Spring break, warmer weather, pollen so thick you think your car has been repainted, and of course the NCAA basketball tournament—yes, it is March madness Central Texas style. This is the time of year that our native vegetation shakes the sleep out of its eyes (and unto us) and students gain the realization that there are fewer weeks ahead of them in the semester than behind them. And for those Baylor Bear basketball fans out there (which should be everyone reading this newsletter), this month has been especially sweet with our men's and women's basketball teams making their way through the NCAA tournament and bringing a greater level of national attention to the university that we all love.

With all that is going on, these next few weeks will be a critical time for helping our students regain their academic focus, enjoy the journey of learning and spiritual growth, and finish the semester well. More specifically, upon our return from spring break, we have three weeks to Easter weekend (April 6th-9th). Following Easter, we have three weeks to the last class day (April 27th). Then finals occur May 2nd-8th with graduation ceremonies May 11th and 12th. Sprinkle in Bearathon (March 24th), Relay for Life (March 30th), Multicultural Student Leadership Summit (March 31st), Stompfest (April 13th-14th), Premiere (April 14th), a campus-wide election and Diadeloso (April 19th) and a whole host of other events and you have all the ingredients for a wonderful yet academically, physically, and spiritually challenging end to the spring semester.

So what can we do to help our students and ourselves finish well? First, pray—frequently and fervently, there is no substitute for seeking the Lord’s guidance on a daily (if not moment by moment) basis (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Next, encourage hard work (Colossians 3:23) and perseverance (Hebrews 12:1)—we are in the latter half of the race and the finish line is soon to be in sight. Third, model a sense of centeredness—undoubtedly the next six weeks will have their ups and downs and it will be important for us to demonstrate a level of care and compassion coupled with competence that instills confidence in those around us (Philippians 4:13). Finally, enjoy the journey and seek to glorify God through all that we do and help others do likewise (Romans 12:1-2).

Here’s to changing “March madness” into “March gladness” and taking a giant step toward finishing well!

Kevin
Eating Disorder Conference

Dr. Emma Wood, Staff Psychologist in Counseling Services, spoke as a plenary panelist at the Binge Eating Disorder Association 2012 conference in Philadelphia during National Eating Disorder Awareness Week (February 26 – March 3). Dr. Wood spoke on the effects of size stigma and “fear of the freshman fifteen” and their impact on the development of eating disorders on college campuses.

SCGSNP Outstanding Program of the Month Recipient

Caleb Farmer, Brooks Residential College residence hall director, was chosen as the February Standing Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals (SCGSNP) Outstanding Program of the Month recipient! Congratulations to Caleb for his program, “Adventures on Vinyl – Critically Listening to New Music in an Old Way.”

Welcome Week Leaders

New Student Programs is excited to report that nearly 500 students completed the Welcome Week application process. Of those applicants, 70 applied to the Peer Leader position. We are thrilled to work with this new dynamic group of student leaders as we prepare for Welcome Week 2012.

Publications

Jennifer Massey had two articles published this month. The references are as follows:

Massey, J. and Burrow, J. (2012) Coming to Canada to study factors that influence students decisions to participate in international exchange Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice Vol. 49(1), 83–100


Jennifer attended the Association of American Geographers conference this month in New York City where she chaired a session on the geographies of education. She also presented a paper titled, Neoliberalism and the Canadian University.

Jennifer Massey, Sinda Vanderpool, and Jeff Doyle gave a conference presentation titled Tried and Tested: Four Models for First-Year Student Success at the Texas A&M Assessment Conference, held in Austin.
Campus Living and Learning is proud to announce the following Community Leaders who will serve in the residence halls for the 2012-2013 academic year. Please note that the asterisk denotes the individuals who will serve as Community Leader Mentors.

**Allen/Dawson**
- Bethany Pandes*
- Miranda A. Calhoun
- Jaja Chen
- Adam M. Courtney
- Ogo O. Ilobi
- Hayley N. Leonard
- Paul C. Schlaudraff
- Kevin N. Sikes

**The Apartments**
- Amanda J. Bailey*
- Kevin D. Mitchell
- Ashley R. Peterson
- Ericson L. Sampson
- Analynn Serrano
- Alexander J. Agent
- Lindsey E. Graham

**Brooks Flats**
- Kevin Ebach*
- Karla Coleman
- Amanda J. Hammer
- Tyler R. Barke
- Carissa R. Carlson
- John K. Lagesse
- Stephen M. Land

**Brooks Residential College**
- Nicholas P. Norris*
- Ellen G. Phillips*
- Seth R. Oldham
- Emily Pool
- Lindsay A. Putnam
- Lauren B. Vacendak
- Raven Z. Houston
- Grayson J. Koval
- Rebecca L. McHenney
- Joshua D. Rogg
- Casey Castleberry

**Collins**
- Adrina M. Pawlak*
- Zoe Edwards
- Tyler R. Grant
- Jessica N. Livon
- Daley E. Olson
- Elizabeth Puckett
- Mariah K. Spiry
- Ruth Tegegne
- Hannah M. Adams
- Tierney A. Boss
- Nichole A. Crews
- Katherine E. Ellis
- Lauren A. Hoover
- Minitha J. Jacob
- Joy E. Martinez
- Christina Y. Nestlerode
- Maggie E. Overstreet

**Martin**
- Matthew A. Neidig*
- Nathaniel L. Rogers
- Robert W. Wehrmann
- David E. White
- Jacob A. Blythe
- Josh D. Hansen
- Garrett W. Landrith
- Jake A. Surges

**North Russell**
- Tori M. Plunk*
- Alison N. Slay*
- Julie M. Belus
- Dana M. Bomgaars
- Kara B. Long
- Emma F. Smith
- Mary K. Ballard
- Carrie B. Cooper
- Ashley L. Howard
- Molly O. Hudgins
- Lynette O. Larkey
- Erin N. Morgan
- Kaycee D. Thompson
- Sarah N. Turney

**Honors Residential College**
- Chelsea M. Cornejo*
- Brent A. Bailey
- Daniel W. Lewis
- Anna Meese
- Luke D. Smith
- Jin Know
- Will E. Simmons
- Ivy J. Stejskal

**Kokernot**
- Jacob A. Moran*
- Gabby R. Gesulgon
- Bethany N. Gilmore
- Dillon M. Gasper
- Kayla A. Herman
International Justice Mission - Baylor, a student organization housed in the Academy for Leader Development & Civic Engagement, in conjunction with the Office of Community Engagement, Service & Scholarship, will host its annual Justice Week events during the last week of March. The purpose of Justice Week is to raise awareness of social justice issues and to promote a response of Christian love for the hurting and oppressed. This year’s lineup is packed with events to reach a broad audience and to engage students in the issues in any number of ways. There will be musical performances, fair trade vendors, engaging skits, and thought-provoking speakers. You won’t want to miss it!

Please join in as you are able and encourage your students to attend. This is a wonderful way to engage students in meaningful dialogue that broadens their perspective and gives them the opportunity to live out their faith in tangible ways.

For the full line-up of events and updates, visit the IJM-Baylor Facebook page, http://www.facebook.com/IJMBaylor, or follow them on Twitter @IJMBaylor.