While President George W. Bush leads the nation at this critical time in its history, a group of Baylor faculty and administrators is developing the first draft of the University’s major proposal to locate the future George Walker Bush Presidential Library Center on campus.

There are now 10 Presidential Library Centers in operation in the United States, one for each president starting with Herbert Hoover and continuing through George H.W. Bush. The 11th center — the William J. Clinton Presidential Materials Project in Little Rock, Ark. — will be built once fundraising has been completed.

As President Bush completes his first year in office, the competition to develop a successful proposal to locate his Presidential Library Center is accelerating. At least five Texas universities — Baylor, Southern Methodist University, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University and the University of Texas at Austin — have expressed interest in becoming the home of the Bush Center.

Dr. Thomas L. Charlton, vice provost for administration and coordinator for the University’s Bush Center proposal, said Baylor’s proximity to the Bush ranch in Crawford and easy access to and from U.S. Interstate 35, a major thoroughfare, make it a viable location for the center. Dr. Charlton said it’s estimated as many as 400,000 people a year might visit the Bush Center, bringing more than $200 million of revenue into Waco’s economy within the first few years.
Morris Leads Alumni Networking Effort

Brenda Morris, formerly assistant vice president for organizational development at Baylor, has been appointed director of the Baylor Alumni Network. In the new position — approved recently by the alumni association board of directors — Morris will be responsible for identifying and training a network of alumni volunteers in major metropolitan areas who will help advance the association’s goals.

“Not as many alumni are getting involved with chapter clubs anymore,” Morris said. “We like the idea of creating alumni networks because they’re not as structured and don’t require the time commitment involved with chapters.”

In practice, Morris said networks can link alumni based on occupation, age or leisure-time activities.

“Networking is what’s most important,” she said. “I see it as a way to help alumni in different stages of their lives connect with each other. We’re not just talking about networking in terms of job seeking, but also about building relationships with people who share common interests and hobbies.”

Morris said networks can be large or small and will be flexible enough to serve members in the most convenient manner.

“The idea is to help alumni explore their interests while experiencing more personal, contact-time with one another,” she said.

At the present, Morris said she is concentrating her efforts on the Houston and Dallas areas and will be coordinating meetings in those cities to present the Baylor 10-year vision to alumni. — Randy Fiedler

Campaign for Greatness

Fundraising effort almost halfway to $500 million goal

Baylor has raised more than $220 million toward its goal of increasing endowment by $500 million through the Campaign for Greatness. Baylor President Robert B. Sloan Jr. made the announcement Oct. 12 at the 2001 Baylor Philanthropy Banquet.

“When [the campaign] is successful, we will harness the fuel necessary to fund initiatives that will literally push the University to a new level of excellence and propel us into the ranks of the nation’s truly great universities,” Dr. Sloan said.

The Campaign for Greatness seeks to raise $900 million in a combination of current and planned gifts. When the campaign is complete, Baylor’s endowment will exceed $1 billion by the year 2005 and include $300 million in planned gifts. When the campaign is complete, Baylor’s endowment will exceed $1 billion by the year 2005 and include $300 million in planned gifts.

Five couples and one organization with cumulative gifts to Baylor exceeding $250,000 were honored at the banquet with membership in the Medallion Fellowship, Baylor’s highest alumni honor.

The couples were: John and Sue Cowan of Greenwich, Conn., Pat Neff Medallion; Dr. and Mrs. Richard Grier of Old Waverly, Ala., Hugh B. Parmer Medallion; Pat and Ann Smiley of Dallas, Tex., Presidents Medallion; Howard and Sue Cowan of Lubbock were presented the James Huckins Medallion; and Dr. and Mrs. Lee Haggard of Round Rock were presented the Edwin and Mary Dealey Medallion.

Dr. Sloan also announced that the campaign has achieved almost half of the $500 million goal.

