Inspiring the Very Best

On a recent fundraising trip to East Texas, I was reminded of the strong support and affection that abounds for Baylor University. In the course of a day, our development officer, Marty Wold, and I met with close to a dozen people representing different backgrounds and interests but each possessing a deep and abiding love for our university. Certainly the success on the athletic field helps create a positive image for our school, but there is something much deeper at work. Without exception, each person reflected on the important role that we undertake in providing an educational experience that shapes not only the minds, but the hearts and souls of our students. In one particularly poignant interaction, an alumnus recounted his freshman year which dated back to 1948. He told a story of how a faculty member inspired him to grow more deeply both as a student of his academic discipline and as a person of faith. He remarked, “This faculty member forever changed my life and I give to Baylor to hopefully make a similar impact on students’ lives.”

It is encouraging to know that so many alumni cherish their Baylor experience—an experience that we are now entrusted with providing in a meaningful and relevant way to current generations of Baylor Bears. It is also heartening to be able to reply with a resounding “yes” when asked by an 85 year old alumnus if the Baylor of today continues to inspire the very best in her students.

Thank you for all that you do for the students of Baylor University.

Truly,
Nathan Shelburne attended the inaugural Thriving in College Conference in October, hosted by Azusa Pacific University. The conference featured sessions and conversations about holistic student well-being from the perspectives of Positive Psychology and Thriving. Nathan presented a session titled Discover. Belong. Thrive. A Research-Based Framework for First-Year Programs that highlighted the need for broader visions of student success beyond retention and grades, and offered practical suggestions for infusing the emerging concept of Thriving within programs to support new students.

Kim Scott and Jennie Massey have been selected by the Conference Program Committee to present Campus Recreation BUILD: Baylor University Initiative for Learning and Development as an educational session for the 2014 NIRSA Annual Conference & Recreational Sports Exposition in Nashville, Tennessee, in April. This was designed as a no-nonsense 101 on strategic planning and assessment for impact. We want to share with others the process Campus Recreation (and many of you) went through to put our operational plan in place inclusive of learning objectives with a philosophical base.

Campus Living & Learning is pleased to announce they will be hosting the 2016 Southwest Association of College and University Housing Officers (SWACUHO) annual conference in February of 2016. The conference theme is “Golden Jubilee.” This will be SWACUHO’s 50th anniversary conference and the first time the conference has been held in Waco since 1984. Curtis Odle, Assistant Director for Facilities and Operations, and Rob Engblom, Associate Director for Resident Learning, will be the conference co-hosts. The conference will be held in the Waco Convention Center and will utilize the Hilton and Courtyard Mariott hotels. CL&L plans to include tours of Baylor’s residence hall refurbishments, recent construction, and residential colleges for conference attendees. Thanks are due to Tiffany Lowe, Jasmine Wilson, Austin Kertesz, Julia Bales, and Drew Gehman who helped submit the bid proposal.
In November, Kaity Briscoe, Keane Tarbell, Lindsey Harris, and Brandon Mosley, two student leaders serving with Baylor Line Camp, attended the Extended Orientation Institute (EOI) in Dallas on the campus of Southern Methodist University. EOI is sponsored by the Association for Orientation Transition and Retention in Higher Education (NODA) and offers attendees an opportunity to come together and share best practices in extended orientation programming, including tradition camps, outdoor adventure camps, weeks of welcome and other efforts to assist new students in their transition. The conference is a great opportunity to exchange ideas on student leader recruitment/selection, student leader training, risk management, various camp formats, successes and challenges, and a host of other topics.

Nathan Shelburne, Tripp Purks, and Joshua McPhatter traveled to San Antonio to attend an annual conference for the Association for Orientation Transition and Retention in Higher Education (NODA). Joshua gave a an educational session presentation titled, From Surviving to Thriving: Helping Students of Color in Transition, and Tripp gave a symposium presentation to 65 graduate students titled, Gaining Marketable Experiences for Orientation Jobs. The NODA conference was an excellent opportunity for professional development, learning new trends in the field of orientation, transition, and retention as well as networking with colleagues from other universities including a dinner with a few old Baylor friends.

