



BAYLOR

Division of Student Life

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Newsletter

Message from Kevin:



The Day of the Bear Helps Those in Need

On Wednesday night, April 17th, the unfathomable happened—a fertilizer plant in West exploded shattering the lives of this small rural community to our north. The news reports that followed were sobering. Loss of life, severe injuries, destruction of property, raging fires, warnings of harmful chemical vapors—it truly was more than one could comprehend. Yet, in this time of great need, something quite remarkable happened within the Baylor community. We became the hands and feet of Christ. Within minutes of the blast, student leaders, staff, faculty, and administrators were in contact with one another. In our division, we quickly ran a search of the students who had permanent addresses in the West area and contacted them to offer our assistance. Within the residence halls, CL&L staff was notified to be on alert for students in distress and to be even more accessible than usual. Our Student Counseling Center staff was also notified to be ready in the event they were needed as was our Spiritual Life staff. In anticipation of people's desire to donate money for West, Student Activities staff worked with Marketing and Communications to activate a disaster relief web page that would take online donations. All of this was accomplished by midnight—some four and one-half hours after the explosion.

Yet, there was another set of decisions to be made—what do we do about Diadeloso which was scheduled for the next day? The answer to this question was swift and decisive. The Day of the Bear would continue and its focus would be to help to our neighbors to the north. To this end, Chamber and their sponsors worked through the night to rearrange plans and adapt programming. By 8 a.m. Thursday, a revised schedule was in place and a herculean effort was underway requiring team work across campus the likes of which I have not witnessed in my time at Baylor. Dia would begin with a prayer service for West; collect clothing, water, food, and personal hygiene items throughout the day; and end with a benefit concert in the Ferrell Center to raise awareness and collect funds and more donated items for the residents of the West community. Other Dia activities would continue, but clearly the day would be focused on helping those who were in such great need. The response was amazing. Three hundred students, faculty, and staff attended the prayer service in Barfield. The Bear trailer was filled to overflowing throughout the day as person after person donated items. The online donation page



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The Day of the Bear Helps Those in Need (*continued*)

collected over \$40,000, and the benefit concert raised \$7,000 plus additional truck loads of donated items. In addition, hundreds of Baylor students, faculty, and staff stood in line for hours to give blood, many volunteered time to help with relief-related work, countless individuals offered to house families who had lost their homes—it was an overwhelming display of love and compassion. And it continues as I write this article.

But let me share a story with you before closing. Throughout the day of Dia, Executive Council members met to review the ongoing situation in West and made decisions about how to respond to the emerging needs of the community as well as those impacted on our campus. After our last meeting as President Starr, Vice President and Chief of Staff Leeper, and I were talking in the hallway, a person walked up to us and said, "I just wanted to stop by and thank you." He explained that he was a first responder working in the City of Bellmead and a Baylor student. He had been called into action right after the explosion to assist with coordinating the relief effort at the Bellmead sight. He felt so compelled by what he experienced through the outpouring of support from Baylor that he wanted to thank us in person. We were stunned—for it was we who should be thanking him for his service. He graciously accepted our thanks but made it clear that Baylor's response was a driving motivational force behind the local relief efforts. About this he wrote in a follow up email:

Thank you for offering me a few moments of your time today to speak on behalf of the Bellmead Fire Department and those in West whom Baylor's extraordinary relief efforts have already reached and positively served.

As a first responder and volunteer firefighter here in Texas, I can say that relief efforts as swift and grand as those given by students at Baylor not only save lives but also reflect the excellencies of the communities to which we serve. The emergency personnel who have thus far responded to the emergency crisis in West are carrying out a duty that they valiantly fulfill every single day each year.

The outpouring of non-perishable food and water donations from the Baylor Nation and neighboring communities to our station has continued to be both significant and extensive. With the fellow firemen on staff, I worked late into the morning hours carrying cases of water, Gatorade, powerbars, towels, and countless other items. Many of our current staff, including those presently responding on site in West, have been awake for over 36 hours and are grateful for the items given us while working. The resources you have provided have helped energize our crew as we assist in conducting primary and secondary search operations on scene.

