Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break. As you may recall, in December I was part of a Baylor delegation that traveled to Kenya. The purpose of the trip was to explore how we might expand our global engagement initiatives through partnering with non-profit, faith based social service organizations like Buckner International. To that end, we met with local Kenyan staff and leaders as well as a delegation from Buckner's U.S. Headquarters to engage in a firsthand view of the life changing work that is taking place in and around Nairobi and Kitale. During our time in country, we discussed a number of ideas which included further refining what we mean by global engagement, exploring potential partnerships with non-governmental agencies that have a similar mission as ours, implementing a pilot program to expand international internship opportunities with non-profit, social service organizations, and strategizing on ways to raise resources to help underwrite the cost of our global outreach efforts—whether that be discipline-specific mission trips or sponsored research. Those attending the trip from Baylor included Elizabeth Davis, Ken Hall, Becky Kennedy, Chris Krause, and me. It was an exhausting but highly productive and enjoyable nine days, and I look forward to incorporating what we learned into ongoing conversations on broadening our impact, as well as learning opportunities across the globe.

Here's to a great 2014!

Truly,
Congratulations to North Russell Hall on finishing 1st out of 12 twelve trees at this year’s Christmas on 5th Street FCCs Christmas Decorating Competition. The inspiration for the theme of the North Russell Christmas tree came from the fact that North Russell will be closed next year for renovations. The North Russell staff wanted to tell a story of the history of North Russell through the use of pictures, while also creating a shabby-chic/vintage feel. The use of lace, burlap, and popcorn-on-a-string gave the tree a nostalgic sense of home. Overall, they wanted people to remember North Russell as a home where many memories were made – and they definitely accomplished this! The winnings from their 1st place finish will be donated to Kidsville at Hillcrest Hospital. Kidsville is the pediatric inpatient wing that combines “the latest medical technology with a fun, playful environment.”

Thank you to all of the departments that participated in this year’s gingerbread house contest for the annual Student Life Christmas Celebration, December 12. It was a great way to enjoy the holiday season.

Santa and Mrs. Claus (Kevin and Garret Jackson) at the HESA Christmas Dinner, December 3.
Academy Lecture Series: Dr. Lesly

The Academy for Leader Development is delighted to host Dr. Bonnie Lesley, founder of the Texas Kids Can’t Wait organization, on campus January 28 at 6 p.m. in the BSB B110 auditorium for the Academy Lecture Series. Dr. Lesley advocates for equity, excellence, and adequacy for children in the public education system in Texas. She believes that the funding system is corrupted and is consequently placing the majority of children at a disadvantage. Since she does not trust amendment to come from within the system, Dr. Lesley views grassroots political organization and action as the only means to institute change effectively. Her organization’s goals are to achieve equitable funding, adequate funding, funding to cover inflation and new students, and taxpayer equity.

To learn about other upcoming Academy Lecture Series speakers visit www.baylor.edu/leadership/ALS.

Peer Leader Updates

The Peer Leader Program is now accepting applications until 5 p.m. on February 7. If you know someone who would be an excellent leader in the areas of New Student Experience, Health & Wellness, or Community Engagement, please recommend them to Lizzy Davis (lizzy_davis@baylor.edu) and she will follow up with them. Students can learn more about this program at our interest meeting on Thursday, January 30 at 5:30 p.m. in the Cowden Room of the SUB or on our website (www.baylor.edu/leadership). Thank you for your support of this program!
Baylor Intramural Sports is excited to begin the spring semester with basketball intramurals beginning on Tuesday, January 21. Basketball has continued to be a favorite for both intramural staff and participants. Wallyball, an exciting cross between volleyball and racquetball, also begins on January 21. The registration deadline for both of these sports is Wednesday, January 15.

In addition, other exciting sports coming up this spring. Here is the Spring 2014 Intramural Sports Event Planner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Registration Period</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Games Begin</th>
<th>Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-on-5 Basketball</td>
<td>Dec. 2 - Jan. 15</td>
<td>$50/team</td>
<td>Jan. 21</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallyball</td>
<td>Dec. 2 - Jan. 15</td>
<td>$25/team</td>
<td>Jan. 21</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>Jan. 13 - Feb. 19</td>
<td>$5/person</td>
<td>Mar. 3</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Jan. 13 - Feb. 19</td>
<td>$50/team</td>
<td>Mar. 3</td>
<td>5 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Rec Tennis</td>
<td>Jan. 13 - Mar. 5</td>
<td>$5/person</td>
<td>Mar. 17</td>
<td>1 week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Rec Sand Volleyball</td>
<td>Jan. 13 - Mar. 19</td>
<td>$25/team</td>
<td>Mar. 31</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track Meet</td>
<td>Jan. 13 - TBA</td>
<td>$25/team</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Jan. 13 - April 2</td>
<td>$50/team</td>
<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Currently, the leading organizations for the All-University Points Race are Pi Beta Phi (Women’s Gold League), Kappa Omega Tau (Men’s Gold League), KXA (Women’s Green League), and BYX (Men’s Green League). A full semester of sports means there are plenty of opportunities to gain points!

