Message from Kevin:

Climbing New Heights

When first asked if I would participate in the dedication of the Student Life Center climbing wall and bouldering area I said, “Sure.” Then I realized the idea was for me to do a “first ascent” as in climb the newly renovated rock wall while a crowd of students, faculty, and staff looked on. Well, I had already said yes and it did seem like a fun challenge. Now, three weeks later, I stood at the base of the rock wall, strapped in, and just moments away from being given the green light to climb. I was not having second thoughts per se but the question “What were you thinking?” did cross my mind. In the spirit of full disclosure, I had completed a practice climb the day before making it to the first ledge. So, I was confident I could do it again. But for some reason, I wanted to go higher. I wanted to climb to a new height.

As I waited to begin my climb, I was struck by the symbolism of what stood before me. Each fall, students face their own sort of ascent up the face of the academic year. By the very nature of them being here, they have proven themselves academically capable of making it to the first ledge of their collegiate climb. Yet, we desire for them to go higher—to navigate increasingly more difficult terrain, steeper inclines, harder to grasp handholds of knowledge. We help them in their journey by providing support, advice, and additional opportunities to learn and grow through their experiences. The idea is to encourage them to go higher than they had planned—to climb to new heights in their own life.

My “first ascent” up the rock was a success. There were a couple of pesky steps to negotiate but with good coaching and amidst the cheers of encouragement I made it beyond the first ledge to the top of the route. The last part of the climb was unchartered territory for me which made it all the more meaningful. And, the view from the top was exhilarating. None of this would have been possible without the steady guidance of the Outdoor Adventure staff and the wonderful support of those in attendance. You see, climbing to new heights is not a solo undertaking. It takes all of us working together.

Thank you for all that you do to help our students climb to their own new heights.

Kevin
Dr. Douglas Henry, founding Faculty Master of Brooks Residential College was celebrated for his service along with his wife, Associate Master Dr. Michele Henry. The evening started with a reception that included former students, faculty, and staff colleagues. Followed by the weekly Sunday Night Dinner tradition at Brooks where students come together to break bread as a community serving each other family style. This was a fitting tribute for the many hours the Henry’s spent in fellowship with students. After participating in the Senior Book Tradition, which includes the donating of books to the college library the Henrys received a standing ovation in appreciation for their commitment to the Brooks College community. The community also decided to name the college library after the Henry family. The symbolic nature of the college library is steeped in the representation of a space that brings to minds the reasons students have come to Baylor and a space in the residential community where academics are continually pursued. The Henry Library will represent both living and learning in our Brooks Residential College, just like that of the dedicated service of the Henrys’.

After years of dedicated service and commitment to our residential program, Faculty-in-Residence Dr. Julie Sweet of North Village Texana House and Dr. Douglas Rogers of Allen/Dawson halls and the Leadership Living-Learning Center (LEAD LLC) recently offered their resignations for the end of this spring semester. We offer much gratitude and appreciation to Drs. Sweet and Rogers. The manner in which they have served their residents and contributed to the living-learning programs within their communities is simply outstanding and noteworthy.

Dr. Sweet became Baylor’s second faculty-in-residence and has served faithfully in this capacity since 2005. Dr. Jeff Doyle, Dean for Student Learning & Engagement commented, “Dr. Jules Sweet is one of a handful of faculty willing to make the residence hall her home. She is often seen on campus and in her building, living and interacting with students on a daily basis. She has helped to create an on-campus home where students are comfortable talking to their faculty.” Her dedication to Texana residents has always been evident as Dr. Sweet offered her signature monthly “Cookies and Crafts” diligently through the years. Dr. Sweet is also touted for greeting students in the afternoon hours with her infamous cookies and milk as they came home after a day of classes. Furthermore, she hosted numerous panels and programs aimed at increasing student awareness of professional and career issues while in college and beyond. Residents spoke frequently of her caring heart and the ample support she offered personally and professionally,
Faculty-in-Residence (continued)

demonstrated in this comment by a student within Texana, “All the activities she [Dr. Sweet] hosts help to build relationships and trust in her as the faculty-in-residence. Spending time with Dr. Sweet helps everyone in the hall to know that even though she is a professor, she is a person just like everyone else. She always goes the extra mile for the residents by advertising on every door, and baking tons of cookies, cupcakes, and cookie pizza for “cookies and crafts.”

