**A NOTE FROM DUB**

**Year End**
My grandma would always sit on her back porch on New Year’s Eve and watch the sun set. Usually it was cold, but it was something that she was always compelled to do. Tears would form in her eyes and fall down her cheeks as the sun went down over the trees in her back yard. When I was a young boy I asked her why she was crying. She told me that she was remembering how very blessed she had been, that she was recalling friends who had passed the year before, and she was just thankful for her faith and family. She was such a wise woman. I can see her sitting there and as her hand reaches for mine it brings tears to my own eyes.

As this year draws to a close, I am thinking the same things. The year has been filled with so many great accomplishments, meaningful relationships, and often unspeakable joy. And the year has been marked by the passing of loved ones, the departure of excellent colleagues to other universities, and the growing up of little ones and growing older myself. As the sun sets over the trees of my own back yard my heart fills with love as my eyes fill with tears. All in all we are blessed and we are loved.

Merry Christmas! And I look forward to our journey together in the new year.

Dub

**STAFF TRANSITIONS**
One new staff member has joined the Division since November 15. Welcome to…

![Jeffrey Moore](image)

**Jeffrey Moore**
Evening Supervisor and Shuttle Driver
Department of Student Activities

**STUDENT UNION FOOD COURT CHANGES**
When the spring 2006 semester begins, there will be new additions to the Student Union Food Court. The current Shipley’s and Freshens location will have a new concept featuring Starbucks coffee, smoothies, sandwiches, wraps, etc. The name will be announced soon; it is currently being voted on by students. Inside the Food Court, a new Sbarro concept will have its grand opening, taking the place of the current Bene Pizza and Pasta location.

**WINTER LEARNING EXPERIENCE**
Campus Living and Learning will conduct its annual Winter Learning Experience on January 3-7, 2006, The focus will be on professional and para-professional development.

**DISASTER PLANNING**
Mark Schwartze, Rosemary Townsend, Louise Saunders, and Elizabeth Wallace joined Warren Ricks and Jess Kelly from Risk Management in an initiative with leaders from the McLennan County Public Health District. The group will continue to work on lines of communication and roles and responsibilities of public and private entities when disasters occur.

Roger Barker, head of the Health District, and Dr. Farley Verner, Medical Director, discussed strategies to manage natural and medical disasters. Another outcome of the discussions was the identification of shared resources available to Baylor such as health education, programs and professional development training.

**OUTDOOR ADVENTURE**
Kelli McMahan and Drew White will join Stuart Smith (world renowned climber) over the holidays to climb Aconcagua in Argentina. Aconcagua is the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere.

**PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS COURSES**
Next semester, Counseling Center staff will be teaching two personal effectiveness courses through EDP 1101. Jim Marsh will offer an eight week course called “The Seven Strengths of Resiliency” and Rod Hetzel will be teaching an eight week course called “Living the Good Life.”
GRANT AWARDED
University Ministries has received a $3,500 grant for programs related to marriage and family.

HOUSING REAPPLICATION
Housing reapplication (current residents applying for spaces for fall 2006-spring 2007) was a huge success. As indicated below, every available space has been reserved while still maintaining space for the incoming freshman class.
- 2,850 held for freshman students
- 686 sold to general returning population
- 500 sold to upper-class students in living-learning centers
- 160 returning students on waiting list
This process continues to indicate the desire for upper-division students to remain in on-campus residential communities.

THIS OLD HOUSE
University Ministries is moving back to the Harris House on Friday, December 16. Drop by for a visit in the new (old) house.

SPIRIT
The Lady Bears are 8-0! They have their first home Big 12 game on January 7, 2006, against the University of Texas. Sic 'em Bears!

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS (SACS) UPDATE
- Our assessment tools will be revised during January so final assessments can be made before spring break.
- If you have not submitted a transcript, please do so before we leave for Christmas.
- The summary for our record keeping processes is due by mid-January.
- The Health Center will have its first peer review in preparation for SACS.
- Please remember the importance of integrity throughout our SACS review.

