



Taking the Lead

ALDCE fellow gains valuable experience through classes

by Valonia Walker

Ashleigh Myers is a 21-year-old senior from Munday, Texas, is passionate about helping others and is double majoring in international studies and environmental science.

As an incoming freshman at Baylor, Ashleigh applied to be a part of the Leadership Living-Learning Center. She was accepted and exposed to a variety of leadership opportunities.

Her sophomore year, Myers joined the Academy for Leader Development and Civic Engagement's fellow program. Participants commit to pursuing curricular and co-curricular activities.

Fellows in the program take 12 hours of leadership courses and participate in a civic engagement project before graduation.

As environmental science is one of her interests, she chose to focus on the agricultural aspects of World Hunger Relief, Inc for her venture.

During her time there, she was given multiple responsibilities including updating recruitment materials and working in the Village Store, a market that carries only fair trade products.

Myers also had the opportunity to help Dr. Scott, formerly of the ALDCE,

see Myers, page 5



Courtesy: Carson Lynch

Freshman students in October attending Frontier Costume Dance Party sponsored by FLO, an ALDCE program. See page 3 for more information.

Guest speaks on leading by example

by Sara Lemister

Dr. Fred Yaw Bio shared his philosophy on leadership and servanthood with students in the Academy of Leadership Development and Civic Engagement while visiting Baylor University in October.

Dr. Bio is the ALDCE missions partner in Ghana, and many students will be working with him this summer. He has bachelor degrees in medicine, surgery and science & technology.

Dr. Bio also holds a master of public health and a doctorate in occupational health.

He is now the director of the University Hospital, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana.

Dr. Bio has a simple but often overlooked view of leadership. To be an effective leader, he believes, one needs to have a clear

sense of what the community requires for improvement. These needs must be fulfilled with the utmost respect and love.

He believes in leading by example. When a leader does the right thing, the community will be impressed and will also make good decisions. A good leader is always in tune with his people and willing to change his plans.

"You are supposed to be a leader," he said. "When you leave them [the community] behind, who are you leading?"

Dr. Bio said that one of the reasons people don't do their best to help others is that they believe they are too busy to make a difference in the community.

People become too distracted by society to recognize and treat the problems occurring in the public.

see Leader, page 5

Don't let consumerism control Christmas

by Alex Scheibner

As the Christmas season quickly approaches, we must once again decide what this holiday will mean for us. For Christians, it is a celebration of the single greatest event to take place since the beginning of time.

We celebrate the day that Jesus "made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness" (Philippians 2:5-11). For others it is an opportunity to give gifts and enjoy quality time as a family.

Unfortunately, Christmas has also become one of the most obvious expressions of American materialism. For many Americans, this holiday brings the stress of falling further and further into debt for the sake of obligatory gift-giving.

Whether your goal this Christmas season is to honor the birth of Jesus or grow closer as a family, I propose an alternative to the usual holiday spending frenzy which you are preparing to subject yourself.

The alternative I am suggesting is known as the Advent Conspiracy. The movement is based on four simple principles:

"For many Americans, this holiday brings the stress of falling further and further into debt for the sake of obligatory gift giving."

worship fully, spend less, give more and love all. Let me explain.

Worship Fully: Jesus is meant to be the reason for the season. We would do well to remember that we each have our own birthday to celebrate this year and this is not it.

Let's focus on the birthday boy and give Christ the honor due to Him on this holy day.

Spend Less: Let's be honest. Despite all the struggle and pocket-ache surrounding gift buying, we all have to admit that we really do enjoy it.

So here is the proposal: buy one less gift. It doesn't sound like a lot, but it will make a difference. Your kids won't notice.

Give More: Think back and remember Christ-mases past. Do you still have what your mom gave you five years ago? Do you even have what she gave you last year? Maybe, maybe not.

What you do still have are the memories. That time you went out in the front yard and had a snow-ball fight. Give the gift of time. It is the

cheapest, most meaningful gift you can give.

Love All: Take the money you



Courtesy: adventconspiracy.org

Advent Conspiracy aims to change the way Christmas is viewed.

would have spent on that gift and donate it to something that matters. Look up local charities that are doing good things in your area and offer your support.

In the end, you get to decide what to make of the Christmas season this year.

It can be another year of stress, debt and unappreciated gift-giving, or it can be an opportunity to celebrate and remember the glorious birth of Jesus Christ, who loved all and gave all.

Merry Christmas.

For more information, visit www.adventconspiracy.org

Minor in leadership now available

Baylor is now offering a minor in leadership studies, made available through a joint partnership by the School of Education and the ALDCE. The minor consists of 18 hours (six classes) of credit.

The core of the minor is four leadership classes, including Introduction to Leadership Theory and Special Topics in Leadership. Two additional elective courses are needed for completion.

Two specific classes, Great Texts in Leadership and Principled Leadership, a marketing course, are recommended for electives. Others

may count for the minor if approved by petition.

