the third floor of 2 World Trade Center.

Initially, all he knew was that she was in the area, he said, “I didn’t know she was housed in one of the trade centers. I didn’t think anything about it.”

Hardrick said there were a few times he considered calling his sister to see if she was safe, but decided to wait until later that evening to contact her.

“I really had the peace of God that everything was going to be all right,” he said. “All throughout the day I didn’t get nervous and panic.”

It was his mother who called him that night, letting him know that his sister was alive. Hardrick’s mother asked that she had been awakened at 4 a.m. with a deep desire to pray for her daughter. And instead of preparing to go for work, Hardrick’s mother called her office to let them know she would not be coming in because she was not feeling well.

“She was burdened in her spirit” to pray, Hardrick said. “After she spent some time in prayer, she turned on the TV.”

When she did, images of disaster were already being broadcast. Hardrick’s mother recognized the burning buildings as those where her daughter worked.

At the same time, unaware that her mother had been praying for her, Gwen Hardrick sat at her desk in the World Trade Center like many others, even after feeling the impact of the first explosion.

“[Gwen] said she thought, ‘Hey, this is New York. You always hear a boom. No big deal,’” Hardrick said.

Finally, his sister felt a great urge to look out her window, Hardrick said. When she realized the severity of the situation, she began screaming, grabbed her things and escaped from the building before either tower collapsed.

Hardrick said the experience has served as an incredible reminder of the power of God, especially to his mother, a relatively new Christian, and his sister, who has been searching for what she believes about God. “In control. He is alive,” he said. “Just a few years ago, my mother didn’t know the Lord. This has totally changed her life, and made her realize even more that God is truly real, that He’s not someone you just hear about on Sunday mornings.” — Allison Blodgett

New Facilities To Offer Guided Tours

O ftice at Baylor’s two newest academic buildings will offer guided tours during open house sessions this fall.

Tours of the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center will be offered to Baylor alumni and the community during Homecoming weekend — at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 26 and beginning at 2 p.m. Oct. 27. Waco and Central Texas residents will be offered Law Center tours during Waco’s annual Holidays on the Brazos program Dec. 1-2. Times are expected to participate.

Meanwhile, two open houses will be held prior to home football game Saturday in November at the new Reagor-Dykes Campus of George W. Truett Theological Seminary, located on dumpster access from Russell Hall. Seminary open houses will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Nov. 3 and 17. Visits will be treated to building tours and refreshments.

Construction on the 64,000-square-foot facility is expected to be completed Nov. 1, and a formal dedication ceremony is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Feb. 22, 2002. — BV

Fall 2001 Steppin’ Out Moves to Sunday

Steppin’ Out, Baylor’s semiannual day of community service, is moving from Saturday to Sunday this fall to avoid conflicts with Baylor’s football schedule. The student-run effort, scheduled for Nov. 4, gives service-minded students the opportunity to meet community needs in a hands-on fashion.

Jessica Trugilo, community service coordinator in the Department of Student Activities, said about 2,500 students took part in last fall’s event.

“A desire to change the community through service is a quality that has characterized students since the beginning of Baylor,” she said, “and Steppin’ Out gives many of them the opportunity to contribute to the Waco community.”

Students are joined by faculty and staff in completing projects such as painting, yard work, park cleanup, planting and working with people in nursing homes and day care centers.

About 100 local nonprofit and service agencies, representing parks, local schools and neighborhood associations, requested students to complete Steppin’ Out service projects during the past school year. Teams of six to 20 students will arrive at work locations beginning at 1 p.m. Nov. 4 and work for four hours. The size and nature of jobs will determine the number of students sent to each location.

People interested in participating or organizations wishing to schedule a work team should call the Steppin’ Out office at ext. 3999 or Jessica Trugilo at Student Activities, ext. 3271.

Baylor Mourns Sanders’ Death

Dr. Hugh Sanders, a former longtime Baylor choral director, died Aug. 31 in Fort Worth. He was 66.

Dr. Sanders was born in 1935 in Floidada, Texas. He received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Baylor and a doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Colorado, where he was later named an Outstanding Alumnus.

After nearly a decade spent teaching music in public schools, Dr. Sanders became director of choral activities and later dean of the School of Fine Arts at West Texas State University. He joined the Baylor School of Music faculty in 1984 in The Ben H. Williams Professor of Music and director of the Baylor A Cappella Choir. In 1991, he was appointed director of Baylor’s Institute for Church Music and Worship.

In 1997, the Texas Choral Directors Association awarded Dr. Sanders the Texas Choral Master Award for a lifetime of achievement in choral music.

“Hugh Sanders was one of the giants in Texas choral music circles,” Dr. William M. May Jr., dean of the Baylor School of Music, said. “The choirs and church music program at Baylor flourished under his leadership.”