More importantly, as I saw young faces bearing the Baylor emblem on their t-shirts,





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The Day of the Bear Helps Those in Need (*continued*)

jackets, and sweatshirts, I saw Baylor's historic mission being carried out in a very tangible way. As Christ served, so too are [we] to serve—and that is what I have seen, so presently and so vividly over the past 36 hours. I owe an immense thank you to all of the men and women who have contributed food and water, as well as their own blood for those affected by the ongoing emergency situation.

He ended his email by encouraging us to continue to pray for the injured, the families of those who lost loved ones, and the massive recovery effort that was underway.

This my friends is the heart of Baylor—to be the hands and feet of Christ. It is who we are. It is what we do. And on the Day of the Bear, and the days that follow, Baylor's love and compassion have never shined more brightly. Thank you for what you have done and continue to do on behalf of those we serve.

With appreciation,
Kevin

DiaDelWest by the Numbers

Thank you again for all your help with the DiaDelWest Benefit Concert. The efforts of the staff and students was an exemplary example of living our mission both as Baylor Bears and members of the Central Texas community. I wanted to provide some of the numbers associated with the efforts from Thursday and Friday.

- Caritas Waco: 15,000 pounds of donated goods (from Thursday's donations)
- Carter Blood Care: 100 donors and 76 units (as of Friday)
- Donations:
 - o \$7,062 donated at the concert
 - o \$113,000+ online donations (as of 11 a.m. on Monday, April 22)

How We Can Help West Now

For information on how you can help those affected by the explosion in West, please visit the following websites:

- Baylor's response for the city of West: www.baylor.edu/relief
- Online giving portal on the Baylor website: www.baylor.edu/relief/give
- Updates on Facebook, search "Baylor Supports West" or go to: www.facebook.com/pages/Baylor-Supports-West/161548767339513?ref=ts&fref=ts
- The Red Cross: www.facebook.com/HeartofTexasRedCross

The Office of Community Engagement and Service can also provide direction in how you can help. Call (254) 710-3106 for more information.

Reception for Christopher Mack

Please join the Baylor community for a reception at the Bobo Spiritual Life Center honoring Christopher Mack on Monday, April 29 from 2 - 4 p.m. Christopher has served as the Assistant Director for Formation in Spiritual Life since June of 2008 and before that as a Resident Chaplain for three years. He will be leaving us next week to take a position as the Young Adult Pastor at Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio.

He will be missed in so many ways, but we celebrate with him the opportunity to serve others in the local church. Please join us as we thank Christopher for all he has done for Student Life and Baylor University.



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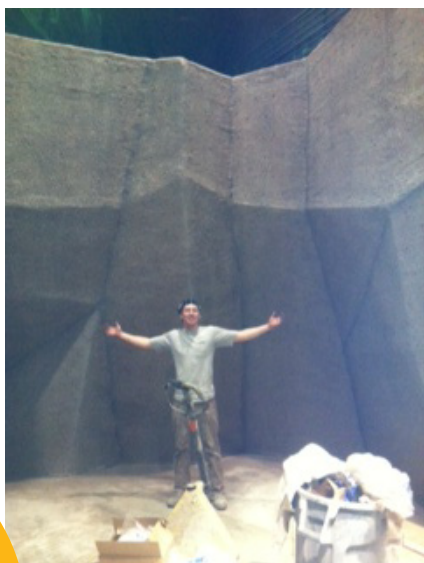
Academic Integrity Matters

Dr. Blaine McCormick told his Business 1301 (Business, the Economy, and World Affairs) class that each student who wore an **"Academic Integrity Matters" t-shirt** on **April 2nd** for the **2nd exam** of the semester would each receive **2 extra points** on the exam. Attached are pictures from that day's exam. And of course any students who were taking the exam at the OALA office were also included (*bottom right*). What a great reminder to all students in the class about academic integrity while taking an exam!



Rock and Bouldering Construction

Construction of Baylor's new and massive SLC Rock and Bouldering area is almost complete. Special flooring will be installed this month and we'll be ready to climb in May! There will not be a better indoor climbing structure anywhere. Baylor rocks!



