“On the Road Again” was the theme of my remarks at our Division of Student Life Kick-off Luncheon held earlier this month. And what a great start of the year celebration it was. From encouraging words by David Harper, the Chair of the Board of Regents Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life, to a beautifully performed original class hymn written by Ryan Richardson and Burt Burleson, we were indeed blessed as we came together to share food and fellowship as a division.

During my remarks, I explained that we will continue to pursue three overarching division initiatives: assessment, collaboration, and strategic planning. Regarding assessment, our focus will be to refine division student development outcomes and to work on ways to measure our progress. Further, we will work to establish departmental outcomes that are fully aligned with our revised division outcomes. Other areas of assessment will include the continuation of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) reviews. We have two areas, Spiritual Life and Multicultural Affairs, that will do so this year. Also, we will continue division-wide work on the SACS accreditation process. Positioned to assist with these and other undertakings is the Assessment Advisory Group (AAG), co-facilitated by Drs. Martha Lou Scott and Liz Palacios. Martha Lou, Liz, and the members of the AAG are working diligently to provide expertise, support, and encouragement as we move forward to develop a stronger culture of assessment within the Division of Student Life.

Some might be asking why we continue to place emphasis on assessment. I believe assessment both challenges and supports us in our efforts to be more intentional in achieving our mission to impact students’ lives. True assessment requires that we establish outcomes (desired end results) and construct our services, programs, physical environment, educationally and spiritually developmental interactions, and other learning and personal growth opportunities based on these outcomes. It then provides us with a framework to measure if we are indeed helping our students to achieve the results that we have established as being critical to their growth and development. It also provides us with evidence upon which we can make decisions to allocate existing resources, and it places us in a better position to request new resources.

To be clear, I understand that not everything we do can or should be measured. Further, I am fully aware that assessment is not the be all, end all. When used effectively, assessment becomes a powerful tool that can help us more effectively navigate the road we travel along with our students to educate them for worldwide leadership and service through the integration of academic excellence and a caring Christian community. So yes, we are “on the road again” to learn more about how assessment can help us impact the lives of our students as we engage them in this wonderful educational and spiritual journey we affectionately call the Baylor experience.

In October, I will share thoughts with you on the role of collaboration in the division. Until then, my best to you as we impact our students’ and each other’s lives.

With appreciation for all that you do,

Kevin
Student Activities’ service efforts will get a helping hand from four AmeriCorps* VISTA members this year. In collaboration with the Americorps* VISTA Program, these four individuals will work full-time to enhance and establish poverty-related initiatives in the greater Waco area. More specifically, VISTA members will work to alleviate poverty by strengthening relationships with community organizations, creating educational programming, building capacity for service programs and opportunities, and engaging and empowering students.

VISTA members know there are many challenges associated with their work, but are excited about the possibilities for progress through their service. “We’re going to see Baylor’s mission statement manifested in innovative and creative ways, and I’m honored to work with a team that shares those goals,” said Paige Panter (BA ’10). As a VISTA member Panter will advocate for enhanced service learning initiatives, and she knows her Baylor experiences as a student will aid her work. Each VISTA member should have a similarly smooth transition as well, since all members are young Baylor alumni (Kelly Baker, MSW ’08, BA ’06; Tye Barrett, MA ’10 BA ’07; Mallory Homeyer, M.Div ’10, MSW ’08, BA ’06).

By funding a three-year grant to Baylor University, the Americorps* VISTA program is providing an opportunity to develop sustainable initiatives to fight poverty past the life cycle of the grant. All four VISTA members have committed to serve full-time for one year, but they also have the option of returning for an additional year of service if they so choose. AmeriCorps*VISTA is a national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993, VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 40 years.

For more information on the Americorps* VISTA program, please contact Marianne Magjuka (Marianne_Magjuka@baylor.edu).