Dr. Sanders was preceded by his wife, Kesly Sanders, his son, Stan Sanders, and daughter-in-law, Deanna Sanders, his daughter, Stacie Hendrickson, and his son-in-law, Casey Hendrickson, his sister, Ruth Bilderback, and four grandchildren. — Kyle Armstrong

Baylor’s Authors & Artists Exhibit Opens

T he sixth annual Baylor “Authors and Artists at Work” exhibit runs through Nov. 25 in the foyer of Moody Memorial Library.

The exhibit, sponsored by Baylor Libraries, features works by Baylor faculty and staff members who have written or edited books from October 2000 through September 2001. It also includes works by fine art faculty who have exhibited in a juried show or commercially worked during the same period. More than 50 exhibits are expected to participate.

A reception honoring the featured authors and artists and Baylor’s new faculty members was held Oct. 9 at Moody Memorial Library.

Persons desiring more information should call Beth Tate, fine arts catalog librarian and exhibit committee chair, at ext. 3679. — Randy Pieler

House repair is a popular Steppin’ Out project
Baylor readers may also be struck with Benne’s reservations about Baylor. I shall concentrate on Baylor, his chosen schools, and schools which have parted from their traditions, can only hint at those who will read this review. Many readers may find it interesting, if sometimes condescending: “not...much of a theological heritage,” and therefore handicapped in their pursuit of a dialogue between faith issues and secular subject matter (115). Another problem, he suggests, has been “the manner in which the faith and learning ideal has been introduced” at Baylor — i.e., “in a rather top-down fashion” (116). Benne discusses “Ethos” in the last chapter which I discuss here; for Baylor, he finds the ethos distinctly Baptist and surveys its many religious elements: the number of Baptist students (he reports 6,000), required “Chapel Forum,” Baptist Student Ministries (the former Baptist Student Union); Campus Crusade for Christ, and Touchstone (a program of the Student Union) are therefore handicapped in their pursuit of a dialogue between faith issues and secular subject matter (115). Another problem, he suggests, has been “the manner in which the faith and learning ideal has been introduced” at Baylor — i.e., “in a rather top-down fashion” (116).

Benne clearly feels that Baylor has been faithful to the Baptist tradition which founded it, chiefly owing to its pursuit of an integrating faith-learning approach.

Departments for academic affairs; Dr. Michael D. Beaty, director of the Baylor Institute for Faith and Learning and professor of philosophy; and Dr. Larry Lyons, dean of the Graduate School and professor of sociology (Benne supplies not names but positions) (115). The changed vision has been pursued seriously. Benne notes, Baylor’s hiring process includes for each applicant interviews with the provost and the president, interviews which probe applicants’ willingness to explore a faith and learning approach of their own” (114). Other means of pursuing the integration of faith and learning are therefore handicapped in their pursuit of a dialogue between faith issues and secular subject matter (115). Another problem, he suggests, has been “the manner in which the faith and learning ideal has been introduced” at Baylor — i.e., “in a rather top-down fashion” (116). Benne discusses “Ethos” in the last chapter which I discuss here; for Baylor, he finds the ethos distinctly Baptist and Christian, and surveys in many faiths’ and learning’s, and the founding of the Institute for Faith and Learning, along with other institutes that “add to the university’s ongoing recognition of its religious heritage” (114).

Lack of heritage

Much as Benne is heartened by these steps at Baylor, he adds a “critical reflection”: “The engagement of faith and learning is a two-way conversation, in which a Christian intellectual tradition is brought into dialogue with secular learning. Is a university in the Baptist tradition, however, Baylor has been inclined simply to offer biblical knowledge and wisdom to the conversant but, the Bible doesn’t provide the kind of systematic and nuanced framework needed for a dialogue, with, say, economists.” In short, Benne suggests, “Baptists simply do not have much of a theological heritage,” and are therefore handicapped in their pursuit of a dialogue between faith issues and secular subject matter (115). Another problem, he suggests, has been “the manner in which the faith and learning ideal has been introduced” at Baylor — i.e., “in a rather top-down fashion” (116). Benne discusses “Ethos” in the last chapter which I discuss here; for Baylor, he finds the ethos distinctly Baptist and Christian, and surveys in many faiths and learning’s, and the founding of the Institute for Faith and Learning, along with other institutes that “add to the university’s ongoing recognition of its religious heritage” (114).
Family Circle

Congratulations to
Dr. Mark Bateman, School of Education, and wife, Iori, on the birth of their daughter, Sarah Ann Bateman.
Cynthia Chavez, academic scholarships and financial aid, and husband, Jorge, on the birth of their son, Caleb Andrew Chavez.
Colin Witt, public relations, and wife, Cindy, on the birth of their daughter, Courtney Ann Witt.