University News

Brenda Morris

Silver Anniversary

Baylor Phi Beta Kappa chapter celebrates 25 years

Phi Beta Kappa, one of Baylor’s most prestigious honor societies, celebrates its 25th anniversary as a campus organization this month. On Dec. 5, 1976, the national governing board of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest honorary society in the United States, granted a chapter charter to the university.

A school that holds a chapter is recognized as one of the nation’s outstanding liberal arts institutions. It is clearly a mark of distinction in the academic world,” said Dr. Bruce Cresson, retired professor of religion and the founding president of the Baylor chapter.

The road to Baylor receiving a Phi Beta Kappa chapter charter was a long one. Previous applications had been submitted and rejected in 1952, 1961, 1986 and 1979. The final application, which ran 117 pages, was submitted in 1973. Dr. Cresson, who joined the Baylor faculty in 1966, said the national organization looked at several factors before granting Baylor a charter.

“In 1966 there were only four or five Phi Beta Kappa members on the faculty, and that number had to increase before we would be considered for a chapter,” he said. “When we received our charter, 12 faculty were members.”

Cresson explained that technically the charter is granted to the faculty rather than the university, hence the need for Phi Beta Kappa faculty. But the university shelters the chapter and has to qualify to shelter it.

Prior to granting a charter, the national organization examines the strength of the applicant’s liberal arts curriculum, its library system and academic freedom and funding matters, among other issues.

“There was concern about the number of and breadth of holdings in Baylor’s library system,” Dr. Cresson said. “I also remember that when the investigation committee came to Baylor for an on-site visit, they particularly grilled me on the matter of whether we taught religion and were free academically or whether we had to toe the denominational or religious party line.”

The University passed the careful scrutiny and received notification of Baylor’s Phi Beta Kappa charter approval in December 1976.

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Bush Library Center

continued from page 1

Four-part proposal

Bush’s proposal for the Bush Center offered four coordinated elements: a library, which would house Bush Administration White House records; a museum, containing exhibits and educational programs; an archives service; and a research center. An optional aspect of the proposal was an upscale hotel, where visiting former U.S. presidents, dignitaries, leaders of other countries and those attending conferences or symposiums could stay.

Since spring 2001, Dr. Charlton has led at least 25 presentations to academic, civic, business and public groups about the proposal. At the same time, Dr. Charlton and the Baylor administration have participated in planning sessions with two consultants hired on exclusive retainers to the University: Dr. Donald D. Wilson and John W. Fawcett. Dr. Wilson is a former architect of the United States and director of the Gerald Ford Presidential Library and was the founding director of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum at Texas A&M University in College Station. Fawcett is the former director of presidential libraries at the National Archives and has helped build eight of the 10 existing Presidential Library Centers.

Faculty committees

In an article on this page:

In an article on this page:

“Clearly, today more than ever, the world needs leaders who are committed to Christian principles and to achieving excellence in service to others.”

— President Robert B. Sloan Jr., Baylor University

Library and museum

The George W. Bush Library would contain all of the materials created in the White House during his term in office. By law, these records become the property of the U.S. government after a president’s term ends and are administered by the Office of Presidential Library, a division of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

“A presidential library, in addition to drawing people from the public community, also draws scholars interested in presidential policy and the the types of programs that could be included in the Bush School.”

Dr. Curry said the new school would build on the University’s administrative strengths. “We would want to bring to the table things that Baylor traditionally does very well and mold those into a school that would be a good fit for Baylor and public affairs and the president,” he said. “If Baylor is fortunate to get this, it will find itself in a somewhat unique position, in that most schools of this sort are public institutions. Given that we are a private institution, and especially a Christian institution that has a clearly defined mission of purpose, that would be reflected in the school, as well.”

While Baylor and the Bush School would have a high level of integration, Dr. Curry said it is also important that the University’s independence and students’ academic freedom be maintained. “Our goal is to educate students for public service and leadership and not to create Republicans or Democrats,” he said.