Upcoming Events

Softball vs.
Houston
April 23

Baseball vs.
Texas
April 26 - 27

Last day of Classes
May 3

Dead Week Begins
May 4

Study Days
May 6 - 7

Final Exams
May 8 - 14

Commencement
Ceremonies
May 17 - 18





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Counseling Center Hosts Conference

The Baylor Counseling Center hosted the Texas University & College Counseling Centers Conference (TUCCCC) this February. It was the second year in a row for the conference to be hosted on Baylor's campus. TUCCCC is an opportunity for counselors from various colleges and universities across Texas to come together and share new ways to address the mental health needs of their students. Included in the conference were a pre-conference workshop on Time-Limited Dynamic Psychotherapy by Dr. Hanna Levenson and numerous presentations by both Baylor and non-Baylor professionals. The sessions presented by Baylor staff included *More Than We Can Bear: Collaborating to Address the Mental Health Needs of African-Americans at Predominately White Institutions* (Dr. Monique Marsh, Lori Genous, Kim Marmon, and Ramona Curtis), *Stopping the Violence: Risk Management, Resources, and Campus-Wide Responding* (Chelsea Boska and Kara Emery), *A Program for Sexual Assault Response and Prevention on College Campuses* (Dr. Cheryl Wooten), *Developing a Thriving Group Program at a College Counseling Center* (Dr. Randal Boldt), and *Counselor-Clergy Collaboration at Counseling Centers* (Dr. Don Arterburn, Dr. Burt Burleson, Dr. Jim Marsh, Ed Rogers, Dr. Cheryl Wooten, and Chad Mustain).



Active Minds Receives Recognition

Congratulations to the Baylor University chapter of Active Minds – they have been recognized by their national organization as a 5-star chapter! Active Minds is a student organization that focuses on spreading education and awareness of mental health issues that affect college students and reducing the stigma surrounding those issues. They often collaborate with the Baylor Counseling Center and promote mental health outreach efforts in the campus community. Current officers include Charmecia Morris (President), Kaleigh Riggs (Vice President), Taylor Boss (Research Liaison), Johanna Riojas (Secretary), Adreanne Dugger (Treasurer), Zach Warman (Publicity Chair), and Leslie Zapata (Webmaster).





New Faculty-in-Residence for 2013

Campus Living & Learning is pleased to announce three new Faculty-in-Residence beginning fall, 2013!

Dr. James A. Marcum will serve as the inaugural Faculty-in-Residence for the Science & Health LLC, one of two new residential communities opening this fall as part of East Village. Dr. Marcum is professor of philosophy and director of Baylor's Medical Humanities program. He earned doctorates in philosophy from Boston College and in physiology from the University of Cincinnati's College of Medicine. He also holds a master's degree in theology from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and both a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in zoology from Miami University. He was also a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a faculty member at Harvard Medical School for over a decade before coming to Baylor University 12 years ago. He received grants from several funding agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the American Heart Association. Finally, he has the distinction of being the first Frederik B. Bang Fellowship at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

His current research interests include the philosophy and history of science and medicine. Examples of recent publications appear in *Annals of Science*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Perspectives on Science*, *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, and *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*. His most recent books are *The Conceptual Foundations of Systems Biology: An Introduction* (Nova Science Publishers, 2009) and *The Virtuous Physician: The Role of Virtue in Medicine* (Springer, 2012).

Dr. R. Robert Creech will serve as the next Faculty-in-Residence for University House located in the North Village Residential Community. He replaces Theatre professor, Steven Pounders, who will move to Heritage House in North Village as the Fine Arts LLC moves there next year. Dr. Creech holds The Hubert H. & Gladys S. Raborn Chair for Pastoral Leadership in the George W. Truett Theological Seminary. Dr. Creech also serves as the director of Pastoral Ministries in which he works with Truett students to coordinate their internships. He joined the Truett faculty in 2009 following 22 years as senior pastor at the University Baptist Church in Houston that served 3000 members. He had previously taught Christianity and Philosophy as assistant professor at Houston Baptist University from 1979 to 1987.