With sympathy to
Debi Campbell-Perry, public relations, on the death of her grandmother, Willie Ruth Campbell.
Rita Massey, psychology and neuroscience, on the death of her father, Herbert B. Gideon.
Dr. John Ochoa, Baylor Libraries, on the death of his brother, Joseph Ochoa.

Best wishes to
Adriene Battles, academic scholarships and financial aid, who is recovering from surgery.
Dr. James L. Williamson, School of Education, who is recovering from surgery.

This Month in Baylor History

Oct. 9, 1987 — Baylor students kidnap journalist W.C. Brennan and unsuccessfully attempt to hang him in retribution for his anti-Baylor diatribes.
Oct. 13, 1845 — Baylor trustees choose Independence over Huntsville as the site of the new school by a vote of 10-1.
Oct. 14, 1961 — Judge Abner V. McCall –– Baylor trustees choose Independence over Huntsville as the site of the new school by a vote of 10-1.
Oct. 17, 1917 — The Bears post their largest football win ever, beating Simmons College 103-0.

Compiled by Randy Feaster

Presentations & Participations

Dr. Marjorie J. Cooper, professor of marketing, presented a co-authored paper titled “A Superstar Firm Financial Analysis of Rapid Growth Family and Non-Family Firms” in June at the 2001 Babson College-Kaufman Foundation entrepreneurship research conference in Filmingden, Sweden. Co-authors are Dr. Elisabeth J. Teal, assistant professor of management, and Dr. Nancy B. Upson, professor of management and The R. H. Williams Professor in Entrepreneurship.

Dr. Gregory T. Garrett, associate professor of English, gave a reading from his work and taught a writing course in June at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico.

Dr. François Ghilebaert, lecturer in French, presented “The Fight Against the Mad Cow Disease Wins Over Europe: A New Definition of European Citizenship” in July at the New Europe at the Crossroads V conference at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Dr. Jill C. Havens, assistant professor of English, presented “Spatial Epigraphy: The Road to Reform in Stauclerdes’ Novels” and participated in a roundtable discussion in May at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Mich. She presented “A Narrative of Faith: Middle English Devotional Anthologies and Religious Practice” in July at an Early Book Society conference at University College Cork, Ireland.


Dr. Richard J. Martinez, assistant professor of management, presented “An Empirical Study of Competitive Confrontation Effects on Firm Performance” in August at an Academy of Management meeting in Washington, D.C.

Dr. M. David Rudd, professor of psychology and Neuroscience and director of the Pysh program, and Dr. Steven K. Huprich, assistant professor of psychology and neuroscience, participated in a panel discussion on trauma impairment Aug. 27 at an American Psychological Association meeting in San Francisco.

Dr. Beck A. Taylor, assistant professor of economics and The W.M. Smith Professor of Economics, presented the keynote address “Finding New Cheese and Surviving in a Changing Marketplace” Aug. 15 at a Nebraska Ag Business Association meeting in Kearney, Neb.

Dr. Nancy B. Upson, professor of management and The R.H. Williams Professor of Entrepreneurship, chaired an entrepreneurship division executive committee meeting, a session titled “Family Firms, Agency and Governance” and an entrepreneurship division business meeting Aug. 5-6 at an Academy of Management meeting in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Richard E. Watts, associate professor of educational psychology, presented “How ‘Therapy Basics’ July 18 to a Hill Country Community Action Association Head Start pre-service staff training session in Killeen.

Dr. Joseph D. White, assistant professor of biology, presented “Dissolved Woody Material, Projected Leaf Area Index and Satellite Index Relationships in Chihuahuan Desert Vegetation” and a co-authored paper titled “Forest Fragmentation Effects on Simulated Biomass Accumulation Using Remotely-sensed Data with Varying Spatial Resolution” Aug. 3-9 at the Ecological Society of America annual meeting in Indianapolis, Ind. Co-authors are Dr. Neal Scott, Woods Hole Research Center, and Dr. Nicholas Coops, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australia.

Happy Hundred!

Sendon keeps active in second century

Mary Sendon celebrates her 100th birthday

M any Sendon shares treats with some other esteemed members of the Baylor family. She enjoys attending campus events, visiting old friends and staying fit. But Sendon differs in one important way — she celebrated her 100th birthday Aug. 15.

The effervescent centenarian became a bit of a trailblazer when she attended her first Baylor class as a freshman in 1919. The daughter of Italian immigrants, she came from a traditional background. “Italian girls didn’t go to college,” she said. “We were supposed to stay home, but my father wanted me to go to Baylor.”

During her University years following World War I, Sendon said Baylor and Waco were much different than they are today. “Eighteenth Street was the end of Waco,” she said. “When I went to Waco we had four buildings. You could walk around the entire campus in the minutes. The enrollment has grown, and I think that’s good. I think Baylor has grown because it has good teachers.”