Proposition timeline

The process that occurs when a university for a presidential library can vary, Dr. Charlton said, meaning there is no official timeline of events. Instead, Baylor has created its own deadlines. By Jan. 15, the individual committees will make their final reports to a University steering committee, chaired by Dr. Charlton (see chart page). The steering committee will write a draft proposal in present to the Baylor president and Board of Regents. Changes suggested by the administration and legislature will be incorporated into a final proposal which will be submitted to the White House.

We plan on having a comprehen-

sive, major proposal to President and Mrs. Bush in the spring of 2002,” Dr. Charlton said. “This will set of what we believe will be an ongoing process between Baylor and other universities in a competitive process. At this point, President

Bush may say ‘Slow down six months,’ and that would give us time for planning.”

Once a president selects a university, which often occurs during his third year in office, a foundation is established to raise money for the construction and endowment of the center. Dr. Charlton said the foundation is responsible for all the funds necessary for the project, including the salaries of all library and administration personnel since the OMB takes over the project. Throughout the remainder of the president’s term in office, the foundation continues to raise the funds needed for the center.

The estimated cost of establishing the center on Baylor property ranges between $90 million and $100 million, Dr. Charlton said. Dr. Charlton said the University has identified several attractive possible locations for the proposed center, all of which are made available free to us. The final location will be selected by President Bush himself from a number of potential tracts of land offered in the winning university’s proposal.

Historically, Presidential Library Centers are anestituated and open to the public within two years of a president’s leaving office, although the process of declassifying materials for inclusion begins immediately after his term ends, Dr. Charlton said.

Executive Appeal

Presidential libraries bring exhibits, tourists and scholars

Facilitating exhibits, renowned speakers, thought-provoking symposia, research opportunities, entertaining family programs and masses of tourists. These are some of the benefits the nation’s presidential libraries provide to their host communities or universities. Texas’s two presidential libraries — the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum in Austin and the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station — are drawing examples of what the George Walker Bush Presidential Library Center could mean to the Waco community if Baylor is selected as the library site.

The LBJ Library, which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2001, is on the University of Texas at Austin campus and has welcomed nearly 30 million pages of materials, 620,000 photographs and 57,000 gifts presented to President and Mrs. Johnson.

Visitors to the library can view a portion of the Johnson memorabilia as well as major traveling exhibits such as the current display “From Gutenberg to ‘The Wind: Business from the Roosevelt Center.” This exhibit features approximately 157 objects from the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center’s collection, including the Gutenberg Bible, manuscripts of William Shakespeare, Geoffrey Chaucer and James Joyce and Scarlett’s “curtain dress” from the film “Gone With The Wind.”

Austin’s LBJ Library has welcomed 15 million visitors since it opened in 1971.

Permanently displayed items such as a World War II veteran torpedo bomber a 1947 Skidomaker, a slab of the Berlin Wall and precise replicas of President George H. W. Bush’s Camp David and Air Force One can be found at the Bush Library on the Texas A&M University campus, but the facility also welcomes world-class exhibits. The current “The White House and Politics: Change and Tradition” exhibit is drawing record-breaking crowds. Examples of other attractions include a traveling exhibit of presidential portraits and an upcoming display of an original copy of the George Washington Papers.

Presidential Libraries continued on page 4

Focus on page 4

Bush Library Center

George Walker Bush Presidential Library Center

Baylor University Project Steering Committee

Dr. Thomas L. Charlton

Chairman, external relations

Hearald R. Cunningham

Chair, special projects

Dr. Arnold S. Panic

Political science

Dr. Gregory L. Mawhin

Modern and Classics

Dr. Robert W. Ireland

Presidential libraries bring exhibits, tourists and scholars

Dr. Charles D. Baker

History

Dr. Robert J. Yinger

History

Gary M. Carter

Director of Special Programs and Conferences (ex officio)

Cynthia J. Dougherty

Dean of University Development (ex officio)

Jerome R. Loughridge

Chief of Staff, President’s Office (ex officio)

December 2001

DecemberFocus

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Creating an Oral Tradition

Since 1971, Baylor interviewers have collected history on tape

Thirty years ago, the late J.M. Dawson, a former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Waco, gave the first audiotaped interview conducted by Baylor University’s oral history program. The program, began in 1970, became Baylor Institute for Oral History in 1982, and the interview collection that began with the Dawson’s reminiscences has grown to include more than 3,000 entries.