(pictured: left to right: Nathan Shelburne, Joshua McPhatter, Keith Frazee, Megan Baldree, Sarah Mudd, Tripp Purks)
A scholarly journal has long been a dream of leaders of TACUSPA, at least dating back to 1988. However, concerns about cost, quality, and purpose have deterred a successful launch of such a journal, until now. This new online journal is here because of the incredible leadership of the TACUSPA board and the visionary, sacrificial work of the Student Affairs On Campus editorial board. If you run into any of these folks, please thank them. A TACUSPA journal can tie members and colleagues together. Members who read the same publication can discuss articles with one another, exploring what they are learning and thinking about. It also creates a needed outlet for these talented professionals, faculty members, and graduate students to share the good work they are doing. Too much of our work is left unshared with the greater community of scholar-practitioners. In short, we hope that Student Affairs On Campus helps scholar-practitioners in their work for college students. As with all new endeavors, we want to hear what you like about this journal and your ideas to make it better (you can use the contact form located here).

We asked students in New Student Experience classes with peer leaders for feedback about the program. Here are some of their comments regarding the program:

• “I learned a lot of the essential basics about Baylor that I would not have learned without a Peer Leader.”
• “It provides a more welcoming environment and that’s the perfect place for a new student.”
• “He’s become one of my closest friends, and he is really involved in helping me outside of U1000.”
• “… Leaders looking to help you because they genuinely care.”
• “Excellent guidance and advice.”
• “It was great having a student who was there for us 100% during our transition to college.”

Because of the success the peer leader program has encountered and widespread demand for more peer leaders with diverse specialties, we are excited to announce the pilot of two new iterations of the peer leader program in Fall 2014: Wellness and Community Engagement peer leaders (PLs). Wellness peer leaders will take a class (Leadership for Health and Wellness) taught by Megan Patterson. Erin Payseur will be teaching a class (Leadership in Community Engagement) for Community Engagement PLs. Both of these peer leaders will maintain office hours with their respective offices and give presentations across campus. Thanks to Erin, Megan, and their teams for working diligently on this new initiative! We have high hopes for how these peer leaders will make a difference in the Baylor community and beyond.
South Russell Restoration

Framing nearing completion!

New mechanical equipment being lowered into basement through opening in lobby floor that will become new grand staircase into repurposed basement space (lounge, recreation room, classroom, senior common room).

Basement “pit” is filled in to create new, expanded main mechanical room.
On Tuesday, October 29, at 6:30 p.m. the Residential Community Council in conjunction with individual residence halls hosted Campus Living & Learning’s annual Treat Night event for children of Baylor faculty and staff. Families from around campus were able to Trick-or-Treat through halls with themes such as Disney movies, the zoo, and time travel. Other halls also put on carnival-like games for the children that included a variety of prizes. As a result of collecting canned goods and cash donations from attendees, over 800 pounds of canned goods and almost $400 in cash were given to Caritas in Waco to help with their community efforts! Thanks to all who helped make this generous donation possible!

Cub Corner

Eleanor “Ella” Marie Lowe was born on November 11 at 5:21 p.m. to Tiffany Lowe and her husband, Lance. Ella weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. Ella is named after her grandmother, nana, and great grandmother.
Steppin’ Out

Thank you to all who participated in the fall Steppin’ Out Day of Service! This year, 3,276 students volunteered as part of the campus-wide event and served at 89 different sites throughout the community. Student groups painted 22 houses and assisted over 50 individual homeowners, as well as churches and community agencies. As a special emphasis this year, Steppin’ Out partnered with West, Texas, to assist in their ongoing clean-up and recovery efforts, as well as Keep Waco Beautiful. Judge Starr and Mrs. Starr helped kick off the day of service and thanked the steering committee personally for their hard work. The event concluded with the annual Block Party at Dewey Park with a community-wide celebration bringing together students and community members for a fun time of food, fellowship, and games.

Santa’s Workshop

Thank you to the campus community for your support of Santa’s Workshop. To date, we have raised over $1,000 for Santa’s Workshop! Your generosity ensures that we can provide a Christmas gift for each child in attendance. This year marked the 21st Annual Santa’s Workshop celebration! Last year, this event hosted over 600 children, ages 3-5, and over 100 staff from local Head Start centers and daycares! This year, we expanded and also invited children from the communities of West and Marlin to join us as well. The 2013 Santa’s Workshop was supposed to be held Friday, December 6, in the McLane Student Life Center from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to the weather. However, the Santa’s Workshop committee met, gathered all the supplies, and delivered Christmas to the registered centers. The committee members delivered gifts, fruit, and chips to 633 children and 125 staff at 20 participating centers. Christmas still happened, thanks to our sponsors, our campus community, and especially our students.
Movie Night in the Garden

Campus Kitchen, part of Community Engagement and Service, hosted Movie Night in the Garden in October to promote the growth of urban gardens. This event received media coverage and welcomed more than 150 guests to watch the documentary *Farm-City, State* by Baylor alum David Barrow. Not only did the film promote urban farms, but the event encouraged people to get involved by volunteering in the Baylor Community Garden.