Dr. Rogers became the faculty-in-residence for Allen/Dawson halls and the LEAD LLC in Fall 2010, after working closely with the hall staff throughout 2009-10 as a faculty partner. He was joined a little over a year ago by his wife, Dr. Rachelle Rogers (Education). Dr. Rogers diligently worked to support CL&L’s goal of faculty involvement by frequently hosting faculty at events and panel discussions, and increasing residents’ knowledge of technology support for students. Dr. Rogers’ signature programs included small, intimate dinners and discussions in his home with residents and faculty guests, as well as Open Door socials. Additionally, Dr. Rogers was a major contributor to the LEAD LLC by instructing courses associated with the LLC and working closely with hall and student leadership to promote the program’s objectives and goals. A student within the LEAD LLC commented, “He is an invaluable resource to students because of his connections to nearly every school on campus, and he is very knowledgeable about campus technology. Dr. Rogers is also a great leader who sacrifices much time and effort into serving the staff and residents of the Allen/Dawson community. I am appreciative of the way he has poured into my life and also into the lives of residents.” Of him, Dr. Jeff Doyle commented, “The past three years Dr. Doug Rogers has worked to develop a community in Allen-Dawson where leadership and service are central components of our students’ lives. Whether it was through teaching students in his community, inviting other faculty in for workshops or open houses, or just being available to talk to students, Doug worked hard to be the best faculty-in-residence he could. He has helped to build a good foundation for the next faculty-in-residence.”

Drs. Sweet and Rogers will remain at Baylor in their current faculty and academic roles within History and Education respectively. Again, please join in offering our heartfelt gratitude for their extensive service and commitment to creating residential communities that integrate our students’ learning experience through the contributions of faculty engagement. Our residential communities are better because of their hard work and enthusiasm for the on-campus residential experience.

Sophie Claire Wood was born April 22, 2013 at 9:30 p.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and was 21 inches long. Sophie is the daughter of Russ and Emma Wood, staff psychologist. Delivery was not smooth, but baby and mommy are doing okay. In fact, Sophie is in perfect health!
The amazing ACIS Fitness National Championship weekend got even better when Drew Brees, the New Orleans Saints’ quarterback, happened to be on the same flight from San Diego to Houston! *(pictured right, Clint Patterson, Van Davis, Drew Brees, and Jake Talbert)*
Faculty-in-Residence Transition

It is our pleasure to announce that Dr. Jonathan Tran, current faculty-in-residence (FIR) for Brooks Flats, will transition into the FIR role beginning Fall 2013 for Allen/Dawson halls, which house the Leadership Living-Learning Center (LEAD LLC). Dr. Tran began serving as faculty-in-residence in 2011 and has served Brooks Flats and the Global Community LLC in an exemplary manner. Dr. Tran’s outgoing personality and welcoming family have helped to create a strong sense of community and support for residents. Most notably, Dr. Tran has hosted several discussions on important issues affecting students and the world around them, including microfinance, human trafficking, politics, Christianity and racism, surviving the Branch Davidian siege, and a program focused on raising awareness for sexual assault.

Dr. Tran commented, “My time at Brooks Flats has been one of the highlights of my Baylor experience. I know there is much in store for this wonderful community, and I look forward to hearing what God does here in the years to come. Allen/Dawson and the LEAD LLC already have a great legacy born of the tremendous commitment, talents, and passions of prior generations of students, staff, and faculty. Our family is beyond thrilled to continue this good work and especially look forward to living life alongside Allen/Dawson’s students and envisioning all the future holds for the LEAD.”

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Tran to Allen/Dawson and the LEAD LLC, while also thanking him for his many contributions to Brooks Flats and the Global Community LLC!