The Intramural staff continued their basketball training on January 13 by attending the Baylor Women’s Basketball game vs. UConn to observe basketball referees in action and cheer on Baylor’s team! The intramural staff organization, Baylor University Sports Officials Association, will also be hosting their annual pre-season tournament on January 16-17. Sign-ups begin NOW! Come by the Campus Recreation Office at the SLC to sign up your team.
Dr. Jimmy Williamson from the School of Education decided over fifteen years ago that there should be a luncheon celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The luncheon was also used as a means to connect graduate students with the community of Waco. Seven years ago, the Department of Multicultural Affairs approached the School of Education and asked to take on what is now an annual tradition with over 400 guests in attendance. The purpose of the celebration is to build bridges between the Baylor and Waco communities. This year the luncheon will not only pay tribute to Dr. King, but also celebrate with Barbara Walker, the keynote speaker and the first African American female to graduate from Baylor in 1967. The luncheon is on January 22 at 12 noon on the fifth floor of Cashion. Please RSVP to Diana_Balderas@baylor.edu by noon on January 21. There is also an evening event to celebrate Dr. King on January 22 at 6 p.m. on the fifth floor of Cashion which is geared towards students. Please send your RSVP for the evening celebration to Kelley_Kimple@baylor.edu. Please encourage your students to attend the evening event.
**New Hires**

**Dr. Josh Ritter** is the new Assistant Director for Formation in Spiritual Life. He previously worked at the University of Colorado as faculty in the Department of English. He graduated from Baylor in 2000 with a B.A. in Communication and went on to graduate school at the McAfee School of Theology (Mercer University) in Atlanta, GA. He then completed his Ph.D. work at Georgia State University in Communication Studies where he focused on Rhetorical Theory & Criticism and Rhetoric & Religion. Josh is an ordained Baptist minister who has been a hospital chaplain, served in various churches, and co-founded and directed a center for spirituality and inter-religious dialogue in Atlanta, GA through Druid Hills Baptist Church. Originally from Waco, Josh is excited to be back in his hometown, loves working with college students, and is passionate about helping students on their faith journey.

**Sarah Dorrell** is the new Case Manager for Student Life. Sarah is a Baylor graduate and was kind enough to sit down and do a brief Q&A session for us.

**Q: What did you enjoy most about your time as a Baylor student?**
A: The community atmosphere, being a social work major, and participating in YoungLife.

**Q: What did you do after you graduated from Baylor?**
A: Earned a master’s degree in social work from Temple University in Philadelphia, worked at the Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence at Drexel University, and became the Service Coordinator for Outpatient Health Center for people with mental illness and a history of homelessness. I also lived in Haiti for four months doing community development.

**Q: What position did you most recently hold before coming to Baylor?**
A: Social Worker in the Emergency Room at Hillcrest Hospital

**Q: What are you most looking forward to about working with Baylor students?**
A: Giving back, being available as a resource and providing additional support when they feel like they need it.

**Q: What excites you the most about your new position?**
A: Helping students when they need it the most and coordinating service for them

**Q: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**
A: Hanging out with my four-year old daughter, Finley, and going running
Cub Corner

Camp Jefferson Weber was born at 4:12 a.m. on January 12 to Lauren Weber and her husband. Camp weighed 7.7 lbs. and 20 inches. He is deeply loved by his parents!

Mayer Reece Richardson was born on December 23 at 2:38 p.m. to Kristen and Ryan Richardson. Mayer weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. and was 18 inches long. Mayer is named in honor of Kristen’s grandmother.
Spit-Polished Shine"
Gene Mandel - The Midnight Pen

Jesus knocked, oh yes He knocked on your heart's inner door yet did He find it firmly locked as it was times before His knock wasn't for to take 'twas giving He had in mind to give your sin-tarnished slate an ever, spit-polished shine

Jesus knocked, oh yes He knocked He knew that slate of yours thus He came prepared to blot every mar that you'd accrued yet from tarnish you'd not sway thus His knock reaped decline while foolishly you held at bay that oh so precious, spit-polished shine

Jesus knocks, oh yes He knocks oh how many yet remain and what happens once He stops with inner guilt forever waned will your door you then undo one knock too late to find one knock too late to pursue that oh so precious, "Spit-Polished Shine"

Jesus knocks that door of yours for your slate's on the line He knocks to give your tarnished score that oh so precious, "Spit-Polished Shine"