



QUICK BIC NEWS

In this edition

*Read about
Laura
Miller's trip
to Bosnia*

*Andrew
Roberts'
interview
with
Professor
Lenore
Wright*

*Liana
Ramon's
trip to the
Harry
Potter
Convention*

FAB

a FABulous evening

If you happen to be reading this, thank you so much for coming out to the faculty appreciation banquet! Students, thank you for providing such a delightful meal; teachers, thank you for your wonderful guidance as we strive to learn more!

If you were unable to make it to the Faculty Appreciation Banquet, remember to thank your professors for all the time and love that they put into inspiring and encouraging young university students to "test everything" and "hold on to the good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

COMING SOON:

Bill Kibler & Monica Wright Lecture: "An Afternoon of Arthuriana"

16 Nov 4-5:30 Memorial Drawing

All-University Thanksgiving Dinner on Fountain Mall

19 Nov 5:30-7:30

Thanksgiving Break Nov. 25-29

***Register for classes!

BOARD GAME TOURNAMENT PICTURES





WACO ARTS INITIATIVE

facebook it.

BIC BUDDIES

Need help blending your major with BIC? Thinking about changing majors? Then email BIC.BUDDIES@baylor.edu and we will put you in touch with a fellow student who can help! Just make sure you list your name, major, and preference of contact (phone or email), and a BIC Buddy will respond!

Bet You Didn't Know...

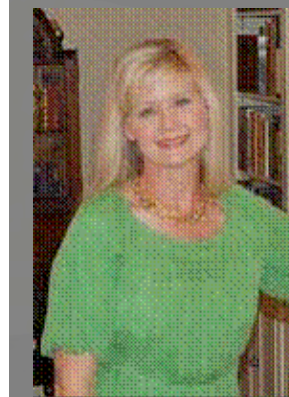
by: Andrew Roberts, full interview pg. 4

Every year, Baylor recognizes ten faculty members for achievements in teaching and research. This spring, BIC's very own Dr. Lenore Wright will be among the recipients of this honor.

Before I continue, let me say this, and let me be clear: Lenore Wright is one of the most wonderful people alive. Bore me not with empty comparisons, and I will not trouble with trenchant metaphors. Any and all attempts to put a name on Dr. Wright's awesomeness are futile.

Dr. Wright teaches World Cultures III, as well as several classes in Philosophy, and she has made it her quest to raise an army of male feminists.

Now, I know what my fellow men will say: "How can I – a man – be a feminist?" Don't worry, my sad fellows, for I was once a member of your brood. I thought the fact that I was an alpha male with an affinity for mead disqualified me from laying any claim to the benign feminist lurking in the depths of my chiseled core. But that was before I met



**PROFESSOR
SPOTLIGHT:
DR. LENORE
WRIGHT**

Dr. Wright. I have been in Dr. Wright's class for just three months, and I am now an open and adamant feminist. And I feel better than ever.

I asked Dr. Wright if she had any advice to offer would-be male Wollstonecrafts, and she encouraged men to be more conscious of contemporary women's status (i.e. salary disparities between the genders), woman's history, and that they "support women's efforts to achieve equality by sharing in 'female duties.'" Finally, she encouraged dialogue.

Edgar Allen Poe wrote of Dr. Wright, "Ah, broken is the golden bow! The spirit flown forever! Let the bell toll! A saintly soul floats on the Stygian River." I couldn't have put it any better.



A Life-changing Trip to Bosnia

by: Laura Miller

The Bosnian Genocide occurred during our lifetimes.

Concentration camps, rape camps, a systematic slaughter of a people: these things occurred while I was alive, and yet I really never knew anything about this war until I happened to stumble across a program that would absolutely change my life forever.

I can easily say that Global Youth Connect's *Human Rights Delegation to Bosnia* was the single most powerful experience of my life. Our days were full. Our activities were diverse - some fun, many emotionally exhausting, but all profound and unforgettable. We spent a week working with Sanski Most's Center for Peacebuilding, met with NGOs (who are basically running the entire

country, due to government corruption), volunteered with local organizations, and had meetings with the highest officials in the country, including the United Nations Representative, and the OHR – the foreign official who still officially has the final say in all Bosnian matters.

We spent time with some of the most beautiful, courageous, inspiring people I have ever met—people who lost entire families, who spent time in concentration camps, who were victims of rape and torture. I learned more in three weeks about both the evil that humans are capable of and the courageousness and resiliency that can emerge in the darkest of times. Coming home was difficult for many reasons. To begin with, it's hard to come home to such a comfortable, fortunate life. For another, it was so frustrating finding that no words could possibly describe the experience I had just had. No matter how much interest and understanding someone offered, I couldn't help

but come away from every conversation thinking, "*you just don't get it...*" Eventually I got over my frustration, for the most part, but not that deep, passionate belief in the absolute necessity of human rights and global justice.

College is an incredible time of our lives where our job, basically, is to grow and learn and develop our passions and beliefs. And what better way to do so than to step outside the classroom and into a life-changing experience, like studying abroad or finding a foreign internship or going on a Human Rights Delegation? The opportunities that are available to us, as college students, with just a little bit of research and effort, are some of the most incredible opportunities we'll get in our lives, and I would encourage everyone to take absolute advantage of that. I've never been more thankful for any opportunity than being able to have this experience.