Baylor strives to engage students around issues of poverty and connect with local organizations, churches, schools, and agencies. In order to be effective in this endeavor, we need to build capacity in our current programs and make new connections with the community. The goals of this project are to

- Connect with community organizations working to address poverty
- Create campus programs that educate students about the issues surrounding poverty
- Promote opportunities for involvement in the community that enrich the academic experience and address poverty
- Build capacity within anti-poverty programs that are based at Baylor
- Identify constituents and engage students in anti-poverty programs

In order to achieve these goals, we host four AmeriCorps*VISTA members who work in the following areas: community development, poverty education, service learning, and hunger relief. If you are or someone you know is interested in serving at Baylor, please contact Marianne_Magjuka@baylor.edu.
To kick off the new school year, the Greek community hosted its first annual Greek Week. The Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and Panhellenic Council collaborated to make the week a success. The week began on Monday, August 30, with Greek Showcase where fraternities and sororities showed off their talents and personality through stepping, singing, skits, and recruitment videos. On Tuesday, the Greek community and potential members joined together to watch the pre-release of The Karate Kid. On Wednesday potential members formed teams that participated in relay style games while being coached by Greek members. Greek Week concluded with Traditions Rally and the IFC BBQ, at which Delta Tau Delta sponsored a concert by the Casey Donahew Band. A record number of new students participated in the rally. The Baylor Band, the spirit squads, and the work of the Greek councils helped make Traditions Rally a great end to Greek Week.
PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Annelise_Hardegree@baylor.edu

Academy for Leader Development & Civic Engagement features Leadership Lecture Series Speakers for Fall 2010

Waco, TX, Fall 2010-- The Academy for Leader Development & Civic Engagement features the following speakers for the Fall 2010 Leadership Lecture Series. The Academy for Leader Development & Civic Engagement hosts the Leadership Lecture Series to introduce a variety and complexity of leadership needs in contemporary society.

Bethany McCraw, Associate Dean for Judicial Affairs for Baylor University
Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 6-7 p.m., Location: Kayser Auditorium
Ms. McCraw has been in Higher Education administration work for 28 years. In 2007, she coordinated the creation of the Office of Academic Integrity. Under Bethany’s leadership, student misconduct cases have been reduced by 64% and mandatory reporting of academic violations has been implemented. Ms. McCraw has presented at many national conferences and training sessions. Of special note was her presentation at the 2010 Christian Leadership Institute titled: “Influencing Others, Integrity in Leadership” which focuses on the distinction between being a Christian in a leadership position and being a Christian Leader.

Rochonda Farmer-Neal, Director of Governmental Relations, Baylor University
Wednesday, October 6, 2010, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Location: Kayser Auditorium
Rochonda Farmer-Neal has over nineteen years of experience working in government relations with both public and private entities. Since the fall of 2008, she has served as the Director of Government Relations for Baylor University serving as a liaison with the responsibility of communicating the university’s legislative message. Additionally, she monitors proposed federal and state legislation to determine the potential impact on the university as well as represents the university to internal and external partners. Prior to coming to Baylor, Rochonda was employed with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as a Government Relations Liaison and Community Affairs Liaison. Also, she served as the Director of Government Relations for the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and as Government Relations Manager for the Texas Association of Counties.

Mr. John Hill, Attorney at Law
Monday, November 8, 2010, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Location: Kayser Auditorium
John Hill is a trial attorney with the law firm Vinson & Elkins. Before that, he clerked for US District Judge Xavier Rodriguez in San Antonio. John graduated from Harvard Law School, where he represented low income tenants in Boston housing cases and assisted in legal reform efforts in Central Asia. John obtained his undergraduate degree from Baylor University, majoring in political science and Russian. While at Baylor, he served as Student Body External Vice President, freshman and sophomore class presidents, and co-founded the One Book, One Waco program. He is a Harry S Truman Scholar, has served as chairperson for the Academy of Leader Development and Civic Engagement’s Advisory Board, and is actively involved with Advocates for Community Transformation, a non-profit group focused on community-driven transformation in West Dallas.

The Academy for Leader Development & Civic Engagement was established in 2004 by the Division of Student Life at Baylor University to create a common place where diverse individuals studying, researching or practicing leadership in the context of a Christian worldview will benefit from collaboration.
**STUDENT LIFE WORK TEAMS 2010-11**

**Body IQ** - will develop programs and initiatives to reduce the instances of eating disorders among the student population at Baylor.