Dr. Robert Sharpless, director of the Institute and senior lecturer, said the University’s interest in collecting oral histories is part of societal and historical trends.

“The Institute came out of what would be called the social history movement of the 1960s, in which women and African-American and Chicano and immigrant looked at the historical narrative of our country and said ‘wait a minute, where am I? I’m not a white male, where do I fit into this picture?’” she said. “That’s the trend that continues in many measures to dominate historical scholarship, trying to put that chunk of the population into the historical narrative. And since a lot of those people don’t have positions of authority, they don’t have any written records. The only way to get information on them is to sit down and talk to them.”

Dr. Sharpless said oral histories also make up for the increasing scarcity of contemporary written records.

“Many, many people will not leave any kind of written record,” she said. “They don’t correspond, and even if people do write letters they don’t save them.”

Interviewers at the Institute make an audio recording of each interview, and since 1977 they have video-taped selected interviews as well. All interviews are eventually transcribed and placed in bound volumes in The Texas Collection. Plans are being made to one-day offer access to interview transcripts on the Institute’s web site.

At least four other Texas universities have oral history programs, but Dr. Sharpless said each chooses different focal topic areas. Baylor has collected history programs, but Dr. Sharpless said each chooses different focal topic areas. Baylor has collected

Presidential Libraries

Continued from page 3

Declaration of Independence. Traveling exhibits are not the only attractions for education specialists.

Through the Freedom of Information Act, researchers also can request access to unprocessed records. Both libraries provide educational opportunities for community members. The Bush Library holds programs for families and children, including summer-day camps and holiday activities. The LBJ Library holds teacher workshops to help education specialists develop curriculum that uses Library resources.

...but certainly not least, the libraries bring in thousands of tourists. Hicks said the LBJ Library is one of the top ten spots in the state and is the most visited of the presidential libraries — in November the 12 million visitors outnumbered the facility. The Bush Library has attracted more than 115,000 tourists in the four years it has been open.

No question about it. The Bush and LBJ Libraries help tourism in Texas, and we would encourage another presidential library at Baylor,” Hicks said.
Managing Information to Enable Baylor’s Academic Vision

Digital web-based information resources will enhance the classroom experience and aid research.

Dr. Reagan M. Ramsower, Dean of Libraries, Associate Information Technology Officer

Baylor aspires to become one of the top tier universities in America while at the same time continuing to maintain its distinctive Christian mission. For Baylor to realize this aspiration, the information that faculty and students need to achieve excellence in teaching and learning, as well as in research and scholarship, must be easily and readily accessible to the entire academic community. The role of the chief information officer is to manage Baylor’s information assets effectively in support of Baylor’s educational vision and mission. While the various information technologies available at Baylor are the most valuable aspect of the University’s information systems, it is how well these information assets are managed that will determine the CDU’s success in supporting the 2012 vision.

Information assets

The information that must be available to Baylor constituencies can be categorized into the following four areas:

- information about the institution and its operations;
- information to support teaching and learning, generally created by the faculty;
- information to support research and scholarship, largely found in the Baylor libraries, and
- information about and for Baylor’s many constituencies.

Additional information about the categories of institutional and community information appears in a “Strategic Vision of the Chief Information Officer: Summer 2001” on the web at http://tamus.sis/boru/ci/vision2001.htm. The categories that most directly support the academic mission at Baylor and which must be effectively managed to enable the academic 2012 vision are these concerning teaching and learning, and research and scholarship.

Institutional support

Teaching and learning are distinctively human endeavors, but digital information and innovative media applications can augment teaching and learning in fascinating new ways. Some institutions of higher education have focused experiments with technologies on reaching new students and markets by delivering distance education. Some of these experiments have been successful; however, even successful experiments have not provided the evidence so widely found that technology could perfectly substitute for the interaction between faculty and students that occurs in the classroom. Instead, experiments in teaching and learning at Baylor and around the world underscore the wisdom of using digital information to enhance and extend the classroom experience, not replace it.