One of those “good teachers” was the late Anders Sendon, the former chairman of Baylor’s Spanish Department, whom Mary married in 1922. He came to Baylor for the same year Mary started classes and held a faculty position until his retirement in 1971, a career spanning 52 years. Their early years together at Baylor were not easy ones for the young married couple.

“We came up through some hard years,” she said. “Baylor was not as wealthy then. Those were ten years, tough years, but things got better.”

Education always has been important to Sendon. After earning a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and master’s degree in English from Baylor, she taught in Waco-area public and private schools for 39 years. Her love of learning has been passed down to two daughters and other relatives. They have earned a total of 13 degrees from Baylor.

Sendon places a high priority on remaining physically active and has taken up riding a stationary bicycle three days a week. A fall she took the day after her 100th birthday temporarily interrupted her bicycling sessions while she received physical therapy in a Waco nursing home. But Sendon says she plans to soon resume her active life in Baylor circles.

“I still go to things there. I’m interested in a lot of different things. My friends are all at Baylor. It’s helped me keep going,” she said. “I haven’t always agreed with Baylor, but it grew up, like when they started having dances on campus. Baylor is more modern now. I’ve liked being around Baylor all these years — it’s been my life. My 100 years have not been wasted.”

— Nancy Parmeth

The Baylor Family Responds

Julie McAbee, MBA assistant in Baylor’s career services office, gives blood Sept. 13 at the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center. The blood drive attracted a large number of faculty, staff and students eager to assist relief efforts in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Baylor News

Commencement Congratulations

Aug. 2001
Hankamer School of Business
Bachelor of Business Administration
Neil Scott Luft — son of Bonnie Luft, health, human performance and recreation

Baylor Family Responds
Baylor Co-sponsors "Orthodoxy and Democracy"

Conference looks at church struggles in aftermath of communism

T he J.M. Dana Institute of Church-State Studies is co-sponsoring a conference in New York City exploring challenges faced by Orthodox churches in countries formerly tied to communism and the Soviet Union.

The conference, titled "Orthodoxy and Democracy: Challenges After the Cold War," will be held Oct. 26-27 at Columbia Theological Seminary in New York, and is sponsored by the Dana Institute, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and the Helsinki Commission.

Baylor is co-sponsoring this conference because it falls squarely within our mandate to examine the interrelationship of religion and politics, as well as how religious traditions — in this case, Orthodox Christianity — can support the transition to democratic forms of governance," he said.

"What's Bruin?"

Professional Development Series

Nov. 13

Dec. 4

Dean Phyllis Karns

Barfield Drawing Room, Bill Daniel Student Center

Call ext. 2699 to register

Baylor Co-sponsors “Orthodoxy and Democracy” Conference looks at church struggles in aftermath of communism
Historic Village Marks Anniversary at Baylor

Fifteen years ago this month, one of the most unusual caravans in American history made its way to Baylor as the Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village was transported from its former home in Liberty County.

The village was purchased by Baylor alumnus Gov. Bill Daniel and his wife Vara in 1948 and used as a ranch headquarters and stage for Wild West shows. They eventually donated the village to Baylor.

Transporting 23 buildings the 252 miles from Daniel’s ranch to Waco has been called the largest move of a single village in U.S. history, and the task was welcomed by Calvin Smith, director of the Mayborn Museum Complex and chair of museum studies.

“It was the most challenging effort of my whole career,” he said.

Under Smith’s supervision, workers spent a year planning the move, which relied on donated trucks and labor supplied by the Structural Movers Association of Texas.

“I had worked with them when I was in Beaumont and one of their members had dropped a monument on me. It broke my left shoulder, five ribs and my right leg,” Smith said. “By 1986 this same person was the association’s president, and I asked him to make this their [Texas] Sesquicentennial project and he agreed. He felt like he owed me.”

They loaded up the trucks and they moved from Liberty County –– Oct. 4, 1986 –– bad weather before it began.

“We were not even supposed to be on the road, in all honesty, because it was raining,” Smith said. “But we got a special decree from Baylor alumni and Gov. Mark White to make the trip.”

“The morning of the departure from Liberty County –– Oct. 4, 1986 –– it had weather across the state almost stopped the village’s trek out, climbed up on top of the gin, and as we drove through he cut these large branches off and threw them down inside,” Smith said. “Groveton has never been the same.”

The two-mile-long caravan made it safely to Baylor within two days. Then the problems began.

“Groveton has never been the same.” -- Randy Fincher

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Eventually all of the buildings were placed on foundations, and in 1989 the Village opened to the public. Since that time, Baylor records indicate more than 130,000 visitors –– including 76,000 children –– have strolled through the grounds.

The 23 buildings moved from Liberty County to Baylor made an impressive caravan on Texas roadways.