Members: Randal Boldt, Chrissy Chen, Van Davis, Kara Emery, Regina Mastin, Sandra Northern

**Strengths and Calling** - will continue to develop a culture of strengths that encourages the discovery, development, and application of strengths as central for lifetime learning and the pursuit of excellence. To help all members of the Baylor community discover and express their sense of calling, this work team builds a strengths perspective for understanding identity, recognizing influences, and shaping local and global impact.

Members: Elisa Dunman, Laura Herrell, Grettel Hill, Ida Jamshidi, Karlen Moore, Sarah Mudd, Emily Sandvall, Holly Widick

**Cultural Awareness** - will develop and implement creative and cross-divisional programs that reach more of our campus about cultural issues (race, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin, disability, age, and socioeconomic status). The team will seek to help engage all students in a deeper understanding of the diverse world in which we live and how they might be able to give leadership in such a world.

Members: Jordy Dickey, Martha Lou Scott, Tiffany Spencer, Laura Whitmire

**Sexual Assault** - will develop/enhance resources for students who have been the victim of a sexual assault. This team will explore the implementation of a multidisciplinary, institutional Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) which will serve as a comprehensive, sensitive, coordinated system of intervention and care for sexual assault victims. The team will also provide students with health education on prevention strategies.

Members: Brandi Barber, Randal Boldt, Kerri Bond, Lara Conrad, Lori Genous, Amanda Horton, Kelley Kimple, Crystal Lee, William Lopez, Lisa MacMaster, Camden McClintock, Laura Sejud

**Staff Development** - will plan and execute the staff development program for the Division. The team will be responsible for engaging staff in challenging programs that will educate, enrich, and inspire us. It is expected that there will be at least two tracks for staff development (one for professional staff and graduate apprentices and one for student assistants).

Members: Astrid Beltran, Lara Conrad, Jeff Doyle, Jimmy Kohles, Meghan Oster, Kim Scott

**Alcohol Awareness Work Team Update**

Many of you have inquired about the status of the Alcohol Awareness Work Team (AAWT) since the Division of Student Life Kick-off a few weeks ago. To update: the AAWT has transitioned to an Alcohol Awareness Advisory Board to the Department of Wellness. In this capacity, the Board will offer recommendations on and assist with Wellness program health education and outreach efforts as they relate to alcohol awareness. The Board will also help develop goals and objectives for the year, create requests for resources, and participate in strategic planning groups (TBD). We will continue to have the memorial wall, flag display, Alcohol Awareness week, and other activities as before. The Board will include former Work Team members who are interested in continuing to serve. Others who would like to participate are encouraged to contact the Department of Wellness at 254-710-1726 or e-mail Lori_Genous@baylor.edu.
Of all the seeds it is the smallest, but when it has grown it is the largest of the garden and becomes a tree...

(Matt. 13:32)

To Register:

Go to

www.baylor.edu/oala

and click on the Bear the Difference link!

The Office of Access and Learning Accommodation (OALA), along with the Paul L. Foster Success Center and the Counseling Center, will host the third annual Bear the Difference conference on October 27, 2010. Faculty and Staff are invited to participate in a variety of compelling sessions led by extraordinary guest speakers who will share a wealth of knowledge and experience from their respective fields. Log onto our website for more detailed session information. Lunch will be provided.

Office of Access and Learning Accommodation

(254) 710-3605
www.baylor.edu/oala
“To educate men and women for worldwide leadership and service by integrating academic excellence and Christian commitment within a caring community.” We all know that phrase. We think about it, talk about it, and set goals toward it. To say that it’s ingrained in our collective DNA would not be far from the truth.

Creating opportunities (spaces) for students to participate actively in the intersection of faith, learning and practice is our focus in BU Missions. This is what “educating men and women for worldwide leadership and service” looks like for us.

Our discipline-specific approach to missions specifically aligns with Baylor’s mission. Through this approach, we are able to give students, faculty, and staff a hands-on experience that integrates faith and learning (i.e., engineering faculty leading engineering students to do an engineering mission project.).

This year we hope to increase the number of students who take part in these transformational experiences. To do so, we have made some changes that will hopefully promote growth. **We have:**

- **Added new sites.** In 2011, we will increase our sites from 8 (during 2010) to 14 and increase the number of teams from 13 to 23. This will give students more options, both domestic and international.