CL&L ACUHO-I Summer Intern

Campus Living & Learning is pleased to announce their summer intern through the Association of College and University Housing Officials – International, Lamar Walker. Lamar is currently pursuing a Master’s of Education from James Madison University in College Student Personnel Administration and also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Foreign Language from James Madison University. During the academic year, Lamar serves as a Graduate Assistant for the Centennial Scholars Programs and previously as a Lead Resident Counselor at the Middle School Leadership Academy. Lamar has worked with “Summer’s Best Two Weeks” in Boswell, PA, and is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. Please join us in welcoming Lamar to Baylor University! He can be reached at ldwalker3@gmail.com and will begin his internship in Allen/Dawson Halls on May 20.
Construction is building over at East Village! The Engineering Computer Science technology lab, with a view of 2nd and Bagby, (picture 1) is taking shape. The covered walkway (picture 2) of the south residence hall is complete. A game room will be built on the right. The dining commons central stairway (picture 3) to the second-floor dining area will have a bakery on its right. Tiles and lighting (picture 4) are now in place for food service, and lighting and skylights (picture 5) in the dining commons atrium.
As I reflect on this past semester, I come to the very word that describes what we are about at Student Life, “LIFE.” We address life here at Baylor not just educationally, but physically, spiritually, and emotionally. As we travel on this journey called life, we often address the need to grow intellectually (we learn to broaden our minds, learn critical thinking, reach out to the community), physically (exercise, keep our bodies in physical health), and spiritually (addressing the big questions of life that gnaws at our soul, finding inner peace in our Creator, finding new ways to connect to our God, find ways to serve our fellow man); but we often do not focus on the emotional piece, which is a “vital part” of navigating through this world well. What I see, is that when one area is ignored it impacts all the other parts of us. It’s like making sure the tread is in good shape and the air is in all the tires but one, and to make it down the road successfully, it needs four good tires. We can often become “stunted” in our emotional development ignoring the areas we need to address as they often speak to us, sometimes shout to us, in our daily “life connections”, which can often have dire affects in all our relationships (friends, spouses, family, work). As John Dunne wrote, “No man is an island, entire of itself”, we impact people around us as they do us, if we lack the emotional tools or our tools are broken and incomplete, then we can often limp through our life with more wounds than we can count and leave behind damaged and broken relationships, which can often reach far into the next generation. One thing so great about Baylor, is that they want each student to address their complete person, hoping each that they will leave here with a wholeness of self that will prepare them for life’s journey, and at Baylor each component and department of student life is vital in that process.

What I love about my part of student life is not only that I get to work alongside so many wonderful and dedicated and committed people who make up the different departments, but that I also get to walk alongside the students in helping them in the wellness of their emotional life, providing a safe place to heal, to develop life skills to navigate, and cheering them on as they take new steps in having a better sense of self. It is a privilege to support these students and provide a safe place to share and grow. My prayer for each student is to take this time in life, not to just develop an intellectual education, but address the whole person physically, spiritually, and emotionally, in order to navigate through this complex world well, to have little regrets or emotional scars as they come to the end of their journey and to impact the next generation from a foundation of wholeness and wellness. I applaud the students who are graduating this year, but I also applaud those made the choice to address every aspect of their lives and utilized the resources provided by Baylor that makes up STUDENT LIFE.

Lauri L. Rogers, Psy.D.
Senior Psychologist
Counseling Center
Student Life Staff Partner on Article

The Office of Community Engagement & Service, Department of Wellness, Multicultural Affairs and Counseling Center staff members co-authored an article entitled, *More Than We Can Bear: Collaborating to Meet the Mental Health Needs of African American Students*. The article was featured in the Society of Counseling Psychology’s section on College and University Counseling Center’s spring 2013 Newsletter. The article is part of the work started in 2010 on campus to address the mental health concerns of African American students. *For a copy of the article contact the authors.*

*(authors from left to right) Lori Genous, Director of Wellness; Ramona Curtis, Director for Civic Engagement & Educational Development; Kim Marmon, Multicultural Affairs Specialist; and Monique Marsh, Staff Psychologist*

Ghana Leadership Team Returns to KNUST

The Ghana Leadership team led by Ramona Curtis, Director for Civic Engagement & Education Development and Lori Genous, Director of Wellness will make its second visit to Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) Hospital. The team has added a student team leader position this year. This position was created to give a student a chance to enhance their leadership skills by interacting more intentionally with the team leaders and host. The position is responsible for the blog post, Facebook page and co-facilitating reflection sessions. Sophomore pre-health major Amanda Rushing will serve in this capacity. “I’m excited about going back, and I love the opportunity to serve,” said Ms. Rushing. Students on this team will assist hospital staff and administrators in providing care to patient in KUNST Hospital. They will also do rotations on all hospital wards, the child welfare clinic and surgery. They will learn more about the health concerns of Kumasi, Ghana, and other African countries. The first part of the mornings will be spent in a team meeting with our host Medical Director, Fred “Yaw” Bio, MD, PhD to get updates and assignments for the day and the evenings will end with a reflection facilitated by our host and team leaders. The team will also visit the Ashanti Village of Kyerekrom where they will prepare health and wellness lesson plans, teach students organized sports, and facilitate creative activities including art. The morning instruction will be given by Head Teacher, Ransford Solomon Addai of the Kyerekrom Primary School, and evening reflections will be held by team leaders.
Student Life Hits the Radio Waves