During the next decade, effective information management in teaching and learning will focus on developing digital web-based information resources to enhance and extend the classroom experience. Professors develop these digital teaching resources whenever they experiment with new media information resources or create web sites for their classes. These web sites, in both form and substance, can match the various pedagogical goals of the professors in many different types of classes. These faculty who are willing to devote their precious time to developing web sites and to experimenting with media information resources to augment their courses need encouragement and support.

Supportive web sites

A number of actions are being taken to provide this needed support. The most important of these are:

- formal recognition by department chairs and deans as well as promotion and tenure committees of the importance of developing web resources,
- an intellectual property policy that encourages and rewards faculty for their efforts,
- technological tools which allow easy and effective creation of course web sites along with the necessary resources to support the technology,
- security and access control for the intellectual property embedded in web sites,
- support from librarians for faculty in developing, finding and digitizing information for class web resources; and
- marketing (after securing faculty permission) outstanding web resources to other academics and students to highlight the work being done at Baylor.

Many excellent examples of web resources for teaching and learning have been developed at Baylor. For example, Dr. Elmer Duncan, professor of philosophy, has created outstanding web sites for his classes that are being used by others around the world. Some of this work can be seen at http://my.baylor.edu/~Elmer_Duncan/ amoralphil.htm and http://www.baylor.edu/~ Elmer_Duncan/socie.htm.

Blackboard is the technological tool implemented at Baylor this fall to enable the easy and effective creation of web resources in support of classes. Blackboard was used by 175 instructors in 280 courses enrolling 4,872 different students. In the spring 2002 semester additional screen and expanded support will be available to increase the opportunity for more faculty to utilize the Blackboard system to create web resources that augment their courses.

The full value of this effort will begin to be realized in fall 2002 when most of the courses at Baylor will have supporting web sites. These class resources coupled with other information resources that will be developed will create a digital learning environment — MyBaylor — that extends and expands the already exceptional physical environment found in the Baylor classroom and on the campus. More information on Blackboard can be found at http://my.baylor.edu.

Research support

Top tier academic status requires excellence in scholarship and research by Baylor’s faculty and students. Production of outstanding scholarship and research, in turn, requires access to the necessary sources of information and knowledge. The research and scholarship goal of Baylor’s libraries is, therefore, to provide easy access to as much of that information as is financially possible, to provide expertise in searching and locating that information, and whenever possible to make that information available anytime and anywhere.

The digital library

Information technologies, because they dramatically reduce the cost of acquiring, storing and disseminating information, are becoming extremely important tools for libraries. A new library division — the Digital Library — will be created to enhance Baylor’s digital library services and to implement new digital collections and services. The digital library will not replace the physical library but instead will supplement, as possible, the print collections with anytime, anywhere access. The Digital Library division will be charged with:

- creating web pages which make it easy to browse and search Baylor’s digital collections,
- creating resources to support a scholar’s portal where digital materials pertinent to particular disciplines can be added to a faculty member or student’s

“Experiments in teaching and learning at Baylor and around the world underscore the wisdom of using digital information to enhance and extend the classroom experience, not replace it.”

Dr. Reagan M. Ramsower

MyBaylor web pages;
- making articles available electronically within a few hours, regardless of whether Baylor has a copy of the article, or the article is obtained using the digital interlibrary loan system,
- working closely with Baylor faculty to find content and build web pages to support their classes;
- creating excellent web resources that reveal to the world the outstanding and unique collections owned by Baylor; and
- establishing a digital publishing house to publish in electronic format working papers, preprint and regular journals, dissertations, theses and conference proceedings for faculty and scholar affiliated with Baylor.