- **Developed more academic partnerships.** When asked why they participated in a BU mission trip, many students will say it was because a professor invited them. There is something about a personal invitation that pushes a student from being interested to being committed. Plus, this helps meet our goal of increasing our discipline-specific teams.

- **Increased our scholarships.** One major deterrent to our global mission trips is cost. Having a way to decrease the high cost of travel, we can open the door for more students to go. Thanks to the work of Trey Hagins and the generosity of donors, we have been able to increase the number of need-based scholarships awarded to students who participate in our trips.

- **Created more academic mission trips.** Over the last three years, we have slowly added mission trips for credit. In 2008, we established with one. This year we will potentially offer seven trips for credit. They will range from 1 to 6 hours of credit, depending on the course.

- **Increased Student Life staff involvement.** Although our primary focus is to create discipline-specific teams, it is not our only method. It is no secret that Student Life professionals are acutely aware of the pulse of our students. We work closely with students. We know their hopes, dreams, interests, and passions because we spend time with them. It makes perfect sense to take a “ready-made community” on a mission trip. That’s why Ramona Curtis, Monica Lima, and Christopher Mack, to name a few, will go with students they know personally. The last part of Baylor’s mission statement, “within a caring community,” is integral to our students’ holistic development. By creating opportunities for Student Life staff to participate in our trips, we are carrying out that part of Baylor’s mission.

Thanks to all of you who support what we do, whether it’s by leading a trip, encouraging students to participate, praying, and/or financially giving. If you want to know more about the opportunities for 2011, please feel free to contact Rebecca_A_Kennedy@baylor.edu or visit our Web site at http://www.baylor.edu/missions.
NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Annelise Hardegree
Administrative Assistant
Academy for Leader Development and Civic Engagement
Annelise Hardegree attended Baylor University where she earned a B.A. in English Literature. Before coming to work at the Academy for Leader Development and Civic Engagement, she spent the summer as a Baylor Line Camp Program Assistant in New Student Programs. In her spare time, Annelise enjoys reading, playing video games, camping and hiking, hanging out with her husband Justin, and playing with her little black cat, Lu.

Sherry Troxel
Administrative Assistant
Honors Residential College
Sherry received her B.S. in mathematics from Arizona State University and her M.S. in acquisition management after joining the Air Force. She lives in Lorena and has five children and three grandchildren. In her spare time, she loves to read, spend time with family, and travel. Her family recently spent four months traveling through the West, visiting sites such as Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the California Redwoods. Sherry says she has the perfect job now in the HRC because she loves the college environment and visiting with students.

FAMILY CORNER

Alexa Farris, who teaches toning and Bear Cycle for the Baylor Group X program, recently won the women’s sprint division of the Tri Waco Triathlon. Alexa was also a member of Team Baylor at the ACIS National Fitness Challenge competition in April at the U.S. Air Force Academy, which Baylor took second place overall.

Congratulations to Baylor’s Campus Kitchens for receiving an MLK Day of Service 2011 grant from the Campus Kitchen Program! The grant is worth $2,000 and is a great resource for Baylor’s initiatives.

NEW 2010 FALL SEMESTER COURSE FOR YOUR STUDENTS!

EDP 1101-11 Mind-Body Skills for Stress Management and Academic Success (1 Cr)

Got stress? Get still! Research shows that college students trained in mind-body skills have reduced levels of stress, improved academic performance, improved memory and concentration, more efficient work habits, and increased self-esteem. This workshop course will help you to develop practical mind-body skills to manage stress, improve your academic performance, reach your academic and personal goals, and enjoy better overall health and well-being. Students must enroll in this course prior to the start date.

TIME: Mondays 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
DATES: October 18, 2010 – December 6, 2010
ROOM: SLC 314
INSTRUCTORS: Rod Hetzel, PhD and Kelsie Tatum, MS

Don’t Let Stress Get Your Best! REGISTER NOW!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pigskin will be on October 21-23 this year. Tickets went on sale Monday, September 13. There is no discount for faculty or staff.

On Wednesday, September 29, at 2 p.m., Bethany McCraw will be presenting a webinar entitled At-Risk Student Referrals: Counseling & Judicial Affairs Partnerships. For more information, please e-mail bethany_mccraw@baylor.edu.