The minor is meant to prepare students for future leadership endeavors, regardless of their career field.

In the program, students are engaged in critical and analytical thinking exercises and introduced to theoretical and practical applications of leadership.

For more information, visit baylor.com/soe or contact Dr. Rishi Sriram, leadership studies minor coordinator, at rishi_sriram@baylor.edu or in Draper 110.

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Two men, one name: the choices we make

by Ada Zhang

The Other Wes Moore is a unique book in which the author, Wes Moore, compares and contrasts his life to the life of a man with whom he shares more than just an identical name.

Components of their childhoods appear similar: they were raised in Baltimore, felt passionate about hip-hop, were exposed to drugs at a young age and grew up fatherless.

The same cannot be said about their futures.

One Wes Moore is happily married and working as a financial analyst while the other is serving a life sentence without parole.

The author gives gruesome details of how impoverished Baltimore was during the time of his upbringing. Drugs and violence deprived the city of its aesthetics and robbed its inhabitants of their innocence.

The other Wes let the unruly environment epitomize him. Drugs and violence dominated Wes' life and were the source of his demise.



Moore

Book Review

Conversely, the author never disengaged himself from his past and refused to let the environment get in the way of his success.

Even after the author traded his inner-city mannerisms for the ones learned in military school, his notions of violence and poverty were still rooted in his childhood experiences.

The author's upbringing gave him a greater understanding of the world's sufferings and fueled his passion to help others rise above similar turmoil, using his own life as a testament.

Moore conveys to readers that culture, race, background and past should influence who we are, but should not consume our identity completely.

However, he does not imply that we are completely on our own. Through his personal story, Moore demonstrates how the people around us make lasting impacts on our character and the way we choose to live.

His mother and his military experiences are given due credit for their involvement in Moore's development into a man of discipline and morals. This transformation en-

abled him to accomplish his goals.

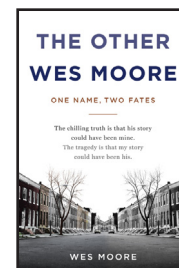
The other Wes was not as fortunate to have the positive role models the author had.

His social circle was mainly composed of drug dealers and criminals. Wes developed strong bonds with these people but they were not ideal role models.

Not only was *The Other Wes Moore* a fascinating read, it also unveiled how people can empower themselves.

The choices we make and values we choose to live by will help form our sense of identity.

There is no doubt that life will be burdensome at times, but how people react to these obstacles will determine their success in the



future.

They can choose to let tough situations get the best of them and succumb to evil, or they can learn from these obstacles, strengthening their understanding of life.

The author calls this realization "freedom," and his book encourages future generations to seek and attain it, empowering themselves to take control of their lives.

Freshmen discover practical leadership

The Freshman Leadership Organization is a small group of individuals interested in developing their leadership potential. Leadership skills are developed through weekly meetings, involvement in the Waco community, event planning and relationship building.

FLO consists of 50 freshmen (25 male, 25 female) chosen by an application and interview process at the beginning of each fall semester. Members develop leadership skills for practical application and estab-

lish lasting idea of effective leadership.

This year FLO has assisted Mission Waco with Friday Morning Breakfast for the homeless, volunteered at Talitha Koum Institute, and sponsored a costume party and fundraiser at the zoo.

FLO will be hosting Freshman Formal December 2 and is looking forward to planning additional events and service opportunities throughout the school year.

For more information, visit baylor.edu/leadership.

Facts from
FLO

Freshman
Leadership
Organization

Community Chats invite local leaders

by Erin Payseur

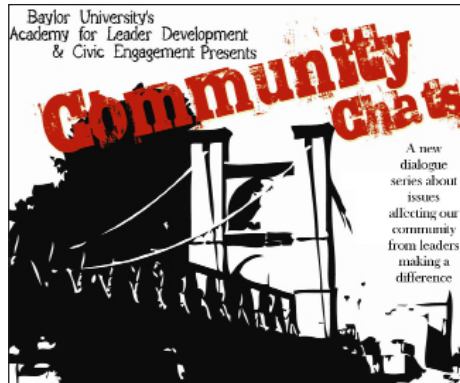
Baylor's Academy for Leader Development & Civic Engagement launched a new dialogue series this fall where leaders from the community spoke about local issues and showed how students can be involved.

Through these monthly chats, students learned about various local issues, meet current professionals in the field and connect with additional service and advocacy opportunities.

"I'm super excited about getting involved. I feel like I now know of more opportunities," said one student attendee.

Matt Hess, education director for World Hunger Relief Farm in Elm Mott, began the series in September by talking with students about local efforts to address hunger and sustainability.

In October, Cynthia Williams,



Courtesy ALDCE

The Academy's Community Chat series exists to tell students about issues and how they can get involved.

education & volunteer coordinator for the Family Abuse Center, highlighted Domestic Violence Awareness Month by educating students on how they can create awareness about domestic violence and advocate on behalf of victims.