Dr. Creech earned his B.A. in Sociology and Christianity from Houston Baptist University, his M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. from Baylor University in New Testament studies. He co-authored *The Leader's Journey* in 2003 and has published chapters in several other volumes. Joining him in this Faculty-in-Residence endeavor is his wife, Melinda, who is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Literature and Religion at Baylor. They also have three children and four grandchildren. Their oldest son, Alan, is an architect in Houston and is married to Kathryn, a professional event planner. Taylor is completing the U. S. Army Special Forces Qualification Course this spring, and is married to Amber. Jenna, their daughter, is a senior at the University of Texas majoring in radio, television, and film. Robert and Melinda worship with the DaySpring Baptist Church in Waco.



**Dr. James A.
Marcum**



**Dr. R. Robert
Creech**



New Faculty-in-Residence for 2013 (*continued*)

Dr. Rishi Sriram will serve as the next Faculty Master for Brooks Residential College, replacing Dr. Douglas Henry who faithfully served as the inaugural Faculty Master since Brooks' opening in 2007. Dr. Sriram spent eight years as a higher education and student affairs administrator before beginning his current role as assistant professor in Educational Administration and program coordinator of the Higher Education and Student Affairs graduate program in the School of Education. In his previous role as assistant dean for Student Learning & Engagement, he played a key role in the development of living-learning programs at Baylor University, as well as the establishment of the faculty-in-residence program. His administrative work has won him a NASPA Excellence Award and a Promising Practices Award from the NASPA Student Affairs Partnering with Academic Affairs Knowledge Community. Also joining the Brooks College community are his wife, Amanda, a Baylor alum; their three children, Ellis (8), Lily (6), and Stella (4), and their dog, Bear.

Dr. Sriram's research interests include student affairs practice, collaboration between academic and student affairs, and college student retention, engagement, achievement and development. He teaches courses in higher education and student affairs and leadership courses in Baylor's undergraduate minor in leadership studies. He currently serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*, the *Journal of The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition* and the *Journal of College and University Student Housing* and serves as director of research for the Texas Association of College & University Student Personnel Administrators (TACUSPA). He has published multiple articles and chapters in journals and books in addition to conference presentations.

One final note of transition includes Dr. Ian Gravagne, Electrical Engineering, who will transition with the Engineering & Computer Science LLC currently in Heritage House to the Residential College in East Village.

From the Assessment Committee:

Why Are We Here, What Are We Doing, and How Do We Know If We Are Doing It Right?

What is the purpose of the Division of Student Life? At Baylor, we have defined our purpose through the clarifying lens of *Pro Futuris*, our current strategic plan. While the mission of our University is "to educate men and women for worldwide leadership and service by integrating academic excellence and Christian commitment within a caring community" (Baylor University, 2012, pp. 6), Student Life's role is to facilitate an integration of curricular and co-curricular programming that provides transformative, educational experiences for students. We do this by nurturing calling, wholeness, community, and citizenship; but the million dollar question is, "How do we know our students are transformed by the experiences we provide?"

Comprehensive and intentional assessments can provide answers to the million dollar question, but only if these assessments are designed intentionally. Unfortunately, designing comprehensive and intentional assessments requires two separate, but related, viewpoints: one at a global level and the other at a detail level. The relationship between these two viewpoints can present a challenge for individuals who are not accustomed to shifting rapidly between multiple perspectives.

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Dr. Rishi Sriram



From the Assessment Committee: *(continued)*

At the global level, we have been given direction through *Pro Futuris* and the Division's learning goals, which provide the basic framework for why we are here and the kinds of experiences we should provide. The strategic plan of the University is buttressed by the Division's commitment to nurturing calling, wholeness, community, and citizenship, but the leap from programs to the Division's learning goals is actually quite large. Programs serve students by providing transformative experiences and our global view of departmental assessment should include an explanation of how this relates to the Divisional learning goals. For example, the Division learning goal of community should be a part of every program, because all programs in Student Life should encourage meaningful relationships, Christian hospitality, and charity in all things. Programs will meet this goal in different ways, and this diversity adds richness to the experiences of Baylor students. With this view, we are assessing the Divisional learning goals indirectly from a global viewpoint, so what does that look like?