Transferring to Hogwarts?

by: Liana Ramon

When you think of the word 'convention,' you think of business men dressed up in fancy Armani suits, yelling on their cell phones for their secretaries to close the deal or they are fired. I would imagine that none of you, respected audience, would picture adults dressed up in school robes, wands out, and wacky colored hair. Instead of your typical summer vacation to a sunny beach

or a ski resort, I spent my time in San Francisco at the 2009 Azkatraz Harry Potter convention. It sounded just as dorky to me when I first heard of it from one of my best friends the year before telling me that we should save up to go. First, why would I travel all the way to California for a HARRY POTTER convention? Second, why would I pay up to \$600 in fees (The actual cost of the convention + airline tickets + hotel room) to go to said convention? I am a big HP fan, believe me, but I did not know if I was THAT into it!

By the time we got there and checked in, I knew that I was going to have so much fun. The aspect of the convention was not just a "silly kids book", but also the revolution that the book and its' message has brought to so many children and adults alike. Sure, there were dorky things like Quidditch matches and other frivolous activities, but there were also symposiums and discussions on the themes and other world related issues. They ranged from wand making and bracelet creating, to the role of women in the book and the aspects of slavery among the lower classes in the wizarding world.

One of the organizations that founded and co-hosts the conventions is the HPA; The Harry Potter Alliance. This group is not just about Harry Potter, but it promotes the acceptance of everyone, and the common theme of Harry Potter; that love conquers all. Therefore, it is not just a silly place for people to dress up and act goofy, although people do that as well. It is a place for people to share their common interests and share their love of not just a book or a story, but the expression of love and acceptance, and how good and love will always conquer evil. In addition, I will definitely be going to Infinitus this coming summer--maybe I'll see you there!





Andrews Roberts' interview with Dr. Lenore Wright

Q: What award did you win recently?

A: Each spring, Baylor recognizes 10 faculty members for outstanding teaching and research. They announce the award recipients at the spring commencement exercises, and each recipient receives a cash award along with a certificate. I was one of the faculty members recognized for outstanding teaching this spring. What an honor! To be honest, I was shocked when I received the news from the provost's office. I am proud to be part of the Baylor community.

Q: How long have you been teaching at Baylor?

A: 10 years. I was hired as an assistant director of the BIC in the summer of 1999 and began teaching that fall. The first courses I taught were BIC 1212 and World Cultures II along with Introduction to Philosophy. I have also taught World Cultures I and Philosophical Writing. Currently, I teach two BIC courses—World Cultures III and a capstone course with Dr. Tom Hanks—and two philosophy courses: Philosophy and the Arts and Feminism

Q. What made you decide to study philosophy? Any particular philosopher steer you in that direction?

A: When I started college I knew nothing about philosophy. My first year, I enrolled in an Introduction to Philosophy course to satisfy a humanities credit.

The teacher, Mac Luckey, was also the director of the honors program and my advisor. His passion for the material, along with his active-learning approaches in the classroom and Socratic teaching style, sealed the deal for me. It remains one of the best college courses I completed (in fact, I could still outline most of the class presentations from that semester, 15 years later). Mac became my college mentor and remains a close friend. He has visited me in Waco several times, and I dedicated my book, *The Philosopher's I*, to him. The first philosopher with whom I feel in love was Plato. Though my interpretation of his work has changed over time, I remain a Platonist at heart.

Q. What kind of music do you listen to (this sounds like a stupid question, and it is, but college students actually ask this about their professors)?

A: Growing up in Kentucky, my parents subjected me to LOTS of bluegrass, gospel, country, and folk music. I saw Loretta Lynn, the coal miner's daughter, in concert when I was about ten, and I met her backstage after the show. I was struck by how approachable and kind she was. Whenever I'm feeling homesick I turn on Simon & Garfunkel, Del McCoury, or Alison Krauss. During high school and college I listened to Jane's Addiction, the Smashing Pumpkins, the B52s, R&M, The Cure, Nirvana, and the Indigo Girls, all the popular music for angst-filled twenty-somethings. Now, I can listen to the following artists almost anytime, anywhere, in any mood: Eric Clapton, Sheryl Crow, Dido, Santanya, Norah Jones, Joni Mitchell, Michelle Shocked, the Dixie Chicks, Coldplay, Bob Dylan, and Bonnie Raitt.

Q. Who is your favorite female historical figure?

A. Who could choose!?! At the moment I'm obsessed with the existentialist philosopher, Simone de Beauvoir, particularly her description of and response to women's history in *The Second Sex*. This summer I read a provocative account of her relationship with Jean-Paul Sartre by Hazel Rowley entitled *Tête-à-Tête*. I identify with Beauvoir's need for intellectual friendship and her desire to live fully and freely. However, I lack her courage and her indefatigable writing habits.

Q. What advice would you have to a Baylor male in BIC who is sick of perpetuating the same old stereotypes when it comes to women? Or, to put it simply, how can a Baylor male be a better feminist?

A. First, pay attention to the status and treatment of women (e.g., the amount of money women make in comparison to men). Second, learn something about women's history and the views of women that undergird their roles in society. Third, support women's efforts to achieve equality by sharing "female" duties; e.g. cooking, cleaning, shopping, laundry, especially if you choose to marry and have children. Finally, invite women into conversations and debates to ensure that you've considered their perspectives and experiences in arriving at your own conclusions about human living.

Q. How many times in your life have you done the macarena? Be honest.

A. Only once, at a friend's wedding in 1997. I have to admit it was fun!