Nan Holmes, director of the

Talitha Koum Institute in Waco, came in November to talk to students about early childhood development and intervention efforts.

Students had the opportunity to meet with these non-profit leaders to learn more about their work, ask questions and explore ways they can get involved through service, internships or advocacy.

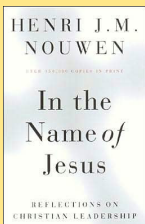
The goal of this series is to introduce more students on campus to leaders in the community and to encourage student involvement in ongoing community efforts.

"It was fantastic. Any opportunity to step outside the Baylor bubble and step into someone else's shoes is appreciated," said another student in attendance.

Panel discussions on the local impact of immigration and healthcare will take place in the spring.

For more information, email leadership@baylor.edu.

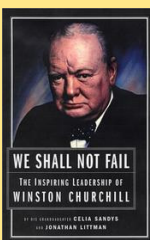
Leaders are readers *Resources for leaders*



In the Name of Jesus
by Henri Nouwen - Insightful look at a life of Christian service.



Good to Great by Jim Collins - Study of why some business succeed and how to improve a failing business.



We Shall Not Fail by Celia Sandys & Jonathan Littman - Leadership strategies as practiced by Sir Winston Churchill.

Other great reads

Building Partnerships for Service-Learning by Barbara Jacoby

The Ethics of Leadership by Joanne Ciulla

The Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Leadership Fable by Patrick Lencioni

A Good Man is Hard to Find and Other Stories by Flannery O'Connor

The Last Dropout by Bill Milliken

Life, Learning, and Community by David C. Brubaker

Managing Diversity: The Courage to Lead by Elsie Cross

Nothing to Fear: Lessons in Leadership from FDR by Alan Axelrod

The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli

Leader sponsors trip to Ghana

from page 1

Baylor students, including those not in the ALDCE, have the option to work at Dr. Bio's hospital and children's home in Ghana this summer.

On the trip, students will have the opportunity to work in the local hospital or in the village near the university, or to divide their time between the two places.

In the village, students will be teaching students, cleaning facilities, screening for childhood diseases, playing games and working with teachers.

At the hospital, students will be doing predominately medical and charting work, though no medical background or science major is required to participate.

Dr. Bio praised the people of Ghana when the subject of missions came up, hoping to alleviate fears of



Courtesy ALDCE

Dr. Fred Yaw Bio addresses Baylor students about a service opportunity in Ghana.

his home country being unwelcoming to visitors.

"The hospitality of Ghanaian's is not matched," Dr. Bio said.

At both locations, Dr. Bio stresses that the trip will be full of "checks and balances," with students learning from the people while also teaching them new skills.

The goal is to "learn and acquire something new from them," said Dr. Bio, and students will come back "with a different frame of mind, you will give and you will take."

Baylor is offering 25 mission trips in the summer.

For more information, visit baylor.edu/missions.

Myers explores leadership roles

from page 1

launch the first ever Ride for Relief. The event is a 200-mile bicycle ride across central Texas to raise money for World Hunger Relief.

Her role within the project was marketing, public relations, designing the logo and creating promotional materials.

Myers described the fellows program as a more individualized program.



Myers

"The program helps you find what you want to do," says Myers.

Being a fellow has allowed Myers to take her leadership skills beyond the classroom.

"This was especially true in my internship in Austin," said Myers. "I was allowed to work on legislation and intimately be a part of the legis-

lation-making process."

Myers believes all students should take one of the leadership classes. Each course has unique benefits and has practical application.

She said that being a fellow has helped her explore her passions and create who she is now.

After interning in Washington, D.C. and Austin, Myers has decided that at some point in her life she will run for public office.

Myers plans on graduating in the spring and attending law school to pursue interests in international law. She is also considering a concurrent program where she would pursue a Master's degree in environmental studies.

In the future, Myers wants to work at the United Nations, either with the Environment Programme or peace building in post-conflict countries.

Her involvement with the ALDCE has helped Myers realize her potential as a leader and created exciting vocational opportunities.

About the ALDCE

Mission Statement:

The Academy for Leader Development & Civic Engagement seeks to provide curricular and co curricular experiences that facilitate student discovery of their God-given talents and responsibility to lead others in a journey toward a more just and humane world.

ALDCE Programs:

FLO

Fellows

Lead Minor

Lead Living-Learning Community

Leadership Lecture Series

What does the Bible say about leadership?

Galatians 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Corinthians 15:18 - Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Luke 10:27 - "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

1 Timothy 4:12 - Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

2 Timothy 2:15 - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Proverbs 11:14 - Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in Him.

Isaiah 6:8 - Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

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Leadership Lecture Series 6 p.m. - Kayser Auditorium

January 24 - Dr. Bonny Cain
April 17 - Hannibal Johnson

Justice Week sponsored by International Justice Mission Events TBA

February 27 - March 2

Muticultural Student Leadership Summit (with Department of Multicultural Affairs) All Day Event March 31

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