To answer this question, we have to examine the details, which are actually the observable changes in the students we serve. This is where the process often gets derailed because the focus shifts from the global view at the university or Division level to the student level. The program level has been skipped, because we are assessing the strength of our program through the changes measured in students, or the learning outcomes of our programs. Defining learning outcomes requires the program designers to decide what a student should know, do, or value as a result of participation. Because the focus is on changes occurring within students, we can assess these outcomes through surveys, focus groups, interviews, observations, or any other method that provides evidence for what a student knows, does, or values as a result of our program. If we find the outcomes are not supported by the data we have collected, then we know our program is not meeting the learning outcomes and may not be supporting the mission of the university.

By focusing on two viewpoints when considering assessment design, we can better serve our students by knowing our programs are linked to the larger goals of the institution. The Division of Student Life provides an intermediary between the aspirational statements of *Pro Futuris* and the programs we design to serve our students. When we design intentional assessments that link the aspirational statements of *Pro Futuris* to Divisional learning goals, the learning outcomes met by our students provide evidence for our role in providing transformative educational experiences.

Upcoming Professional Development Webinars

Assessment Best Practices in Residence Life - 04/23/2013

Skill Level: **Intermediate**

Melissa Wright

Interested in re-vamping your Residence Life assessment practices or trying out new methods? In this webinar we will review some promising practices in the area of Residence Life assessment and explore some alternative assessment methods for fleshing out an assessment plan in this area. Kevin Araujo-Lipine from Babson College and Jennifer Hapgood from Binghamton University will share the lessons they learned while revamping and fine-tuning their residence life assessment processes.

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/622276054>

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Upcoming Professional Development Webinars (*continued*)

Basic Statistics & Quantitative Analysis I - 05/07/2013

Skill Level: **Intermediate**

Vennessa Walker

This session will provide information regarding descriptive statistics that are often used when reviewing assessment data. We will cover the statistics available in the Baseline reporting site and use example situations to identify which statistics should be used to answer the questions being asked. We will also provide an overview regarding levels of measurement that can help determine what types of statistics you are able to run on your data. You may also be interested in: Basic Statistics & Quantitative Analysis II.

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/713402510>

Basic Statistics & Quantitative Analysis II - 05/16/2013

Skill Level: **Advanced**

Vennessa Walker

After a very brief review of levels of measurement and descriptive statistics, the focus of this session will be on inferential statistics that are often conducted with an advanced statistical software package (e.g., SPSS).

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/317297550>

Building an Institutional Culture of Assessment - 05/15/2013

Skill Level: **Intermediate**

Annemieke Rice

Sustainable assessment practices are supported by a culture of informed decision making. Constructing a culture of assessment takes time and intentional efforts to support assessment. This session is facilitated by two Campus Labs member campuses who will discuss steps they have taken to create a culture of assessment, including encouraging collaborative assessment planning, developing assessment capacity and buy-in, sharing assessment results, and providing adequate resources.

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/912620158>

Perspectives on Program Review - 05/08/2013

Skill Level: **Intermediate**

Kate Griffin

Program Review is defined as the comprehensive and systematic process that involves the collection and analysis of in-depth information about a program. It is an opportunity for programs and departments to evaluate opportunities and challenges, as well as report on progress and assess where they are going in the future. This session will focus on the benefits and challenges of conducting program review in higher education.

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/599743686>





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Upcoming Professional Development Webinars (*continued*)

Qualitative Data Analysis - 05/20/2013

Skill Level: **Advanced**

Amy Feder

So, you've collected great information from interviews/focus groups or open-ended questions on a survey, maybe even from observations and documents. Now what? Are you drowning in data? How do you share that information in a way that moves beyond anecdote? How do you analyze the data you've collected? How do you make meaning of the data? This webinar will outline acceptable standards of rigor for qualitative assessments and explore the steps involved in general qualitative data analysis and interpretation. After building a foundation in qualitative assessment, the session will offer steps you can take to organize your data into themes and effectively share the data with various audiences.