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week

Last week, the McLennan County Hunger Coalition recognized National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week with a number of events throughout the Waco community. The Office of Community Engagement & Service joined in their efforts, generating awareness and action around these important issues on campus and in the community. The week’s activities included a kick-off celebration with Church Under the Bridge on Sunday and a letter writing campaign in support of programs that address hunger in the elderly. On Tuesday, students from Andy Hogue’s class presented some research to community members on food deserts in Waco, bringing the topic much closer to home. The week culminated with dinner and a movie, as Seventh & James Baptist Church hosted a food truck caravan and the Office of Community Engagement & Service sponsored a screening of *A Place at the Table*, a documentary on hunger in America. Did you know 50 million Americans currently suffer from food insecurity?

Star Spotlight

On November 7, Denice Mathews was chosen as the official Fan Photographer for the Oklahoma/Baylor football game. She was on the sideline for the game snapping pictures of players and fans. She even got to pose with Bruiser. Denice is a Safety and Security Education Officer in Campus Living & Learning and an avid Baylor athletics fan. She was selected from a drawing conducted by the Texas Farm Bureau Insurance. This honor couldn’t have happened to a better fan.

Sic ‘em, Denice!
Ashton Cooper started work at Baylor on October 14 as the Associate Director for Student Life/Troy and Betty Mays Director of Student Foundation. He previously worked in Houston as the Development Director for a Mental Health Non Profit. He graduated from Baylor in 2009 with a BBA in Marketing and went on to graduate school at Texas A&M University, where he attended the George Bush School of Government and Public Service. He received his Master's in Public Administration in 2012. Originally from Houston, Ashton enjoys being back in Waco, a place he now considers home.

Geoffrey Griggs is the new Assistant Director for the Department of Multicultural Affairs. Geoffrey completed his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, his Bachelor of Science in Community Communications and Leadership Development, and his Masters in Public Administration with a Concentration in Higher Education at the University of Kentucky. While at the University of Kentucky, Geoffrey served for two years as the Programming Coordinator for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Center. When Geoffrey is not working with students, he enjoys playing games with friends and keeping up with his favorite sports teams. Geoffrey has a gift of bringing out the best in today’s student leaders and looks forward to making an impact on the Baylor community. Geoffrey’s first day was October 28th.

Campus Living & Learning is pleased to announce Scott McClain as our new Safety and Security Education Officer. Scott earned his bachelor’s degree in business and education and a master’s degree in education from Baylor University. Scott spent 22 years with Lorena ISD before retiring. He is excited to be back at work serving the Baylor community. His wife works at Baylor as an advisor in the Paul L. Foster Success Center, and his son, Andy is a graduate of Baylor. He hopes that his grandson will become a Baylor Bear, but he is only seven, so that is a few years away. He looks forward to returning to his alma mater and joining the SSEO team!
Dr. Jeffrey Raimondo graduated from Southwestern University with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology in 1999. He earned his medical degree from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 2003, and completed his family medicine residency in 2006 at the McLennan County Family Practice Residency Program. Prior to joining Baylor Health Services, he served as staff physician at Waco Family Health Center. Dr. Raimondo is Board Certified in Family Medicine and is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Raimondo has two children with his wife, Claudia. He enjoys cooking, reading, and playing racquetball.

"Last & Final Mile" - The Midnight Pen

It's too late when time is finished
when your last breath is drawn
and you're there without an agent
facing Judgment's Tally Throne
ever wanton you so journeyed
throwing caution by the way
now alone you stand confronted
by your reckless, sordid ways
You'll face God's tally by yourself
for His agent went unsought
too late now for pleading help
help is now rendered naught
on your last mile, your agent beckoned
awaited you on altar aisle
yet sadly watched your last rejection
on your last and final mile.

This my friend need never happen
need never come to this
your shunning God's intercessor
your Agent for His tally list
you hear that Pastor's humble plea
he beckons from altar aisle
will unchanged you still yet flea
towards your
"Last & Final Mile."