Managing information

Effective management of information will play an important role in enabling the academic vision to be realized in the next 10 years at Baylor. Faculty will create significant web-based teaching resources to support classroom learning. The MyBaylor portal will provide convenient access to the announcements, actions, schedules and assignment of classes, social organizations and campus events, as well as providing new forms of communication such as chat rooms, bulletin boards and videoconferencing. Dramatically-enhanced speed in accessing information electronically — regardless of time and location — will assist and empower research and scholarship.

“Dramatically enhanced speed in accessing information electronically — regardless of time and location — will assist and empower research and scholarship.”

The physical library

The concept of the physical library undergoing significant transformations. The most basic change involves rethinking the use of space in the library, trading open book stack space for various forms of learning space. This shift has been occurring for several years in university libraries. Learning spaces include:

- personal study areas that support individual reading, research and reflection,
- team-work spaces that support collaboration and discussion among teams of scholars, and
- social spaces open at all hours that provide a place to meet friends, debate current issues or just have a friendly chat.

A new team-work space, the Digital Commons, is being piloted in Moody Library, and this experiment will provide valuable insight for planning the use of library spaces in years to come.

Several other innovations are available in the library, such as wireless access from anywhere in the library and the availability of laptops that can be checked out. Future technologies include the digital management of the print collections, including electronic checkout and a sophisticated collections development and management system.

Dr. Reagan M. Ramsower
Congratulations to Anthony B. Smith, BS, and wife, Shari, on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Hope Lopes.

Dr. Rusty Pippin, HHR, and wife, Linda, on the birth of their daughter, Kaley Anna Belle Pippin.

Best wishes to Dr. Bills Adams, professor emeritus of physics, who has been hospitalized recently.

Dr. Douglas J. Ferdon Jr., journalism, who is recovering from surgery.

Dodie Jackson, Center for Ministry Effectiveness, who was hospitalized recently.

Paul Powell, dean of George W. Truett Theological Seminary, who is recovering from surgery.

Gayla Schwartze, wife of Dr. Mark Schwartze,
Health Center, who is recovering from surgery.

Dr. David A. Sherwood, social work, who is recovering from surgery.

With sympathy to William J. Dufr, III, University development, on the death of his father, William J. Dufr II, Sept. 15.

Tim Holden, University development, and wife, Allison, public relations, on the death of his mother, Janice Holden, Aug. 31.

The family of Patsy Holliday-Durnford, longtime BCS coordinator for D2L on her death.

The family of Diane Mac Hulse, professor emeritus of biology, on her death.

Dr. David A. Herredia, superintendent, on the death of his mother, Lucy McGee.

The family of Dayna Schwartze, wife of Dr. Mark Schwartze, Health Center, who is recovering from surgery.

This Month in Baylor History
Dec. 3, 1936 — Movie star Ginger Rogers and her husband, actor Fredric March, were named to the Cast of Honor recently.

Dec. 11, 1945 — Medical field nurse, Muriel V. Miller, was named to the Cast of Honor recently.


Dr. Charles N. Garrett, professor of chemistry, who was hospitalized recently.

Dr. Kenneth W. Busch, professor of chemistry, who was hospitalized recently.

Dr. Mark D. Huber, associate professor of chemistry, who was hospitalized recently.

Dr. dodie Jackson, Center for Ministry Effectiveness, who was hospitalized recently.

Dr. Gayle R. Armant, associate professor of political science, who was hospitalized recently.

Dr. Charles B. MacDonald, associate professor of biology, who was hospitalized recently.

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Dr. Robert G. Collmer, distinguished professor emeritus in English, had an article titled “Plan Future Ventures as Throughput as the Fist” published in FastEdition (October 2001).

Dr. Robert D. Doyle, associate professor of biology, had an article titled “Expansion of the Exotic Aquatic Plant Cryptocoryne beckettii (Thallas) in the San Antonio River, Texas” accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of Species Contributions in Botany.


Dr. Gordon A. Grant III, assistant professor of English, had an essay titled “Making Him Out Of Them” accepted for publication in The Emegence of Man into the 21st Century, edited by Patricia Shannon, Sulf Madar and Virginia Finales, Jones and Bartlett (pp. 97-98, 2002).