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/297749726>

Rethinking Student Demographics in Surveys: Two Techniques - 04/25/2013

Skill Level: **Intermediate**

Amy Feder

Student demographic data is routinely collected in the assessment process, but is it always being used effectively and efficiently? In this 30-minute "mini-webinar," we will discuss two best practice strategies for collecting demographic data: utilizing a common set of questions for consistent use, and uploading students' demographic data to Baseline to avoid asking demographic questions altogether. Both strategies have multiple benefits related to consistency and reducing survey fatigue. Guests from member campuses who have used these practices will share their experiences.

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/198530830>

Top 1% - Outdoor Adventure Spring Break Trip

Ten Baylor Bears hiked two of the world's most amazing canyons this past spring break. The adventure seekers backpacked through the world's longest continuous slot canyon, Buckskin Gulch. This narrow canyon, formed by the wear of water rushing through rock, at times will be only 6 feet across and the canyon walls soaring from 500 – 800 feet straight up. Hikers are drawn to its colorful, winding corridors of stone; its narrow, constricted gorges and its stunning display of seven major geologic formations exposed like the pages of a book. Once you are in, there is no way out for 16 miles. After two days in Buckskin Gulch, we headed south to the Grand Canyon to spend three days in one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. From the rim of canyon, the elevation drops a mile down to the wild and scenic Colorado River that carves out the canyon for over 270 miles. The Bears backpacked from the rim to the river and back in three days, a feat that less than 1% of Grand Canyon visitors complete.

Trip Stats:

10 Bears a Backpacking

4 Countries and 5 different States represented

46 Miles of Backpacking

1 Great Adventure!



East Village Construction Updates



The South Residence Hall courtyard landscaping is just beginning but the hardscape and irrigation is almost complete.



Did you know there would be a Bocce ball court in East Village? It is located outside of back lobby door of the South building.



Above is a sneak peek at the large lounge on each residential wing - a great space for students to study and spend time together!



The lobby of the South building is continuing to take shape.



The North lobby is slightly behind the status of the South lobby, but it still on schedule and taking shape!



There is also a study alcove on each residential wing.

East Village Construction Updates (*continued*)



Here is a view of a typical student room with woodgrain vinyl plank flooring in place.



Cabinets are being installed in the apartment kitchens.



This is the typical bathroom wall tiling. (A double semi-suite is pictured above.)



This area of the Dining Commons 1st floor (commonly known as the "interior street") features a grand staircase (nearing completion) and pendant light fixtures are going in place (but they are currently covered for protection). Also, don't miss the skylights!



The Dining Commons 2nd floor serving and seating areas beginning to develop, including large round vent hood for the Mongolian grille (in the background).

East Village Construction Updates (*continued*)

The Dining Commons (2nd floor) specialty dining room can seat up to 200 for special programs or can be divided using a portable wall for 2 groups of 100.



At left is a view of the Heritage Tree from the intersection of 3rd and Bagby, looking toward the North courtyard and the main entry of the Dining Commons. Below is a view of the tree from another angle with 3rd Street and the South courtyard seen beyond the Heritage Tree.



Academy for Leadership Development



On April 9, the Academy for Leadership Development hosted Paul Hurckman, the executive director of Venture Expeditions, an organization that uses adventure-driven campaigns to raise awareness and funds to combat injustices all around the world. Close to 300 students attended the lecture. Paul encouraged students to ask questions during the lecture instead of waiting for the Q&A session. Paul talked a bit about his involvement with Venture Expeditions, and then the questions started to flow. Students asked for more details about Venture Expeditions and wanted to know how to get involved. Paul told the audience that though he values the company he works for; he thinks it's important to be locally invested as well. He challenged students to get involved in service in Waco. His biggest piece of advice to students was to "take the next step." Paul said it was important to get started in some way, big or small. He said the best way to do this is to set a mini-goal and accomplish it. In the area of service, this may look like finding information about a certain group to volunteer with them or making the commitment to go to an interest meeting. After the lecture, several students were interested in finding out more about Venture Expeditions. Paul made time the next day to visit with students over breakfast and lunch.