FREE BOOKS AT CHAPEL
Students were surprised to receive Kyle Lake’s book Understanding God’s Will on the last day of Chapel. Three thousand books were donated by several Baylor alums to make this happen. Students will be challenged by Kyle’s insight on vocation and calling. Incidentally, Kyle wrote this book out of multiple conversations with students that originated from initiatives due to the Lilly Grant.

INTRAMURALS
Intramurals experienced a great fall 2006 semester with a record number of 4,525 students who participated in one or more event.

DIVISIONAL PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
The Divisional Priorities Committee has begun to meet and discuss the direction and initiatives of Student Life. The meetings have been very productive and members are already bringing information back to their respective departments. In addition, to ensure that everyone in the Division is fully aware of the work of the committee, we have established a Blackboard community. Each staff member in Student Life will be enrolled in this community (you will receive an e-mail welcoming you to the group). That way you will be able to check on the progress of the committee, review documents that the committee is looking at, and give feedback directly to the committee members. Our hope is that this will help ensure open communication about this important work.

LEARNING ENGLISH AMONG FRIENDS
LEAF is a collaborative program involving Student Government, student organizations, and School of Education that helps non-English speaking staff and community members learn English. This is the second year of the program, and it has been recognized as a model program nationally. The group meets once a week for a 90-minute English lesson taught by students majoring in either education or social work.

HONOR CODE
A committee of Student Life administrators, faculty members, and administrators from the Provost’s office has been meeting weekly since the beginning of the fall semester to revise the honor code system. The committee is not only looking at revisions to the process, but at the educational efforts that would need to be implemented once the revised process is ready for publication.

E-CHUG
The Counseling Center recently launched a program on its website called e-CHUG. This program is a brief motivational intervention designed to reduce alcohol consumption among college students. The website is www.baylor.edu/counseling_center.

NEW IDEA
Judicial Affairs and Outdoor Adventure recently completed the fall ropes course program for first year students who have been seen in the Judicial Affairs for alcohol violations. The program provided active learning by focusing on decision making, peer influence, substance abuse, and strengths.

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN (QEP)
Several departments and staff members, as one group of the four finalists, are pleased to be writing a 7,500 word QEP “white paper” for consideration. The proposal offers a new approach to freshman matriculation including a freshman seminar, peer
mentoring, enhanced faculty involvement, learning communities, and a re-developed Welcome Week experience.

**Presentations**

*Jim Marsh, Rod Hetzel, and Susan Matlock-Hetzel* had an article entitled *Positive Psychology and University Counseling Centers: The Baylor Experience* published. This article was published in the fall 2005 newsletter of the Society of Counseling Psychology – Section on College and University Counseling Centers.

*Rod Hetzel* participated in the Gallup Strengths Research Consortium which is developing a national research agenda for strengths programming in higher education. The consortium is also developing strengths development modules for colleges and universities.

*Rod Hetzel* provided three chapel addresses at Bethel College in Indiana. The title of his address was “Created for Connection” with focus on sexual purity and integrity. He also provided training to their counseling center and student development department on sexual compulsivity and pornography use.

**Staff and Family Matters**

Safety and Security Education Officer, Gene Mandel, continues to recover at home from a recent fall. Gene fell from a roof severely injuring his arm and both heels. After multiple surgeries, Gene is currently rehabilitating and recovering.

*A note from Keane Tarbell:*
Dear Student Life Family,
Thank you for your thoughtful expression of love and support to my family during the loss of my father. It meant so much to our family that the Baylor family was lifting us up in prayer. The beautiful flowers in green and gold ministered encouragement to us and were a wonderful tribute to my father. Thank you again for blessing us during this season.
In Him –
Keane

*May the warmth of Christmas embrace you and your family during this holiday season.*

**Merry Christmas**

**And Happy New Year**