Dr. Monique Marsh, Staff Psychologist and Ramona Curtis, Director for Civic Engagement & Educational Development were invited by Commissioner Lester Gibson to appear on his Saturday morning radio show, “If We Only Knew What We Could Do.” Curtis open the segment up with statistics on child discipline in the African American culture. She also discussed the findings from the National Incidence Study that found an overrepresentation of African American children in the child welfare system was not due to the higher rates of abuse in this population but to factors related to the child welfare system itself. Dr. Marsh discussed the role of discipline in the African American family. She further discussed successful ways of disciplining children that includes being child centered verses parent centered. Dr. Marsh and Ms. Curtis answered questions related to the topic from callers and Facebook postings during the show. The show aired, Saturday, May 4, at 10 a.m. on 104.9 FM.

Excellence in Student Leadership Awards

On Friday evening, May 3, students, organizations, and advisors were honored at the Excellence in Student Leadership Awards. The purpose of the event is to recognize outstanding contributions our students make across campus and in the community. The Departments of Student Activities, Community Engagement & Service, and Multicultural Affairs in conjunction with Student Government and the Vice President for Student Life recognized nominees for their significant leadership and service to make a difference within their respective organizations, campus, and beyond. They have exemplified excellence in their work and emerge as leaders among their peers.

As a prelude to the evening occasion, guests arrived to a red carpet, jazz music, and award winning ambiance held at the Palladium on Austin Avenue. Throughout the celebration Dr. Liz Palacios, Judge Ken Starr, Dr. Kevin Jackson, Matt Burchett, and Craig Willie offered words on leadership and expressed appreciation to nominees and recipients for their dedication to Baylor and the community. Presenters spoke of the nominees and their accomplishments and recipients were announced via opening of a sealed envelope. Recipients were greeted by Dr. Palacios and Dr. Jackson, as they came forward to accept their honors.

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Examples of awards presented ~ Excellence in Student Involvement Award, Campus Programs Outstanding Leader in Student Productions and Outstanding Members of Baylor Activities Council and Union Board, Multicultural Excellence Award, Emerging Leader Award, Greek Man and Woman of the Year, Herbert H. Reynolds Award, Outstanding Service Chair and Volunteer Service, Robert Gilbert Advocate of the Year, Advisor of the Year (Multicultural Affairs, Greek Life, Student Organizations), Outstanding New Organization and Student Organization of the Year, along with Newly Chartered Organizations.

Additional information on this year’s award recipients is available online at www.baylor.edu/studentleadership

Herbert H. Reynolds Award Winners for Fraternal Excellence
Congratulations to all of this year’s winners of the Student Life Awards:

**Pillar of Baylor Award**
Rebecca Kennedy

**William Tryon Award for Outstanding Support Staff**
Darlene Cale

**James Huckins Award for Outstanding Graduate Assistant**
Monica Sandstrom and Christa Winkler

**Customer Service Award**
Grant DeYong

**Rising Star Award for Outstanding New Professional**
Jordy Dickey

**Team Award**
More Than We Can Bear/My Sister My Self

**Outstanding Student Assistant Award**
Kelsey Fritscher

**Outstanding Faculty Partner Award**
Brian Thomas and Bill Jordan

**To Light the Ways Award for Contributions to the Profession**
Curtis Odle

**Student Advocate Award**
Kevin Karr

**The Student Life Torchbearer Award**
Elisa Dunman

*(back row from left to right)* Dominique Hill, Lori Genous, Monique Marsh, Kim Marmon, Curtis Odle, Grant DeYong, Brian Thomas, Kevin Jackson; *(front row from left to right)* Shelton Lewis, Kelley Kimple, Ramona Curtis, Monica Sandstrom, Christa Winkler, Jordy Dickey, Kelsey Fritscher, Elisa Dunman