Kathy R. Hillman, associate professor, and acquisitions librarian and library public relations coordinator, had had a digitally titled “The Mission, Missions and Missionaries” published in World Evangelism (October 2001).

Dr. Charles S. Madden, was president for University relations and The Ben H. Williams Professor of Marketing, and Dr. Marjorie J. Cooper, professor of marketing, had an article titled “What do NASCAR and the World Wrestling Federation Have in Common?” published in The Counter (pp. 157-160, 2001). Dr. Madden had an article titled “First by First” published in Case Currents (Vol. 2, pp. 3-25, March 2001).


Dr. Wendy E. Sera, assistant professor of biology, and Dr. Joseph D. White, assistant professor of biology, had a co-authored article titled “Survey of Vegetation and Measurement of Habitat Quality for Selected Species in the North Bosque Corridor and Lake Wars Region: Grading the situation of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Land Cover and Habitat Quality Criteria” published in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Report (September 2001). Co-author is Charles J. Jaros, University of Nebraska. Dr. Sera had case studies titled “Family Duties: Cooperation in White-Rose’s deaths” and “The Drought and the Demography of Darwin’s Medium Ground Finches on Island Elapho Mufiere” included in a student companion web-site for the fourth edition of Biology: Theoretical and Applied by Peter Stiling.


Dr. Richard E. Watts, associate professor of educational psychology, had an article titled “Integrating Cognitive and Semantic Perspectives: An Interview with Frank J. Buttillo” (pp. 472-476) and a co-authored article titled “Opening Space for Client Reflection: A Postmodern Consideration” (pp. 431-437) published in The Family Journal: Counseling and Therapy for Couples and Families (Vol. 9, 2001). Co-author is Dr. John D. West, Kent State University.

Dr. Daniel E. Wiygul, professor of biology and director of undergraduate studies, edited and wrote numerous chapters for the text Hints from Heaven: The second edition of Biology: A Guide to the Natural World by Daniel Krolf, Prentice Hall.

For more than half a century, Baylor students, faculty and staff have enjoyed the elaborate Christmas decorations featured each year in the Bill Daniel Student Center. The centerpiece of the holiday decorations is an immense tree which transforms the second floor lobby into a festively adorned foyer reminiscent of Christmas' past.

The BHSB Christmas tree tradition began in December 1947, the year the building opened, when the Catholic student organization known as the Newman Club put up the first tree. Ruben Santos, director of the Bill Daniel Student Center, took on the responsibility in 1967 of keeping the tradition alive. Santos said that in addition to the 28 foot Christmas tree in the BHSB lobby, a smaller tree is located in the Bear’s Den. The Barfield Drawing Room, rooms in the north and south wings and the exterior also are decorated to reflect a festive holiday spirit. “We decorate a lot of the different rooms, but the tree has always been the focal point and the main attraction,” Santos said.

Santos, his family and a group of students work feverishly over the Thanksgiving holiday to erect and decorate the ornate tree and decorate the rest of the building. Santos and his wife, Barbara, design the theme for the decorations, and students contribute their artistic abilities and help to execute the design. “Except for the traditional balls and lights, we try to make as many of the accent pieces as possible,” Santos said. “We have a cherub that we have used on the tree every year since about 1985. We always find a way to incorporate it.”

Each year the tree decorations carry a new theme. When Baylor won trips to the Cotton Bowl in 1974 and 1980 the tree was decorated with cotton bolls. Other notable past decorations have included a tree with stained glass panels and another made out of mylar decorations, and students contribute their hand-crafted decorations.

For Santos, his wife, son and two daughters, decorating the Student Center has become a Thanksgiving family tradition through the last 24 years. “Now my two grandsons are a big part of it too,” Santos said. “This is where we always spend our Thanksgivings.”

The Christmas tree will remain in the lobby through the final Christmas events on Dec. 20. Afterward, Santos and his helpers will take it down and store it until next year, knowing they have done their part to spread holiday cheer at Baylor — Nicole Anderson