Students at the Texas Student Leadership Forum

On April 5-7th, Baylor sent eight students to the Texas Student Leadership Forum held in Austin, Texas. The conference seeks to bring together students from 35 separate Texas universities with different religions and backgrounds to discuss the most influential leader of all time, Jesus. Below are reflections from some of the students who attended the conference. The Academy for Leadership Development intends to send even more students in the years to come.

"This conference was definitely one different than any other leadership conference that I have been to... I learned more about myself. I got insight on a lot of the things I've been going through and came to the realization that a lot more people go through a lot of the same things that I do. So it was assuring that I am not alone and it was helpful to hear others share their stories."

- Brittany Hudson

"I really enjoyed the small groups, and hearing everyone's view on leadership was entertaining. My group had 5 different universities in it, and not one person had the same view on leadership. So it was nice to hear different views of what it means to be a leader. It was nice getting to make friends from all over and do service. I definitely came back with more leadership skills and friendships."

- Catherine Ross

"The Texas Student Leadership Forum was an incredible experience! I not only learned how to build meaningful relationships but experienced the process with a small group of awesome student leaders from universities across Texas. I had my ideas of leadership and even of my self-awareness challenged and sharpened, and through the process learned methods to help others

Students at the Texas Student Leadership Forum (*continued*)

do the same. Perhaps most significantly, I found it remarkable that this leadership conference included a service project. That truly embodies the type of leadership used by Jesus of Nazareth, who is undeniably the most influential individual in history. Good conversations, learning, teaching, connecting, and simply enjoying the time were all a part of one short weekend, and I would love to do it all again in the future. I plan to take everything I learned with me into the future, and hopefully I and those I serve will be the better for it!"

- Charles Jester

"The Texas Student Leadership Forum was unlike any forum or conference I ever attended. We learned about Jesus Christ as a leader and analyzed four tenants relating to his leadership. They were: Self-Knowledge, Compassion, Service, and Reconciliation. We had a couple different speakers and met with our small groups regularly to respond to what we heard. One event that stood out to me was the Panel of Previous Student Leaders. They spoke on the real truth concerning life after college. They helped me realize that it's okay if I don't know what I would like to do after graduating. They encouraged the audience to absorb all the information they can from college, try new things, and network with others. Their advice meant a lot to me. Overall I would encourage other Baylor Student leaders to attend the Forum as they will develop their skills as leaders and come to learn more about themselves. I really appreciated this opportunity!"

- Chierra Williams

"To me, the forum was one of the most impactful, empowering, and insightful experiences I've ever been a part of... The forum is a conversation- a continual discussion sparked by speakers, facilitators, and others involved. It is a continual search of one's identity and a journey that you're on with others. It is a place where like-minded college students gather together for one weekend, discuss these topics, and build lasting relationships, along with establishing a deeper perspective and understanding of our lives and purpose in life."

- Ben Byrum

"I really appreciated the forum's ability to bring together students from across the state. It was great to meet other ambitious, hard working students, who have their eyes on certain goals. The keynote speaker was informative and encouraging, and the family we had dinner with was amazing."

- Jay Fields

"The Texas Student Leadership Forum was different from various conferences that I have attended, but it was one of the most insightful. I liked that the forum was focused on discussion and was centered on what the students wanted to discuss. It was insightful to hear perspectives from different student leaders and to see that they struggled with the same issues. The facilitators of the small groups did a great job helping us see ways we could address the issues student leaders face. The panel of recent graduates was the best part of the forum because we were able ask questions and they brought up some obstacles that we might face going into the "real world" where we haven't made a name for ourselves. This conference helped me be more open minded and forced me to analyze serious questions that needed to be answered. I am glad that Baylor gave me the opportunity to attend the Texas Student Leadership Forum and recommend for more students to go."

- Jessica Melendez